

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.¹
- 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 (“community immunity”).²
- Health insurance reforms under the Affordable Care Act require health plans to cover recommended immunizations without co-pays.
- As of January 2016, parents in California 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.
- Offer immunization services 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.
- Utilize Immunization Dose Report from Partnership HealthPlan to plan outreach to parents for scheduling immunizations.
- 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 3rd 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.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Immunization Schedules, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>.

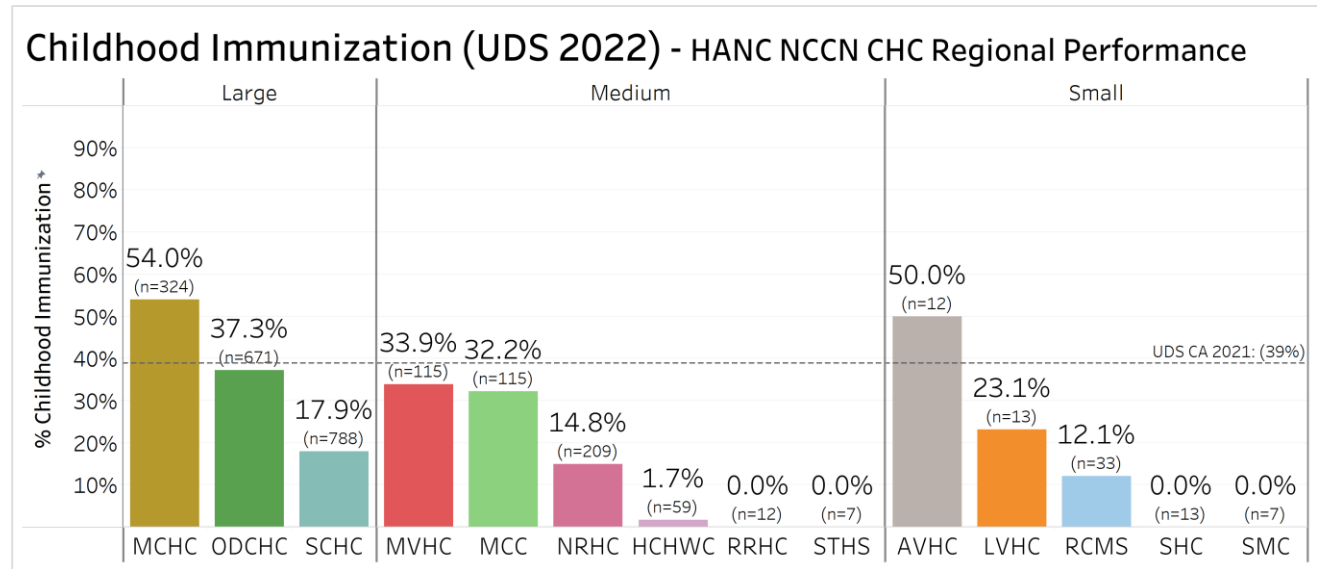
² Committee on the Assessment of Studies of Health Outcomes Related to the Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule; Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice; Institute of Medicine. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2013 Mar 27.

Childhood Immunization Status

Rural Northern California Health Center Data

Key Points

- Misinformation on vaccines and vaccine hesitancy among parents has presented challenges, particularly in rural communities for childhood immunization.
- Early and consistent education for parents on the importance of immunizations is essential to ensuring young patients receive all vaccinations by age 2.



Quality Measure Definition (UDS)

Percentage of children who were fully immunized before their **2nd birthday**. Documented evidence of all of the following: 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 HepB, 1 VZV, 4 PCV, 1 HepA, 2-3 Rotavirus, 2 flu vaccines.

National and State Quality Benchmarks

UDS 2021 CA Average: The average performance among health centers in California was 38.9%.

UDS 2021 US Average: The average performance among health centers in the U.S. was 38.1%.