

Vaccinating Underserved Populations



Division of
Immunization

November 2022

Importance of Identifying

To ensure that vaccines are available to all individuals who need them, it's essential to identify under-vaccinated populations and eliminate the barriers, protect groups at high risk for vaccine-preventable diseases, and advance **health equity**.

When an under-vaccinated population is identified, availability of vaccines, vaccine education, affordability and transportation needs should be assessed. Once these are identified, interventions can be placed to increase vaccination, including:

- Help build vaccine confidence
- Share clear and accurate information to educate about vaccine-preventable diseases
- Raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination and address common questions and concerns
- Adapt key messages to the language, tone, and format that will resonate with communities
- Understand community needs regarding vaccines

How to Identify

- Utilize the [Indiana Department of Health Immunization Data](#) to get a baseline of areas with low vaccine rates.
- Utilize the state immunization registry [CHIRP](#). This will assist you in identifying specific vaccines administered in the jurisdiction and which vaccines have lower rates.

Strategies for reaching populations with limited access

- Coordinate with existing systems (case managers, faith-based organizations, residential facilities, etc.) to schedule and arrange transportation for vaccination appointments for under-vaccinated populations.
- Address vaccine hesitancy by working with faith-based leaders, healthcare providers and trusted community members to discuss the importance, safety and efficacy of vaccinations.
- Learn more at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Strategies for Reaching People with Limited Access](#) page.

Resources

- [IDOH Immunization Data](#)
- [AIRA Identifying Immunization Pockets of Need](#)
- [NIH Temporal trends in under vaccination](#)
- [CDC Vaccinate with Confidence](#)