

Building Partnerships Between Ob-Gyns and State Health Department Immunization Programs

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**The American College of
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WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



Project Overview

Project Goals:

- To create and expand ob-gyn office-based immunization programs in ACOG District V (MI, OH, IN, KY)
- To increase the types and doses of immunizations given in ob-gyn practices
- To build sustainable partnerships between each ob-gyn office and its respective state health department (SHD) immunization program

Project Methodology

- Recruit total of 60 ob-gyn practices, 15 selected from each state (MI, OH, IN, KY)
- Each practice received a one hour on-site training, given by the SHD and College program staff
- Each practice received a set of core immunization materials; materials jointly developed by SHD and program staff
- Each practice received contact information for SHD Immunization Program staff as an expert resource for future immunization questions and concerns
- Prior to training, a pre-test was given to the 60 practices ; three months following pre-test, a post-test was administered to see if the practices made improvements to their office -based immunization programs. 58 practice completed the post-test.

Project Findings

- 83% report they now have the name of a SHD contact person they can reach with questions about immunizations.
- There has been a 59% increase in adding an immunization coordinator since the pre-test.
- One-third of all practices have added at least one vaccine.
- Over 28% of practices have added Tdap.
- An additional 9% of sites enrolled in VFC.
- 29% of practices have increased the vaccine doses given.
- 48% of practices from IN, MI and OH report they are now participating in the state immunization registry.

Building Sustainable Partnerships: Lessons Learned

- It is very important for ob-gyn practices to establish an immunization coordinator, to create a sustainable point person within the practice who can be the point person for all immunization activities.
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (The College) endorsement of immunization activities motivates ob-gyns to provide immunization within office based practices. The College has immunization policies and tools helping ob-gyns establish and maintain immunization programs within the practice. This information can be found online at www.immunizationforwomen.org.
- Address all ob-gyn office staff during immunization trainings; this helps maintain consistent, positive immunization messaging.
- Provide ob-gyn staff with SHD contact information, so practice has a reliable expert immunization contact when future questions arise.

Contact and Special Thanks

- If you have questions about this presentation, please contact Anna Dean, Immunization Program Manager at adean@acog.org.

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