

**Title of Intervention:** Vaccine tracking system to improve the rate of age-appropriate primary immunization in children

**Intervention Strategies:** Individual Education

**Purpose of the Intervention:** To increase immunizations among children of lower socioeconomic status

**Population:** Infants and their mothers, primarily low-income

**Setting:** Hospitals and medical centers in Forsyth County, North Carolina; health care facility-based

**Partners:** None mentioned

**Intervention Description:**

- Individual Education: Parents of infants in the intervention group were sent reminder postcards one week before the target vaccination dates. For infants who did not receive a scheduled vaccination, parents were reminded again by a single postcard. At the same time, phone calls to the family were made once every week until the infant received the vaccination or the vaccination was overdue by a month.

**Theory:** Not mentioned

**Resources Required:**

- Staff/Volunteers: Clinic staff, health care providers
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Computers and printers
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Cost of follow-up was \$18.05 per infant
- Intervention: Postcards, access to infant medical record, access to telephone numbers of parents, telephone
- Evaluation: Access to immunization records

**Evaluation:**

- Design: Data collection and statistical analysis
- Methods and Measures
  - The number of phone calls made to each family was tracked as well as where the family member was reached (home/work).
  - Immunization records were examined to determine how many infants had achieved up to date vaccinations

**Outcomes:**

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: There was a significant increase in immunization rates.

**Maintenance:** Not mentioned

**Lessons Learned:** An immunization tracking system that follows infants from birth and utilizes both mail and telephone reminders can substantially increase the rate of timely vaccination. Beginning immunization reminder systems before the first scheduled immunization increases compliance with the immunization schedule. To reduce costs further, trained volunteers could make the reminder phone calls.

**Citation(s):**

Abramson, J.S., et al., Development of a vaccine tracking system to improve the rate of age-appropriate primary immunization in children of lower socioeconomic status. *J Pediatr*, 1995. 126(4): p. 583-6.