

2014 JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH PRIORITIES

BACKGROUND: In Spring 2014, a group of community data users led by Jefferson Health Care and Jefferson Public Health reviewed the findings from a community health assessment to develop a list of top issues and final priorities.

PRIORITY: IMMUNIZATIONS

OVERVIEW:

Immunizations are considered one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. In the early 1900's infectious diseases were common causes of morbidity and mortality. Vaccine schedules recommend vaccinations for infants, children, adolescents, adults and travelers. To prevent disease now and in the future, vaccination must continue. The more people who are vaccinated, the lower the risk of exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are developed in accordance with the highest standards of safety and continually monitored for safety and efficacy. As with any medical procedure, vaccination has some risks as well as substantial, proven benefits.

ACTION AREA IDEAS:

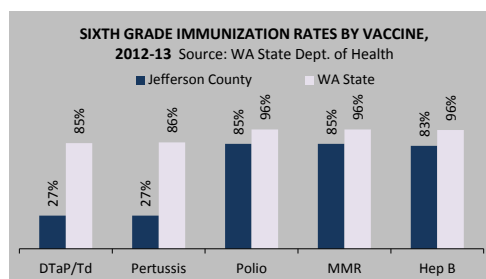
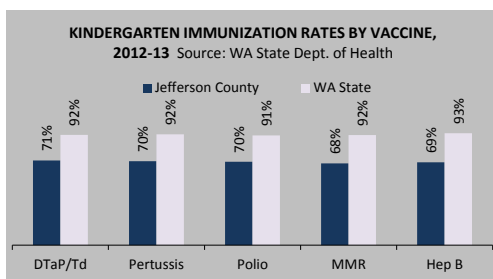
The following are ideas only; community work groups will determine actions, goals and measures.

PROVIDERS/SCHOOLS:

- Consistent messaging about benefits, costs, and access by MD's, RN's, midwives, Public Health nurses
- Consistent messaging among schools and districts; include information about the new state law as part of school orientation
- Ensure all vaccines are available at all local clinics
- Identify access points for target populations (new babies, school-age children, adolescents, pregnant women, travelers)

COMMUNITY:

- Publicize local immunization rates
- Reach out to community organizations and networks to help disseminate information
- Utilize the web and social media to disseminate information
- Research successes from other communities that could work locally



FACTS

OUT OF 39 WA STATE COUNTIES, JEFFERSON RANK FOR % OF KINDERGARTENERS WITH IMMUNIZATIONS:¹

COMPLETE: 30TH

INCOMPLETE: 24TH

EXEMPTION: 38TH

(Exemption: student excused from one or more vaccinations due to medical, personal or religious beliefs)

48% OF JEFFERSON KINDERGARTENERS START SCHOOL WITH COMPLETE IMMUNIZATIONS; 86% IN WASHINGTON STATE¹

12% OF JEFFERSON KINDERGARTENERS START SCHOOL EXEMPT FROM IMMUNIZATIONS; 5% IN WASHINGTON STATE¹

22% OF JEFFERSON 6TH GRADERS HAVE COMPLETE IMMUNIZATIONS; 82% IN WASHINGTON STATE¹

41% OF JEFFERSON ADULTS REPORT GETTING A FLU SHOT IN THE PAST YEAR; 30% AMONG LOW-INCOME²