

## **Assessment Q&A Webinar August 10, 2010**

**Q:** Will IDPH provide annual public sector immunization coverage reports?

**A:** No, IDPH will utilize the county wide assessment report as one section of an annual state wide immunization report.

**Q:** Are all children in my county counted in this report?

**A:** No, not all children residing in a county are included in this report. The report contains only children in IRIS that have a zip code and the "Immunization Home" selected.

**Q:** If a child lives in my county but receives immunizations in another county is the child counted in both counties?

**A:** No the child is only counted in the county associated with the zip code on the immunization record.

**Q:** Why would I check a child in to my immunization home?

**A:** By identifying a patient as part of your Immunization Home, you are assuming the responsibility for providing the ongoing immunization care for that patient. You can use the reminder and recall features in IRIS. In addition, this status includes the patient in your organization's IRIS reports

**Q:** How do you remove a child from your immunization home if they are no longer receiving services at your clinic?

**A:** Before removing a child from your immunization home, follow the MOGE (Moved or Gone Elsewhere) definition. Once that has been documented, deselect the check box for "Immunization Home" in the Patient tab of the patient record within IRIS.

**Q:** Are children entered in IRIS but without an immunization home accounted for anywhere?

**A:** No, these patients are not counted in this assessment report. These patients are considered "orphaned" records and are lost to any type of follow-up such as reminder/recall efforts by a specific clinic.

**Q:** Would it be in our best interest to keep all children in our agency's immunization home?

**A:** It is best to maintain those patients in your immunization home who you provide ongoing immunizations to. If it becomes necessary to take a patient out of your "Immunization Home", follow the MOGE (Moved or Gone Elsewhere) definition.

**Q:** Is this exclusively VFC data or does it include private vaccines as well?

**A:** This data includes both VFC and non-VFC children who have a record in IRIS which meets the zip code and the "Immunization Home" requirement.

**Q:** When looking at the county's percentage, does this figure include both LPHAs and private doctor's offices?

**A:** Yes this report includes children in IRIS that have a zip code and "Immunization Home" selected.

**Q:** Do these reports reflect parent refusal, demonstrating an agency offered the vaccine(s)?

**A:** The report would capture all children who have a record in IRIS which meets the zip code and the "Immunization Home" requirement even if there is a parent refusal. The data demonstrates the percent of children that are fully vaccinated for the selected series.

**Q:** Can agencies run immunization coverage reports out of IRIS, or is it necessary to request the data from IDPH to run up to date data?

**A:** Agencies have the ability to conduct self assessments using the CoCASA application. Data to run in CoCASA will be sent to agencies in the first quarter of 2011 from IDPH as a raw text file which includes the year's current 1 year old, 2 year old, and 13-15 year old data.

**Q:** Do we need to contact IRIS to obtain a list of children in the registry, who are late/behind on immunizations for our county?

**A:** If LPHA want to see all children behind on immunizations in their respective county, it is necessary to request this data from IDPH IRIS staff. Please allow approximately two-week for the request to be processed.

**Q:** If we run a report on the list of children missing vaccines will the provider's name be included on a report too?

**A:** IRIS can query the data based on clinic name only, IRIS does not have the ability to provide a specific healthcare provider name.

**Q:** Can we get a list of all providers who use IRIS?

**A:** Yes this data is available from IRIS Helpdesk Staff by calling 1-800-374-3958.

**Q:** Have all physician offices been offered IRIS?

**A:** All VFC providers have been sent information on IRIS and are encouraged to enroll in IRIS. IRIS enrollment forms are available on the IRIS web page at [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iris\\_program.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/iris_program.asp)

**Q:** Will a published report be available similar to previous year's public reports? How do we access those?

**A:** The Immunization Program will publish an annual report the first quarter of each year. The report will include the county immunization reports as well as other data the immunization Program collects throughout the year (i.e. VFC doses distributed, number of IRIS users, number of IRIS records). The report will be sent to LPHA and will be posted on the IDPH web site.

**Q:** Are these reports on the Immunization website and if so, and can we also see on the website past years for comparison?

**A:** The first year of this report will be published in 2011, so there will not be previous years to compare. Data for 2010 is being provided to the Immunization Service contractors to use for baseline data. Data for 2010 will not be published in an annual report format.

**Q:** Will this report always reflect vaccine shortages if there are any issues in the future?

**A:** In times of vaccine shortages, it is anticipated that a special series report will be run to take the situation into account.

**Q:** Can you capture 5 year olds ready for school?

**A:** Children enrolled in school are captured in the current school and child care audits which is currently available on the IDPH Immunization Program website <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp>. Children in this report include the number of records that meet the immunization requirements to attend elementary and secondary school.

**Q:** The population estimate for adolescents is 12-14 but the adolescent records age group is 13-15. How can these two be consistent if the age group does not include 15 year olds?

**A:** The population estimates are from the previous year so that means that the 12-14 year olds last year will be the 13-15 year olds assessed this year. This is the same reason for the population estimates showing 1 year olds for the 2 year old assessment.

**Q:** Can you explain the late up to date data? For example, if a County has 52.6%, and the up to date is 73%, this means 73% of the 52.6% is up to date with the vaccine series?

**A:** The Up-To-Date column shows the percent of children that are up-to-date by 24 months of age. The late up-to-date column shows the percent of children that are up-to-date after 24 months at the time of the assessment. For example, ABC County had 46 children analyzed. Of those 46 children, there were 43% of those children that were up-to-date by 24 months of age and there were 28% of those 46 children who were up-to-date after 24 months of age. This makes a total of 71% of the 46 children analyzed who are up-to-date at the time of the assessment.

**Q:** Will CoCASA training be offered to help agencies wishing to conduct self-assessments?

**A:** Yes, a webinar is being planned to assist those agencies which will use CoCASA for an immunization self assessment.

**Q:** Do you recommend each agency download and use CoCASA?

**A:** If an agency has the need and/or desire to conduct either ongoing or annual assessments it will be necessary to utilize CoCASA.

**Q:** Do private offices have access to CoCASA and CoCASA reports?

**A:** Yes, CoCASA is a free CDC application available to all who wish to download it to their computers. The data which needs to be imported is available from the IRIS help desk staff or individual patient records can be hand entered.

**Q:** Can a press release template be developed to be used to introduce this to our stakeholders?

**A:** Yes, once the annual report is published in the first quarter of 2011, the Immunization Program will work with Polly Carver-Kimm, Public Information Officer to create a press release which may be used by any agency.

**Q:** Since these reports are not being published until January 2011, may we discuss this with our medical providers in our counties?

**A:** Yes, LPHAs can share this data with medical providers in your county.

**Q:** If these figures are for our entire county is it LPHAs responsibility to work with all the providers in our county to improve these stats?

**A:** LPHAs may utilize this data to work with partners to increase immunization rates in your county.

**Q:** Our agency 2 year old up to date % has typically been over 85%. According to the report, adding our 2 columns together for our 2 year old up to date % we only come up with 52%. For the purposes of the MCH grant we must meet 85% or greater to be in compliance. What do we need to do here?

**A:** The Immunization Program has been working with Maternal Child Health (MCH) program to make sure they are aware of the methodology change in the immunization coverage rates. MCH is aware of the changes and are looking at better ways to report the immunization indicator in the FFY 2010 Year End Report (due Dec. 1, 2010).

**Q:** Will we still receive our own agency report separate from this report?

**A:** When you receive a site visit from IDPH you will receive your own individual reports. Immunization assessments at LPHAs will be incorporated into the routine site visit schedule for all VFC Providers. On the year(s) which you do not receive an Immunization assessment visit, it is necessary to use the CoCASA application to receive an individual assessment rate.

**Q:** How often will the site visits be if not annually?

**A:** It is anticipated that all VFC providers (including LHPA) will receive a VFC/AFIX site visit every two years by one of the three dedicated field staff.