

Louisiana Snapshot

Opportunities & Barriers to Improve Immunization Rates Among Medicaid-Covered Children & Pregnant People: Targeting Medicaid Partnerships Community of Practice (CoP)

Project Overview

Partnerships between Medicaid and immunization programs are critical to improving immunization rates for children and pregnant people with Medicaid coverage. AcademyHealth, the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), and Immunize Colorado coordinated efforts for a three-year CDC funded cooperative agreement to implement new state-based strategies and policies to address immunization gaps among low-income pregnant people and children. The project's objectives were to make changes to state Medicaid policies or outreach procedures to facilitate vaccination of children living in poverty, implement policies that include providers caring for pregnant people and/or adults as covered vaccinators, and increase utilization of Medicaid resources for Immunization Information System (IIS) sustainability. Embarking on this project at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, CoP state teams faced common challenges including but not limited to staff bandwidth due to COVID-19 response efforts, workforce challenges, vaccine misinformation, and capacity of external partners such as IIS vendors. Louisiana's Community of Practice (CoP) team was comprised of Medicaid agency, Immunization Unit, and IIS staff.

Louisiana's individual goals for this project were:

1. Facilitate Medicaid access to IIS data
2. Increase rates of immunization series completion for children and adolescents
3. Increase immunization rates for pregnant people

Project Successes

IIS Infrastructure

- Medicaid colleagues in Louisiana can now match Medicaid data to LINKS (LA Immunization Network Web Application).
- Medicaid was able to repurpose an existing MOU instead of create a new one.
- Queries are made through the Office of Public Health and Medicaid staff are now able to conduct geographical assessments about their weaker links to identify which regions have more gaps within their adolescent and toddler groups.
- Louisiana plans to turn this data into targeted outreach through their MCOs and other providers in 2023 and beyond.

COVID: By the Numbers*

In Louisiana, 2,924,163 people or 63% of the state has received at least one dose.

Overall, 2,561,641 people or 55% of Louisiana's population are considered fully vaccinated.

A total of 6,961,453 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Louisiana.

(*All data as of May 10, 2023)

Source: [USA Facts](#)

For More Information, contact Quan Le (LINKS Program Manager at the Louisiana Immunization Program) at Quan.Le@LA.GOV.

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