

Philadelphia Registry Increases Immunization Rates

All Kids Count II

SUMMARY

- Annual birth cohort: 22,000
- Geographic area: City of Philadelphia
- Legislation: 1994 regulation mandates reporting of all immunizations for children ages 0–6
- Percentage of immunizations given in private sector: 80 percent
- Other sources of funding: Federal

This project was part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) national program *All Kids Count*.

Bringing Children to Care

Immunization registries working in collaboration with other public agencies and community organizations can have a substantial impact on increasing the immunization rate of a community's children.

In Philadelphia, the immunization registry (KIDS) identified children who, according to registry records, are immunization-delayed. Their families were then targeted for outreach by workers from three community-based organizations. Of the approximately 35,000 children under age two who were not up-to-date based on KIDS data, almost 19,000 field referrals were generated.

Of the 16,000 children located, almost 30 percent were brought to medical care for immunizations, and some 50 percent were found to be up-to-date. In addition to bringing almost 4,600 children to care, immunization data was added to the registry for the 8,000 children who were up-to-date. A similar program with the city's Public Housing Immunization Initiative brought another 195 immunization delayed children to care.

The combined outreach efforts of the two programs reached more than 40 percent of the children under age 2 whose immunization status was not up to date in the registry.

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