

ACTION STEP WORKSHEET

Action Title Defining the Unimmunized Population

Description: KDHE, in collaboration with their partners in immunization programs, will use newly available data to define the characteristics of unimmunized and under immunized children in Kansas. The immunization registry (KSWebIZ) and the new WIC registry are two important sources of data that will become increasingly useful in coming years. Data on unimmunized children will be used to design strategies to improve immunization coverage and timeliness of immunization in these hardest-to-reach populations.

Rationale: Information currently available to immunization policy makers and program managers is insufficient to accurately define the high risk unimmunized and under immunized populations in Kansas. Designing specific strategies to reach the children at highest risk for being unimmunized or under immunized is essential to improving immunization rates in Kansas.

Strategy supported (refer to the IKK strategies):

1. Expand opportunities for clients of health department programs (e.g., WIC, Family Planning) to obtain referrals to and more easily access immunization services for their children.

Expected Outcomes: By the end of 2008, KDHE will have profiles of unimmunized and under immunized children using data from the immunization registry, the WIC immunization system and retrospective school entry surveys. KDHE may coordinate with academic centers, foundations, KHI and other organizations concerned with immunization in KS to conduct the necessary studies.

Proposed evaluation methods: An assessment of the validity of the data based on completeness of the registry and WIC system. Immunization coverage rates for the state as a whole and defined high risk populations.

Challenges: Enrolling more providers to fully populate the immunization registry. Defining how other existing data sets might be used or other surveys modified to provide reliable information.

Resource Requirements: Review of immunization registry and WIC immunization system data should be an ongoing responsibility of KDHE. Additional funding will be needed to support studies conducted by other institutions.

Commitments for Implementation:

<i>Participant Organization and Name</i>	<i>Suggested Organization and Name</i>
KDHE	
Medicaid	
KHI	
Kansas Health Policy Authority	
KPHA	
Kansas Health Foundation	
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments	