

CALIFORNIA AREA INFLUENZA PLAN UPDATE

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Program Directors' Meeting - October 15, 2015

Each year, seasonal influenza sweeps across the country in epidemic proportions causing thousands of illnesses and hospitalizations. Some years, this epidemic causes as many as 49,000 deaths while in other years it is less severe.

Impact of Influenza

- **Influenza is a serious disease that causes significant morbidity and mortality**
- Influenza and resulting sequelae such as pneumonia are among the top 10 leading causes of death in AI/ANs
- Each year between 3,000 and 49,000 persons die from influenza and/or related complications
- Influenza-related mortality is significantly higher in the AI/AN population as compared to that in non-Hispanic Whites [1]
- **Influenza Vaccination remains the best strategy for reducing flu related illness**
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommends **annual** flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older [2]

[1] Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality among American Indian and Alaska Native People, 1990-2009. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2014 June (Groom, A. et al)

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) – United States, 2014-15 Influenza Season. 2014. *MMWR* 63(32);691-697

IHS National Level Actions

- The Indian Health Service has rolled out a **National Influenza Plan** with a specific goal of decreasing the number of people who get sick or die from the flu by **increasing** the number of people who have influenza vaccine coverage.
- **IHS Plan Goals:** Those based on Healthy People 2020 Benchmarks

Message from the IHS Chief Medical Officer:

“To protect the health of our patients, families, and the community, I’m asking all health care providers and support staff to help stop the spread of influenza by getting vaccinated themselves, and to encourage their patients, families and community members to get their influenza vaccine as soon as possible.” (Dr. Susan Karol, October 6, 2015 e-mail)

HP 2020 Goals for Influenza Vaccine Coverage

- Seasonal Influenza vaccine coverage for the **general population ages 6 months and older** to reach 70%
- Influenza vaccine coverage for **healthcare personnel (HCP)** to reach 90%

IHS Overall Coverage and Action Plan

- **Patient influenza vaccine coverage** has remained relatively stable over the past 5 flu seasons – **well below the 70 % HP 2020 goal**
 - **During 2014-15 Last season in IHS only 36% of patients received the influenza vaccine.**
- **Health Care Personnel (HCP) coverage** has remained consistent - **well below the 90 % HP 2020 goal for past 7 influenza seasons**
- IHS Action Plan was **developed to provide a framework** for IHS to increase influenza vaccination coverage among patients as well as Health Care Personnel.
 - **Eventual reduction in morbidity and mortality**

Influenza Vaccine Coverage among Patients (Clinical Users) by IHS Area, 2014-2015

Area	Children 6 months – 17 years			Adults 18 years and older		
	Active Clinical Population*	# Vaccinated	% Vaccinated	Active Clinical Population*	# Vaccinated	% Vaccinated
Alaska	12705	3573	28.1%	25206	7465	29.6%
Albuquerque	15018	5874	39.1%	41230	16241	39.4%
Bemidji	10861	2927	26.9%	23379	6687	28.6%
Billings	16536	6053	36.6%	33711	12411	36.8%
California	16164	3135	19.4%	34421	7864	22.8%
Great Plains	29594	11059	37.4%	59529	19489	32.7%
Nashville	6055	1805	29.8%	12921	2974	23.0%
Navajo	51116	23811	46.6%	123131	54012	43.9%
Oklahoma	33306	10857	32.6%	96602	36162	37.4%
Phoenix	27746	8992	32.4%	52631	18470	35.1%
Portland	14482	4724	32.6%	32169	10480	32.6%
Tucson	4609	1966	42.7%	9414	4117	43.7%
National	238192	84776	35.6%	544344	196372	36.1%

Active Clinical User Population: Patients with at least 2 visits in the last 3 years, one of which must be to a primary care clinic. This denominator includes active clinical population for facilities reporting into NIRS. Not all facilities in the Oklahoma Area report into NIRS.

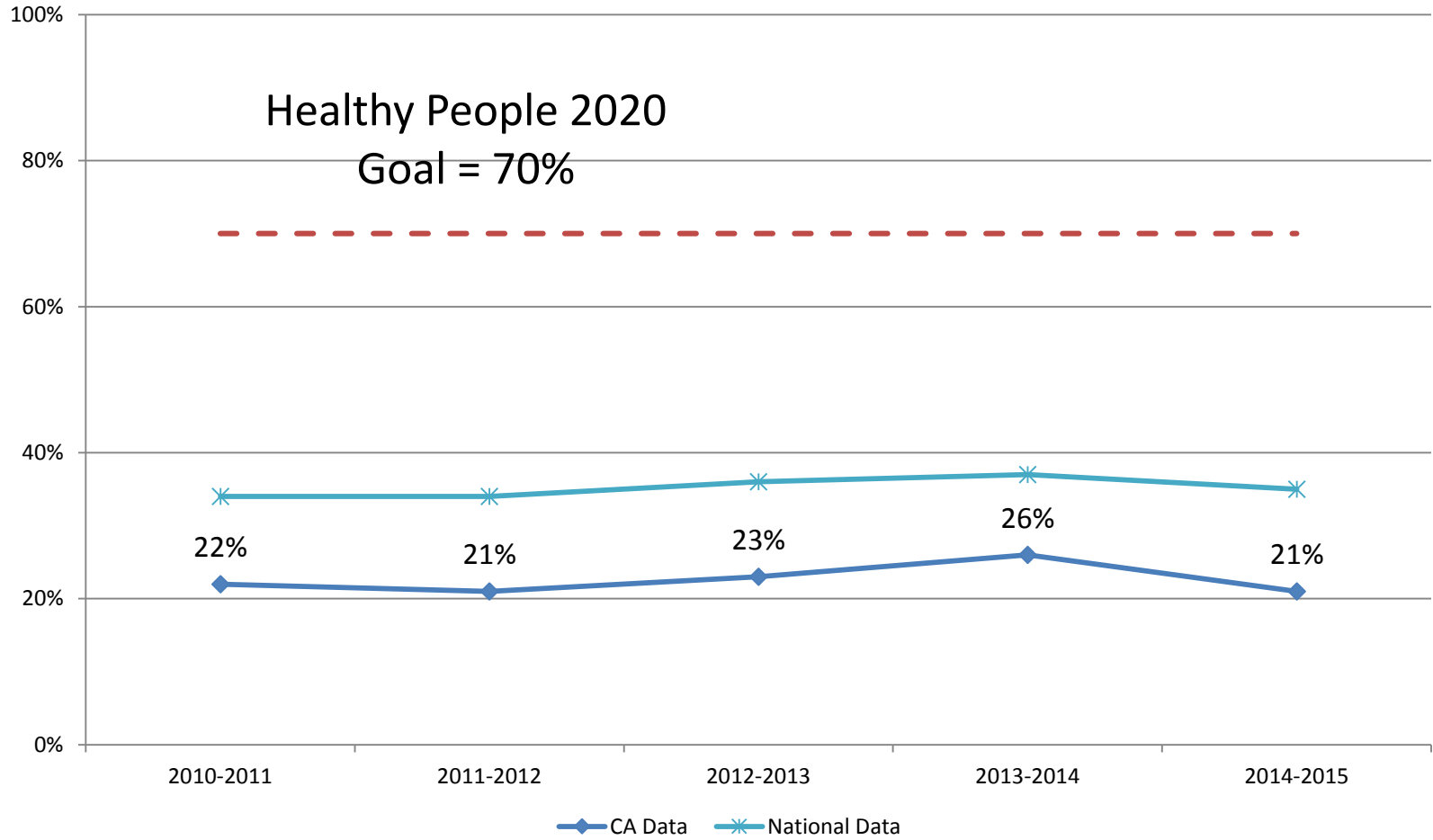
IHS National Influenza Vaccination Plan

- The IHS Influenza Plan for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season” on August 21st- Webinar
- GPRA Measure Logic Changes was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 - Webinar
- The IHS Influenza Kick Off for 2015-2016 – Webinar September 23
- National GPRA/GPRAMA webinar on Influenza and Childhood Immunizations –Webinar - October 1, 2015
- IHS Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel – Webinar October 8, 2015

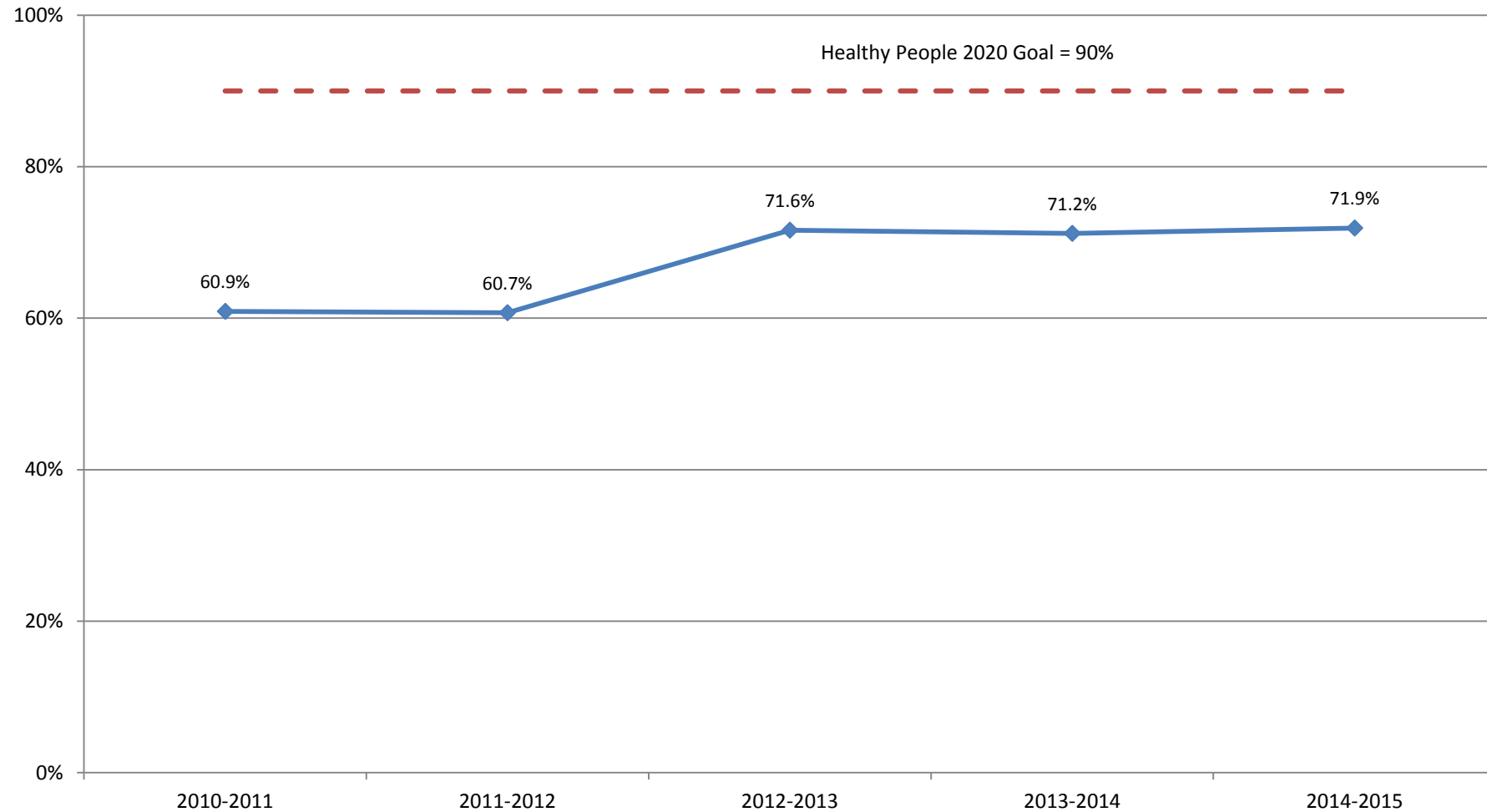
CA Area Influenza Plan (Draft)

- Establishes a guiding framework for partnering with National, State, Area, and local Tribal and Urban healthcare program stakeholders to promote resources and action that ensure best available protection against seasonal influenza and related complications for AI/AN patients and communities; that offered through Influenza Vaccination coverage consistent with HP 2020 goals.

Influenza Vaccine Coverage among Clinical Users California Area, Flu Seasons 2010-2015



Influenza Vaccine Coverage among Healthcare Workers* California Area, Flu Seasons 2010-2015



***Healthcare personnel defined as all employees, contractors, volunteers and students working in IHS healthcare facilities**

CA Area Level Influenza Planning Activity

- Area Level Influenza Vaccination Stakeholder Initial Planning Meeting - September 15
- E-survey re local Influenza vaccination practice distributed to all CA Area Tribal and Urban healthcare program-based immunization coordinators – September 21 and 25 (21 programs responded)
- Area Level Influenza Plan stakeholder meeting – October 7
- Area Influenza Plan (Draft) finalized – October 14
- Program Director Meeting – October 15 – Distribution of Draft Area Influenza Plan
- CAO-hosted EHR Office Hours Agenda: Discussion of Influenza Coverage Practice Efforts/Resources - October 15

Best Practices for Influenza Vaccination Coverage at All Levels

- To Increase **Access** to Vaccine
- To Increase **Provider Awareness**
- To Increase **Community Acceptance**

Ensure Broad Influenza Vaccination Coverage

Offer **on-site** Influenza vaccinations, **annually (as soon as vaccine is available)** for:

- Executive Leadership
- All Healthcare Program Personnel (Clinic and Outreach Staff)
- Patients 6 months of age and older

Survey Results: Area Influenza Vaccination Practice/Resources for 2015-16

Local Level Influenza Vaccination Practice Survey

Questions/Responses

- Identify Immunization Coordinator – Free Text
- Does your clinic utilize the RPMS Immunization Package for running reports/monitoring immunization coverage? 86% or 18/21 -yes
- If you have an on-site pharmacy, does the pharmacist provide influenza vaccinations? 19% 3/16 - yes
- Have you received your 2015/2016 Influenza vaccine supply? 67%, 14/21 yes
- Have you ordered enough vaccine to immunize your entire population of patients ages 6 months and older for the 2015/2016 season? 77% yes, 16/21

Survey Questions/Responses

- Source of influenza vaccine supply? 43% County (free), 5% County (purchase), 24% IHSNSSC , 80% VFC
- Do you stock a supply of antivirals? 62% yes, 13/21
- If you are an Resource & Patient Management System (RPMS) user, Version 8.5 Patch 10 is the current version of the Immunization Package. Are you currently using this version? 85% yes, (3/20 programs not using current version)
- Immunization codes change annually for influenza vaccine. A document reflecting 2015/2016 codes have been distributed by e-mail from the CA Area Office Immunization Program Coordinator on 9/17/2015. Does your program use the current codes? 90% yes, 18/20
- Do you currently utilize EHR reminders at your clinic? 71% yes, 15/21

Survey Questions/Responses

- Do you document immunization refusals? 95% (20/21)- yes
- **Do you access and document influenza vaccines that are given outside of your practice?** 86 % - yes (18/21)
- Do you have a **current Influenza Vaccination Plan** (including policies & procedures) for your clinic? 81% - yes (17/21)
- **If yes, does your plan include a masking policy for healthcare personnel?** 69% (1/16) yes
- Do you currently utilize **standing orders** for influenza vaccination?
 - 90% yes – 19/21
 - 67% used standing orders for children and adults; 33% used standing orders for adult patients only

Survey Questions/Responses

- Use of Clinical Reporting System Reports (Local) - 41% (7/17) , Immunization Package Reports – 65% (11/17), Influenza-Like-Illness Reports - 53% (9/17)?
- Frequency of running patient immunization status reports?
 - Weekly 5% (1/20), Monthly 55% (11/20), Quarterly 40% (8/20)
- Annual training for immunization staff to ensure competency?
95% (20/21) Yes; 5% (1/21) No

General Survey Comments/Responses:

- “Does IHS have a model for annual flu vaccine training?”
- “Our Administration does not support the masking of personnel who have not had the influenza vaccine”.
- “State doctor via VFC will come and provide annual Immunization training to all medical staff--1st one will start October 2015”
- “Very difficult to receive information from other facilities on immunization status of patients. Only order what I believe will be used”.

Influenza Resources

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Flu website** – includes surveillance data, fact sheets for providers and patients about influenza and influenza vaccine, and free printed, video and radio resources - www.cdc.gov/flu
- **Influenza Manual from the Veterans' Administration** - includes guidance for facilities re: setting up a comprehensive staff and patient influenza vaccination programs: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/flu/va-flu-manual.pdf#>
- **Indian Health Service Flu website** – links to IHS surveillance data and educational resources for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities – www.ihs.gov/flu
- **Department of Health and Human Services Influenza website** – www.flu.gov
- **National Foundation of Infectious Disease** - -Information for Healthcare Professionals – <http://www.nfid.org/influenza>
- **Personal Testimonies** - Stories about families affected by flu - <http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/>
- <http://www.vaccineinformation.org/influenza/>
- **Influenza Vaccine and Antiviral Ordering** - IHS National Supply Service Center <http://www.ihs.gov/NSSC/>

Contact Information

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