

# SHOTStracker



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If you would like more information about how you can participate in Florida SHOTS please contact

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization

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## I-TRENDS

# Help Keep Children from Falling Through the Cracks

Calling our nation's immunization program "a national treasure that is too often taken for granted," the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, in its June 2000 report *Calling the Shots*, makes recommendations to shore up the immunization system's critical infrastructure. In its discussion of the immunization system's weaknesses, the report notes that better ways to monitor who's getting vaccinated are needed. The patchwork of public and private immunization providers makes it difficult to monitor the effectiveness of the system, and without a coordinated, community-wide tracking system, children fall through the cracks.

*Calling the Shots* describes the important strategies for improving vaccination coverage levels and reducing missed opportunities to vaccinate, including reminder and recall, and provider assessment and feedback—all functions of immunization registries.

Community immunization registries that are in place, says the report, "offer a number of advantages, such as the assurance of data availability in case of disaster, reductions in the

cost of record verification among providers at the point of service for a given patient, and elimination of the variations that can occur in parent/patient-carried health records."

### ALL DOCTORS, ALL KIDS, AND ALL SHOTS

It sounds so simple: For a community immunization registry to be complete, it should include all the immunizations given by all the doctors to all the children under age 2. But it's a very complicated undertaking, as the 16 All Kids Count projects, funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to complete their immunization registries, discovered.

The 16 projects were surveyed four times from January 1999 through June 2000. Here's what the data for all projects shows:

### ALL DOCTORS

Almost all projects had 100% of their public immunization providers enrolled in the registry and submitting data early on. More difficult to achieve was participation of private clinicians, which is essential to the viability of the registry because most immunizations are now given in the private sector. To entice their communities' doctors to

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## We Need Your Input!

In order to make Florida SHOTS the best tool it can be, we have asked a private research company to conduct a survey of all immunization providers in the state of Florida. Whether you currently use the registry or not, we want your input about your immunization practices and your perceptions of the features and benefits of Florida SHOTS. Your feedback will be used as we move forward to refine the system to best meet provider needs while we work together to conquer vaccine-preventable disease in children.

All responses will be entered in a drawing to win a \$250 American Express gift certificate (one entry per office) awarded by the research firm. The survey is designed to take less than 10 minutes of your time, and you may designate anyone in the office who is knowledgeable about your immunization practices to respond. To participate go to [www.brunetgarcia.com/survey](http://www.brunetgarcia.com/survey), password: email1. If you cannot access the survey online, call Jenny Camet at 904-346-1977 to request a faxed copy of the survey.

I-TRENDS

# Help Keep Children from Falling Through the Cracks

**Florida SHOTS includes all children born in Florida since January 1, 2003, from Vital Statistics birth data loads as well as any child receiving services from a county health department or other health care provider that participates as an authorized system user.**

participate, registries provide them with reports about their patients, reminder/recall notices, vaccine inventory capabilities, and more.

**ALL KIDS**

All Kids Count projects looked at the percentage of children age 2 or under in the community that are in the registry. In most cases children are entered into the registry at birth. From January 1999 to June 2000, the percentage increased from 81% to 97%. Only a few projects had less than 90% of resident children included in the registry.

**ALL SHOTS**

A community immunization survey can give valuable feedback on how well the community is doing in immunizing all of its children. Projects increased the percentage of children under age 2 in the community with an immunization other than HepB (received at birth) from 41% to 64% from January 1999 to June 2000.

*This article was excerpted from "IOM Report: Immunization Registries Can Help Keep Children from Falling Through the Cracks," Focus on Immunization Registries, Fall 2000, by All Kids Count.*

## Did You Know?

April 12, 2005, marked the 50th anniversary of the first polio vaccine. Since this effort 50 years ago, we can now protect children from more than 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, and disease rates have been reduced by 99% in the US. Yet, without diligent efforts to maintain immunization programs here and strengthen them worldwide, the diseases seen 50 years ago remain a threat to our children.

## Waiting for Training?

If you've submitted an application for enrollment in Florida SHOTS and are awaiting training, then you are among over 1,000 providers that have chosen to participate—and this number is growing daily. Now that's success! While over 75% of providers have been trained, current plans for ensuring that providers are trained as quickly as possible include an upcoming concentrated effort in south Florida by 16 new trainers as well as aggressive training by two trainers in central and north Florida. In addition, a Web-based training program will soon be available. The Florida SHOTS team is on standby to announce the online training go-live date. This will make training fast, easy, and at your convenience. Please stay tuned while the Florida SHOTS staff responds to the overwhelming demand for access to over 3 million database records.

## Welcome Aboard!

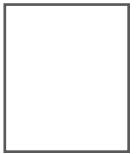
We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to the 65 practices that enrolled during the month of March 2005. With the help of Florida SHOTS Regional Coordinator Joelisa Sherman, Rhea Cook—office manager at the Children's Health Center of Tampa Bay—discovered and enrolled in Florida SHOTS. Having seen other doctor's offices with automated 680 forms, she was interested in the system. Here's what this recent enrollee has to say about Florida SHOTS:

"We enrolled in the registry to have access to vaccine information. We're a new practice with lots of transfers in. Vaccinations are most important to the physicians, and they want to be able to access information online."

"Our experience with the enrollment process, training, and the help desk has been wonderful.

Everyone has explained things very well, and the program has been user-friendly. Other doctors should enroll in the registry because it's very convenient, especially when you're filling out blue forms for day care. Every time someone needs a blue form, I just print it from the computer."

"Florida SHOTS is a wonderful concept. It makes keeping track of children's vaccinations much easier—what they need and what they are behind on. Every office should have it. I have been using Florida SHOTS for about two months now, and all I can say is 'What took me so long?' After you have entered the patient information, this system is really awesome for tracking shots. Already, our practice has been able to 'catch' two transfer patients who received immunizations early and 'fix' the problem."



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## You Said It

It's always nice to know what others who are enrolled in Florida SHOTS have to say about the program. So each month we'll share with you what some of our top users are saying about the registry. This month's feature interview was conducted with Barbara Ocasio, office manager for the Dr. St. Petery Aintablian office in Tallahassee.

### What do you think is the best feature of the registry for your office?

What we like the best is printing the 680 forms out. We used to write them all out by hand, and if you made a mistake, you had to tear up the record and start over.

### What do you think is the best feature of the registry for your patients?

We can get the blue forms to them a lot quicker. When they come in for an office visit, we can update the patient's shot record and give them a copy before they even walk out the door. Before Florida SHOTS, we had to mail them or call them when the 680 forms were ready so they could pick them up.

### What process do you use to input your patients into the registry?

Each day we prepare by pulling our charts for the next day. As the nurses go through the charts, they enter the information in Florida SHOTS for all patients aged 13 and below, regardless of whether they are coming in for an immunization. Additionally, when the nurses have down time, they pull charts and enter the information into the system.

## Tech Tips

**Q:** How do I document that a child has had the varicella disease for printing on the DH 680 form?

**A:** In order to indicate that a child has already had the varicella disease and does not need to be vaccinated, select contraindications from the menu and then select vaccine series and type as varicella (VZV). Indicate that this is a permanent contraindication or VZV1. Replace the date contraindication identified with the date provided by the parent indicating when the child had the disease (year only). This year will then print on your 680 form. Please see section 10 of your user's guide for further guidance or contact the help desk staff at 1-877-888-SHOT (7468).

## Top 20 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 20 by Daily Usage" chart as of April 21, 2005. Thank you for your support of the registry!

- |                                               |                                                 |                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Diagnostic Clinic—Clearwater               | 8. Lynne Ellis, MD, PA—St. Petersburg           | 15. St. Augustine Pediatric Associates—St. Augustine |
| 2. David Weiss, MD, PA—Jacksonville           | 9. N. Florida Pediatrics Associates—Tallahassee | 16. Lionel Henry, MD—Tallahassee                     |
| 3. Pediatric Professional Associates—Miami    | 10. USF Pediatrics—Tampa                        | 17. Children's Health Center—Tampa                   |
| 4. UF Pediatric Primary Care—Gainesville      | 11. Renato Berger, MD, PA—Coral Springs         | 18. Sunrise Pediatrics II—Plantation                 |
| 5. Westchester Pediatric—Miami                | 12. ORH Pediatric Outpatient Practice—Orlando   | 19. Family Health Centers of SWF—Ft. Myers           |
| 6. Health Resource Alliance—Zephyrhills       | 13. Dr. St. Petery, Aintablian—Tallahassee      | 20. Alvaro J. Dangond, MD, PA—Miami                  |
| 7. Children's Medical Center I—Pembroke Pines | 14. Health Resource Alliance—Dade City          |                                                      |

YES, please contact me to schedule a visit with a regional coordinator to enroll in Florida SHOTS.

Sign me up for electronic copies of *SHOTS Tracker*.

EMAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL 3: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NL:V1:15

## How Do I Enroll in Florida SHOTS?

### SIGN UP TODAY!

Fill out this information card and mail it back to us. Please include proper postage.

Call **(877) 888-SHOT**, or send an email to the help desk at **flshots@doh.state.fl.us** if you need more information.

So many enrollment options... and they're all FREE!



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NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

## Easy Enrollment Form

[www.flshots.com/Providers.html](http://www.flshots.com/Providers.html)

## Florida SHOTS Enrollment: Fast. Easy. Free.

Florida SHOTS (State Health Online Tracking System) is a free, statewide, centralized electronic immunization registry that helps health care providers and parents keep track of immunization records. Enroll today at <http://www.flshots.com>.

## E-Tracker

To receive this newsletter via email as well as regular mail, please fill out and return the tear-off card included in this newsletter. Include as many email addresses as you would like to receive the newsletter.

