

**DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION
& PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2004**

**CHILD HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION
ANNUAL REPORT**

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The Child Health and Immunization Program goal is to promote, protect, and preserve the health of the children in Kansas City. The services of the program benefit high risk children with limited resources and inadequate insurance. The services also promote Public Health through childhood immunizations to protect against the spread of communicable diseases. The program focuses on the areas of: Immunization Services, Immunization (CASA) Audits, Child Care Health Consultation, Case Management for Children With Special Health Care Needs (HOPE Program) and Continuous Quality Improvement for Vaccine For Children (VFC) sites at private physician's offices.

These programs are part of an on-going emphasis by public health on the core functions of assessment, assurance, and policy development. These programs continue to promote public health through the emphasis on community health by preventing infectious diseases, and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

1. Immunization Services

One of the major benchmarks of a community's health is the childhood immunization rate. The Public Health Service has set a goal of an age appropriate immunization rate for two year old children of 95% by the year 2010. Kansas City, Mo. had a childhood immunization rate of 83% in 2003, for births in 2001.

The purpose of the immunization activities is to prevent communicable disease by assuring immunizations to citizens, circulating immunization reminders, collecting data on immunizations using MOHSAIC software, and sharing immunization information with schools. The program goal is in line with Healthy People 2010, to bring the current immunization rate for two year olds to the national and local goal of ninety-five percent. The public health nurse teams for immunization, health education, CASA Audits, VFC Quality Improvement, and Hope case management home visitation continued to cross train to meet the increasing peak demand times for each program. The Immunization Team continued to offer the clinic at the Health Department, at Ruskin, and at St. Vincent's. The Health Department Immunization Clinic is the only clinic in the city that has adopted CDC's "Best Practices" of: immunizations free of charge, a walk-in clinic with no appointment required, a reminder and recall system for parents, evening hours one day each week for working parents, and special weekend events during peak times of the year.

The Immunization Team continued to work on the registry of childhood immunizations through CASA audits. In addition, the Immunization Team staff is working with private doctors' offices to educate their medical staff team regarding the importance of childhood immunizations, and to provide Total Quality Improvement including an immunization audit for their clinic and a follow-up to improve their childhood immunization rates.

With the goal of a 95% immunization rate and the rate for 2003 of 83%, there are currently over 7,000 children, Kansas City, Mo. residents under the age of two years old, whose records show they are not properly immunized. The state average for 2003 was 83.3%, and the national immunization rate was 79.4%.

2. Immunization (CASA) Audits

The State of Missouri continued a multi-year project to increase the immunization database, and the Immunization Team expanded relationships with the Mid-America Immunization Coalition, private doctors' offices and Children's Mercy Hospital to continue a major data gathering and education project to establish an on-going data gathering system for MOHSAIC, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) system for immunization records. These projects continue to move us toward the goal of 95% of two year old children being age appropriately immunized by the year 2010.

3. Continuous Quality Improvement- VFC

A new immunization program this year is an improvement strategy for immunization review and improving immunization practices at the clinic level for private physicians in a multi-county area. The purpose is to improve

the state's overall immunization coverage rates by ensuring continuous quality improvement for health care providers enrolled as providers for the Missouri Vaccine For Children (VFC) Program and ensuring the safety, storage, accountability and eligibility requirements are met for the vaccine. The Public Health Nurses provide CDC defined Assessment, Feedback, Incentives and an Information eXchange among peers (AFIX). Over 100 private VFC providers are scheduled for a site visit where the public health nursing staff monitors, implements, and evaluates

- a. Adherence with immunization schedule recommendations as established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- b. Appropriate vaccine handling, storage and ordering procedures.
- c. Proper documentation of children's VFC eligibility status by a sampling of patient records.
- d. Measurement of immunization levels using the Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA).
- e. Feedback of performance information.
- f. Recommendations for systems changes to improve service delivery.
- g. Compliance with documentation, record retention, and other program requirements, including use of federally mandated Vaccine Information Statements (VIS).

4. Child Care Health Consultation

Child Care Health Consultation includes a Public Health Nurse who provides education on child health issues in day care centers, non-licensed day care centers, schools, parent groups and other community organizations. Many child care centers are church-based and are exempt from state law, but request information, assistance and presentations from the Child Care Health Consultation Nurse. Day care personnel receive educational programs by Public Health Nurses on preventing the spread of communicable diseases, safety, behavior management, and other child health and development topics. Public Health Nurses from the program are used to respond to public disaster by providing recommended immunizations and other nursing services.

As of October 1, 2004, this contract has been transferred to the Environmental Division of the Health Department.

5. HOPE Program

Case Management for Children With Special Health Care Needs –HOPE Program, is a new program to the Health Department, funded by the State of Missouri DHSS, Bureau of Special Health Care Needs (BSHCN). Through registered Public Health Nurses this program provides case management and a wide variety of services including in-patient hospitalization, medications, therapy, specialized equipment, and related medical services up to \$25,000 per child per year. The child must have a qualifying medical condition, and the family must meet income guidelines. The HOPE Program is for children with a serious or chronic medical condition in order to develop, promote, and support community-based systems that enable the best possible health and highest level of functioning for children with special health care needs.

Over 500 children and their families in a multi-county area are enrolled in the HOPE Program and receive case management services.

The services available depend on the condition or illness being treated such as:

- a. Diagnostic services to include outpatient tests and evaluations and up to five days of inpatient diagnostic evaluation for some conditions.

- b. Treatment services to include inpatient care, surgery, therapy, physician office visits, prescription medicines, durable medical equipment and service coordination.
- c. Service coordination, Case Management, includes help to determine what the child's needs are and the best way to get the help the family needs.

The Child Health and Immunization Program strives to align its activities with the essential public health services listed below.

1. Monitor health status to identify community problems.

The Child Health Program staff developed a community leadership approach to service delivery as they gathered extensive data and conducted educational opportunities through an immunization curriculum presented to physician offices. This community wide effort will assist to strengthen the community health system and enable the program to reach the goal of appropriately immunizing 95 percent of two year olds by the year of 2010.

The Childhood Health Education Program nursing staff conducted assessments of day care staff needs and trainings. Several classes were offered on the following: Importance of Immunizations, Lice Awareness, First Aid-General Information, Safety in Child Care, Back to Sleep (SIDS), Hand Washing, Managing Childhood Asthma, Chickenpox and Hepatitis B. Educational efforts are provided in Headstart sites, licensed day care sites, exempt day care sites and preschool through second grade in the Kansas City, Missouri School District.

Key walk-in immunization indicators of the number of clients immunized and the number of immunizations given had a decreasing trend over the last few years, but a large increase has been noted for 2001, followed by a decline in 2002, and an increase again in 2003, and 2004:

Year	# Clients Immunized	# Immunizations Given
1999	7,455	14,827
2000	6,385	11,930
2001	9,985	18,120
2002	8,184	15,983
2003	8,530	17,195
2004	9,441	25,936

The increase in 2004 may reflect the continuation of the "BEE WISE IMMUNIZE ON TIME" program marketing and advertisements, and an increase in off site services provided by clinic nurses.

1. A. Adult Flu Shots

The Communicable Disease Prevention and Bioterrorism Preparedness Division, under the clinical direction of Millie Salkind, and in cooperation with the Bioterrorism Preparedness staff conducted several off-site community clinics. This enabled the Health Department to accomplish two related tasks. One was to distribute the limited Flu

Vaccine to high risk adults in a community setting, and the other was to practice the organization, and process that would be necessary in the event of an emergency need for large volume inoculations.

A total of 3,956 Adult Flu Shots, and 36 doses of Flu Mist were administered in 2004.

2. Assure a competent public health and personal health care work force.

Cross-training allows the nursing staff to respond to multiple assignment peak demands, as well as public health emergencies, as we prepare for bioterrorism threats. This cross training continued as the new nurses became trained in Child Health and Immunizations.

The Child Health and Immunization Program provided field experience for nursing students. The staff routinely educates nurses of the importance of public health in order to prevent infectious diseases, and to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. The staff utilizes the city's computer classes, Mid-America Regional Council courses, and attends conferences and teleconferences to further their continuing education.

Trainings included:

- a. Infectious Disease Immunizations Training-CDC
- b. Children's Program Training -DHSS
- c. HIPPA training
- d. Immunization Schedule training
- e. Infection Control
- f. Emergency Preparedness- Columbia University
- g. School Nurse Contract- DHSS
- h. CPR Certification
- i. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- j. Special Health Care Needs

3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.

The Child Health and Immunization staff presents an Immunization Curriculum to private physicians to enable them to incorporate "Best Practices" into their clinics in order to improve immunization rates. The campaign "BEE WISE, IMMUNIZE ON TIME" educates parents to immunize the children before the start of school since children are not allowed entry into school under state law until they are properly immunized. The media campaign saves dollars by linking the "ON Time" campaign with the national, state and local campaign to "BEE WISE, IMMUNIZE". The Child Health and Immunization Program developed magnets with the theme, and with the immunization schedule, to be distributed free at health fairs, the Medical Records Office, Vital Statistics Office, WIC clinics, Immunization Clinic and at other community events. This reminder, in addition to the reminder postcard and the recall telephone call, educates and empower parents to bring their children in for timely immunizations.

4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

The Child Health and Immunization Program collaborates with several groups to assist in identifying and recommending policy development to solve health problems.

Those groups include the Maternal Child Health Coalition (MCH) which consists of community organizations dedicated to improving the health of women, children, and youth, and the Mid- America Immunization Coalition(MAIC) which is dedicated to improving immunizations for children and adults.

5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

The Child Health and Immunization Program actively works with the MCH Coalition and the MAIC to develop recommendations to improve public health. The MCH Coalition and MAIC routinely educate city council members and state legislators on current issues pertaining to child health issues.

6. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

The Child Health and Immunization Program routinely assists clients with referrals to WIC, First Steps, MC+, United Way services, and other agencies as needed. Clients that are out of our jurisdiction are referred to other county and state health departments. Linking our clients with community agencies to help meet their basic needs increases their availability to our more specialized services.

7. Evaluate the effectiveness, the accessibility, and the quality of personal and population-based health services.

The HOPE Program provides customer satisfaction surveys to clients of Case Management. The Public Health effectiveness of the Immunization Clinic is evaluated by the immunization rate. The CASA Audits for private physicians gives feedback to the private clinics regarding the effectiveness of their immunization practices through the CASA Audit rate. The Vaccine For Children Program (VFC) evaluates the safety of the vaccine and monitors compliance of the private doctors with VFC guidelines. The Child Health Consultation provides consultation assessment and feedback, and the overall effectiveness is monitored through the decrease in child care facility outbreaks of infectious preventable diseases. The public health of the community is monitored by the reporting of a wide variety of preventable communicable diseases

8. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

The Mid – America Immunization Coalition supported an immunization study conducted by UMKC School of Nursing, funded by CDC. The VFC –AFIX program is being evaluated by CDC to determine if it is an effective nationwide method to improve immunization rates. The State of Missouri has changed its method of determining immunization rates and moving to a more strict compliance measure next year following the recommendation of CDC.