

Immunization Rates Briefing Document
Presented to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
September 20, 2007

Immunization rates for children and senior citizens is listed in RCW 43.20.280 as one of the indicators of health that the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities must address in its plan to eliminate health disparities. This document provides data on the 4-3-1-3-3-1 immunization series, which is four or more doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; one or more doses of measles, mumps, rubella; three or more doses of haemophilus influenza B; three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and one dose of varicella vaccine. Indicators of adult immunization rates include influenza (flu) and pneumococcal vaccination rates.

CRITERION #1: MAGNITUDE

- In 2005, the percentage of Washington children age 19-35 months who received the 4-3-1-3-3-1 vaccination series was 66%, up nearly 15% from the 2002 rate of 52%.
- Washington rates have remained consistently lower than U.S. rates.
- In 2005, 67.8% of Washington adults age 65 and over reported having a flu shot within the past year, while the percentage who have ever had pneumococcal vaccine was 66.9%.
- From 1995-1999, the rates of pneumococcal vaccination increased significantly among Washington adults 65 years and older, while flu vaccination rates remained relatively stable over the same period.

CRITERION #2: ASSOCIATION TO HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Vaccine preventable diseases are often highly contagious, and can cause serious symptoms, complications, and even death. Since the introduction of immunizations, rates of vaccine-preventable disease have decreased by 95-100%. As one example, prior to the introduction of the measles vaccine in 1963, an average of 503,282 cases and 432 deaths from measles were reported each year in the U.S. In 1998 there were 89 reported cases.
- In 2005, influenza and pneumonia combined was the 8th leading cause of death in Washington State.

CRITERION #3: DISPARITY

- From 2003-2005, the percentages of Washington children age 19-35 months who received the 4-3-1-3-3-1 vaccination series were 69.1% for Hispanics, 61.8% for whites, 60.6% for blacks, and 60.0% among the "other" race/ethnicity category.
- From 2003-2005, the Index of Disparity for not receiving the 4-3-1-3-3-1 series was 26.8%*.
- In Washington from 2003-2005, blacks ages 65 and older had the lowest rate of influenza vaccine (55.8%) compared to Asians and Pacific Islanders (67.3%), Hispanics (67.4%), whites (70.0%) and American Indians and Alaska Natives (71.1%), for an Index of Disparity for not receiving the influenza vaccine was 21%.

The Index of Disparity is the average of the difference in rates between the racial/ethnic group with the "best" rate and all other racial/ethnic groups.

Keppel KG et al., Measuring progress in healthy people 2010. Statistical Notes, no 25. NCHS, 2004.

**Consistent with Keppel et al., (2004), immunization rates were transformed to non-immunization coverage for purposes of calculating the Index of Disparity.*