

IMMUNIZATION REPORT 2010 Saskatoon Health Region

A Word from the Medical Health Officer and Disease Control Manager

We are pleased to release the annual immunization report for Saskatoon Health Region. The report reviews the purpose of Population and Public Health Services immunization program; provides an overview of Health Region immunization programs; identifies targets, interventions, and gaps in immunization uptake; summarizes initiatives for improving immunization uptake and makes recommendations for strategic direction and goals for immunization in Saskatoon Health Region. This summary outlines some of the key findings from the report and our strategic directions for 2011. I welcome any questions or comments about the immunization program.

Karen Grauer, Disease Control Manager
Dr. Ross Findlater, Medical Health Officer

Immunization is an effective way to prevent an increasing number of infectious diseases. Immunization coverage is defined as the percentage of persons who have received the recommended number of doses at a given age.

The principle of “herd” or “indirect” immunity is important. A high level of immunity in the general population results in less risk even for unimmunized people. Complete immunization means protection of the individual, the family and communities.

Key Findings

Vaccine Preventable Disease

- In 2010, the vaccine preventable diseases that had highest rates of lab confirmed disease were
 - influenza
 - pertussis (whooping cough)
 - pneumococcal invasive disease

Pre-School Immunization

- The absolute increase for coverage of 2 doses MMR at 2 years of age in overall Region coverage percentage since 2000 is 5.3%
- In 2010 the SHR target for two year old measles coverage (with 2 doses) was 76%, SHR overall achieved 73.7%. The Saskatchewan provincial coverage was 69.3%

Disparities in Immunization Coverage

- The gap between the areas with the highest lowest immunization coverage has steadily narrowed in the past five years
- Coverage for both core and non-core neighbourhoods has improved since 2007 while rural coverage has decreased slightly

SPOTLIGHT on the Disparity Ratio

Immunization disparity can be expressed as a ratio comparing the top socio-economic quintile's two year old MMR coverage rate to the bottom quintile's two year old MMR coverage rate. A ratio greater than one means that there is a lower coverage in low income neighbourhoods, and indicates a worse *disparity*. The Region's 2010 target for the disparity ratio index was set at 1.26 For quarter 2 in 2010, the disparity ratio reached 1.25, the lowest ratio in eight years and just under the SHR target set of 1.26

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Key Findings continued...

Core-Fringe Neighbourhoods (MMR coverage 2 doses)

- The core fringe has been defined as neighbourhoods with the lowest five year average of MMR (2 doses) immunization coverage for two year olds. Twenty neighbourhoods were identified with possible core-fringe designation

Urban and Rural (MMR coverage 2 doses)

- Rosthern and area have the lowest coverage rate at 56.7%
- The Saskatoon area and Humboldt & area planning zones have slightly higher coverage rates (77.5 and 77.3 respectively) than the city of Saskatoon (73.4%)
- Watrous and area have the highest coverage at 79.5%, an absolute difference of 5.8% compared to the overall SHR coverage of 73.7%

School Immunization

Age Seven—MMR 2 doses 5 year trend

- The overall coverage achieved in the Region was 92.1 %; the provincial coverage was 94.3%
- Rural coverage decreased slightly while coverage in non core urban areas increased slightly. The most significant increase was in the core neighbourhoods

Adult Hepatiis B

- The total amount of Hepatitis B vaccine given to adults over 16 years of age has steadily increased from 2006 – 2010, while the amount of Hepatitis B vaccine given to children under 11 years of age has slightly increased

Adult Pertussis

- As a result of increased cases of pertussis in 2010, a campaign to immunize mothers and other primary caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age began in June 2010, with in-hospital immunization postpartum

Influenza

- The overall 2010-11 rate of laboratory confirmed influenza cases was 37.6 per 100,000 population in the Region compared to 41.3 in Saskatchewan. Nineteen percent of all laboratory confirmed cases were in children under five, 41% (46) of all cases were in children under 19

Strategic Direction and Goals for 2011

The overall goal for the Immunization program is to achieve an 85% immunization coverage rate for all vaccine preventable diseases. The focus for the next few years is to reduce disparity in immunization coverage rates and improve the quality in client centred service.

Objective 1: Reduce disparity in immunization coverage rates as measured by disparity index ratio of 1.2 for December 2011 and 1.16 for March 2012

Objective 2: Improve quality of service provision, as measured by minimum wait time for immunization service and 90% satisfaction with overall service by December 2011

Sundquist S., Dunlop T., Wright J., Findlater R., Grauer K. *Immunization Report 2010*. Saskatoon Health Region 2011

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