

Immunization at NACCHO: Reinforcing the Power of Vaccination to Protect Public Health



The Role of Local Health Departments: Connecting Communities to Services

Vaccines remain one of most successful and cost-effective ways to protect against infectious diseases and death. Local health departments (LHDs) play a critical role in ensuring their communities have access to immunization services, accurate vaccine information, and coordinated systems of care. In partnership with public and private sector physicians and other stakeholders, LHDs lead essential functions such as vaccine administration, disease surveillance and reporting, and community outreach and education. As critical safety-net immunization providers, approximately 88% of LHDs provide immunization services across the lifespan and approximately 92% of LHDs rely on immunization registries to record immunization delivery and track vaccine coverage.

Despite the proven safety and effectiveness of vaccines, the need for strong local immunization programs has never been greater. Communities continue to face pockets of low vaccination coverage, persistent routine vaccine gaps, and the reemergence of diseases. Simultaneously, LHDs are navigating seasonal respiratory threats as well as emerging vaccine-preventable diseases that require rapid, coordinated responses.

With increasing urgency around vaccination coverage, LHDs must be equipped with the resources, guidance, and workforce capacity necessary to adapt to challenges and outbreaks. NACCHO's work supports this need by strengthening LHD capacity to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases through evidence-based programs, national policy engagement, collaboration, and the dissemination of tools and best practices. These

efforts aim to enhance LHD readiness for fall respiratory seasons, improve routine vaccination coverage, and support communities experiencing differences in outcomes due to access or uptake barriers.

The Role of NACCHO: Supporting Local Health Department Efforts

NACCHO facilitates coordination among the nation's over 3,300 LHDs through the Community Health Program, which manages communications, outreach, technical assistance, and training resources for a nationwide network of public health professionals who work in immunization at LHDs.

NACCHO's Immunization program is committed to helping LHDs increase their capacity to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases and meet nationally established immunization standards. As the national voice for LHDs, NACCHO ensures that members have input on federal immunization policies and guidance. Further, NACCHO staff and workgroup representatives provide critical representation on leading immunization coalitions and committees.



Immunization Services Provided Directly by Local Health Departments

Program/service	All LHDs	Size of population served			Degree of urbanization	
		Small (<50,000)	Medium (50,000–499,999)	Large (500,000+)	Urban	Rural
Immunization						
COVID-19 adult immunizations	95%	94%	96%	99%	92%	97%
Routine childhood immunizations	88%	86%	92%	93%	82%	93%
Routine adult immunizations	87%	84%	91%	93%	83%	91%
COVID-19 childhood immunizations	84%	80%	90%	97%	83%	85%

n=927–931

Source: [2022 NACCHO Profile Study](#)

Local Health Departments

NACCHO connects LHDs with the latest immunization best practices, tools, and resources from across the country. Through active dialogue with members and partners, NACCHO provides thoughtful leadership on immunization policy and encourages peer-to-peer learning among local public health professionals.

Additionally, NACCHO employs a multi-channel communications approach to ensure awareness of these resources, encourage adoption of innovative new tools and best practices among membership, and increase the visibility of LHD immunization efforts.



Key Program Activities

NACCHO staff provide capacity building assistance, support, and leadership on immunization initiatives.

Engaging LHD Immunization Experts

NACCHO convenes an Immunization Workgroup that comprises LHD staff and subject matter experts who meet monthly to provide expert guidance on emerging immunization issues and local needs. The Immunization Workgroup also supports peer learning, reviews and develops policy statements, and shares practical insights on immunization practices. Through this engagement, NACCHO elevates local perspectives and ensures that LHD needs directly inform NACCHO's broader immunization priorities.

Community of Practice: Supporting Workforce Capacity

Through the Immunization Community of Practice, NACCHO supports LHDs in strengthening workforce capacity to address fall respiratory disease season, maintain routine vaccination coverage, and respond to emerging vaccine-preventable diseases. NACCHO provides technical assistance and capacity-building support that enables LHDs to share promising practices and deepen their understanding of effective immunization strategies.



Improving Real-Time Situational Awareness Through a Sentinel Network

Through the Immunization Sentinel Network, NACCHO communicates with LHDs across the country to rapidly capture data on local immunization program priorities, challenges, and needs. This data collection and thorough analysis enables NACCHO to produce situational awareness reports and spotlight emerging trends. Findings are used to inform technical assistance strategies and broaden understanding of local immunization programs.

Educating on Fall Respiratory Season, Routine Vaccination, and Emerging VPD Threats

NACCHO shares materials and campaigns focused on respiratory season and routine vaccines to its members and publicly. NACCHO also develops, organizes, and shares evidence-based strategies, tools, and resources to help LHDs promote, educate on, and respond to emerging vaccine-preventable threats. Resources are distributed through multiple channels including the NACCHO website, toolkits, webinars, social media, and blog posts to strengthen public health communication and reach a variety of audiences.

For information, please contact:

The Immunization Project Team at immunization@naccho.org or visit [Immunization - NACCHO](#)

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