

Title: Implications of an immunization status survey conducted annually over five years of a regional immunization conference

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Purpose: Analysis of data was conducted from anonymous annual immunization status surveys of vaccine providers attending the Immunize Nebraska conference over a five year period.

Design: A standardized data form collected limited demographic data, identified certain high risk conditions, and requested immunization status information. Only “Yes” responses were counted. Data was entered into an Access database, and subsequently analyzed using SPSS 22 statistical software.

Findings: Over the five events, there was a survey response rate of 69 - 86% (201/233; 218/268; 145/209; 187/228; 222/268). Almost half of each year’s respondents fell into a 27-49 year age category (range: 42 – 46%), with 1/4 to 1/3 being 50-59 years old (range: 26-31%), and about 10% were 60-65 years of age (9-13%). Remaining respondents fell below or above these age ranges, and 4-8% failed to provide their age. The groups were largely female (88-94%). Small proportions reporting having the following status: Asthmatic (4-8%), Diabetic (2-6%), and/or Smoker (1-5%). Rates of immunization with specified vaccines were recorded based on a “Yes” survey response, and analyzed by age, gender, and/or high risk condition, as appropriate to the vaccine. For Influenza, 91 – 94% reported vaccination in the past year overall; those under 50 years of age ranged from 89-95% vaccination. Those 50-64 years old ranged from 91-96% vaccination, and those at least 65 years of age reported 100% vaccination in all but one year (92%). Asthmatics reported vaccination rates of 88-100% across the 5 years, diabetics 82-100%, and smokers 86-100%. Immunization rates for other vaccines will be reported for pertinent sub-groups.

Implications: This survey assesses health professional adherence to immunization guidelines, and serves as a reminder to self-assess status. Survey results also show that there are areas for improved adherence to guidelines, even among vaccine specialists.