

Influenza Vaccination Coverage among HealthCare Personnel (HCP) in IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian Facilities

One Healthy People 2010 goal is to achieve 60% influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel (HCP); in 2007, coverage for HCP nationally was less than 50%. In 2008 – 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services announced an initiative to improve influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel. As part of this initiative, they requested that all HHS agencies develop a mechanism to track and report on HCP influenza vaccination coverage within their agencies.

IHS launched its effort with an Open Door Forum on October 25th, 2008 which included speakers on influenza transmission, influenza vaccination, employee health records, and strategies for vaccinating HCP. Each IHS Area was asked to designate a person to serve as the coordinator for this initiative, and to disseminate information to and receive reports from the facilities and aggregate them into an Area level report. Participation by IHS facilities was required; tribal and urban programs were also invited to participate. The definition of HCP included **all** personnel who work in a health care facility – meaning personnel with direct patient contact as well as housekeeping, food service workers, data entry clerks, administrators, etc. Educational PowerPoint presentations on the importance of HCP flu vaccination were developed for clinical and non-clinical HCP, as well as for facility administrators. These presentations, as well as guidance on tracking HCP flu coverage and reporting forms for the Area coordinators and individual facilities, were broadly disseminated throughout IHS and were also posted on the IHS website.

Results:

All 12 IHS Areas submitted reports, representing 135 facilities and 22,979 HCP. A breakdown of coverage by facility type is included below, as well as % refusals (which included those with medical contraindications), and the % for whom vaccination status was unknown.

Table 1

	Number of facilities	Number of HCP	% Vaccinated	% Refused	% Unknown
IHS Facilities	70	12,241	74.2%	9.7%	15.9%
Tribal Facilities	53	10,068	69.6%	10.4%	19.9%
Urban Facilities	12	670	43.5%	18.6%	37.7%
All Facilities	135	22,979	71.3%	10.3%	18.3%

While IHS as an agency surpassed the HP 2010 goal of 60%, coverage varied between IHS Areas. Coverage for ALL facilities (IHS, Tribal and Urban) by IHS Area is shown below.

2008 - 2009 Influenza Vaccination Coverage of HCP IHS, Tribal, and Urban Facilities

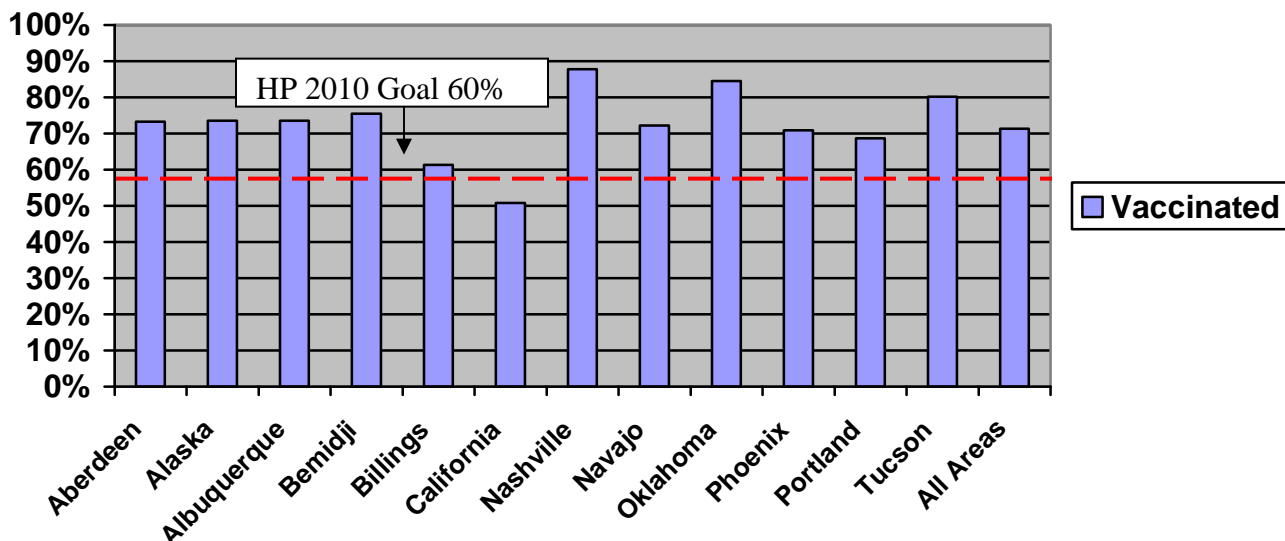


Table 2

	Number Facilities	Number HCP	% Vaccinated	% Refused	% Unknown
Aberdeen	12	1473	73.25%	12.70%	14.05%
Alaska	13	5555	73.50%	6.75%	19.75%
Albuquerque	12	1004	73.51%	9.46%	17.03%
Bemidji	15	1109	75.47%	15.96%	8.57%
Billings	6	911	61.36%	11.42%	27.22%
California	28	1726	50.81%	20.39%	29.26%
Nashville	2	49	87.76%	12.24%	0.00%
Navajo	11	4953	72.24%	9.29%	18.47%
Oklahoma	13	1326	84.54%	12.44%	3.02%
Phoenix	10	3500	70.89%	8.54%	20.57%
Portland	10	939	68.69%	13.53%	17.78%
Tucson	3	434	80.18%	5.30%	14.52%
All Areas	135	22,979	71.32%	10.31%	18.36%

Conclusion:

As an agency, IHS has surpassed the HP 2010 goal for HCP influenza vaccination, and has established a baseline HCP influenza coverage of 71% for all facility types. There is, however, variation between Areas and facility type; efforts to identify and disseminate best practices and to improve overall data collection are important next steps

Next Steps

- Follow up survey to sites re: strategies and best practices
- Update IHS Employee Manual Immunization Policy
- Develop goals for next flu season
 - Increase # of facilities reporting
 - Improve on % unknown
- Discuss data collection for next year
 - Break out refusals into medical contraindications vs. refusals