

## Childhood Immunization Status

### Childhood Immunization Care in Rural Northern California

- Children are recommended to receive 21-25 doses of vaccinations for 10 childhood diseases by their second birthday<sup>16</sup>.
- Communities with unvaccinated or under-vaccinated populations are at increased risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Approximately 85-95% of a community must be immunized for the entire community to be protected from disease outbreaks (“herd immunity”).
- Health insurance reforms under the Affordable Care Act require health plans to cover recommended immunizations without co-pays.
- Counties in rural Northern California report immunization rates among children in licensed childcare facilities ranging from 73% to 90%. This compares to the state rate of 89%.<sup>17</sup>
- As of January 2016, parents may no longer obtain a personal belief exemption for 10 school-required vaccinations, unless students have a medical exemption or are home schooled.

### How Health Centers Provide the Necessary Care

#### *Clinical Interventions*

- Utilize all encounters with a child to screen and, when indicated, immunize.
- Make immunization services readily available, including during non-traditional times such as weekends, evenings and lunch-hours.
- Immunization services are also offered as “walk-in” services with minimal or no wait time.
- Utilize provider reminders: computer-generated lists are used to notify providers of children whose vaccines are past due.
- Use parent reminders when immunizations are due and recall notices when they are past due (telephone calls, postcards or letters).
- Exchange immunization records for children through the California Immunization Registry (CAIR). This promotes care coordination and improved access to a child’s immunization history.
- Talk with pregnant patients during their 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester to raise awareness about the important role of immunizations in promoting their new child’s health.

#### *Community Interventions*

- Offer education on childhood immunizations and recommended schedules at community health fairs.
- Participate/initiate community coalition of stakeholders to address local immunization rates.

<sup>16</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Immunization Schedules, 2014. [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html).

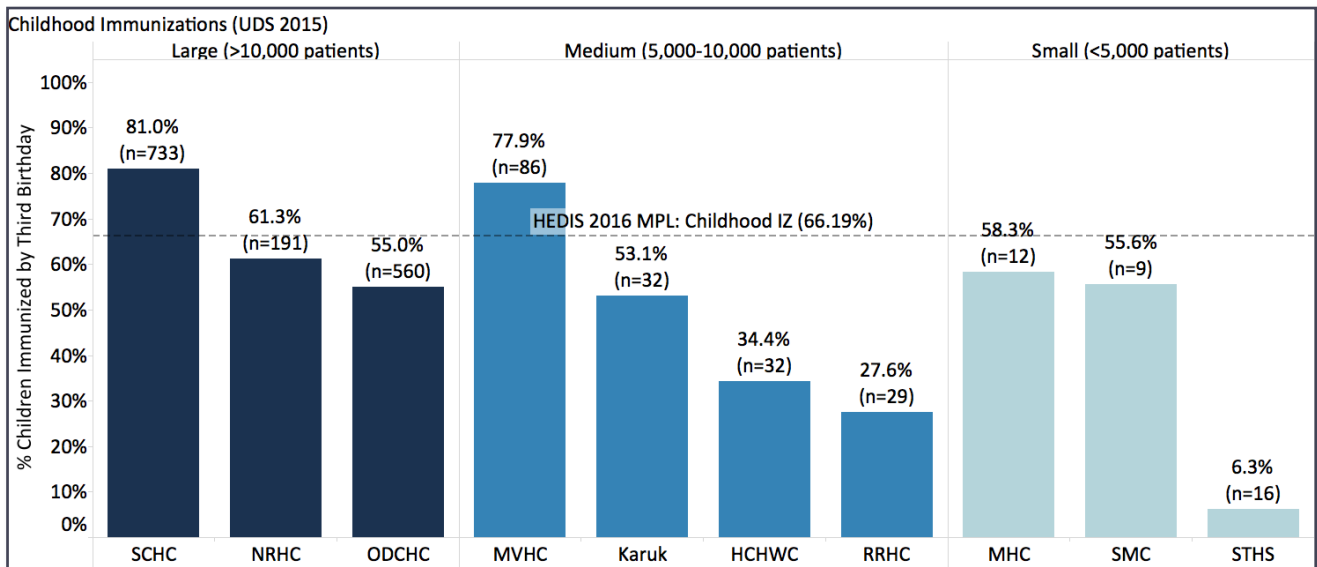
<sup>17</sup> California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch. 2012-2013 Child Care Assessment Results.

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## Rural Northern California Health Center Data

### Key Points

- The definition for this measure has changed significantly over the past few years. These variations have led to challenges in accurately collecting and reporting data.
- Some health centers in the region serve small numbers of children, which can lead to wide variation in the result for this quality measure.
- Health centers in Rural California are monitoring the impacts of AB277 vaccine law, eliminating personal belief exemption.



### Quality Measure Definition

**UDS** Children who were fully immunized before their **3<sup>rd</sup> birthday**. Documented evidence of all of the following: 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 HepB, 1 VZV, and 4 PCV

**HEDIS & QIP** Children who were fully immunized before their **2<sup>nd</sup> birthday**. Documented evidence of all of the following: 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 HepB, 1 VZV, and 4 PCV

### National Quality Goals and Benchmarks

**HEDIS 25<sup>th</sup> (MPL):** HEDIS is a national data set, which measures the performance of health plans on quality of care. The Minimum Performance Level (MPL), or 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, for the Childhood Immunization Status (CIS-3) – Combo 3 Immunizations measure is 66.19%.