



Survey of FQHCs: Where are the gaps in prenatal immunizations?

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Best strategy to protect infants against flu and pertussis: immunize moms!



**Give mom
Tdap & flu shots**



**Mom creates
antibodies**



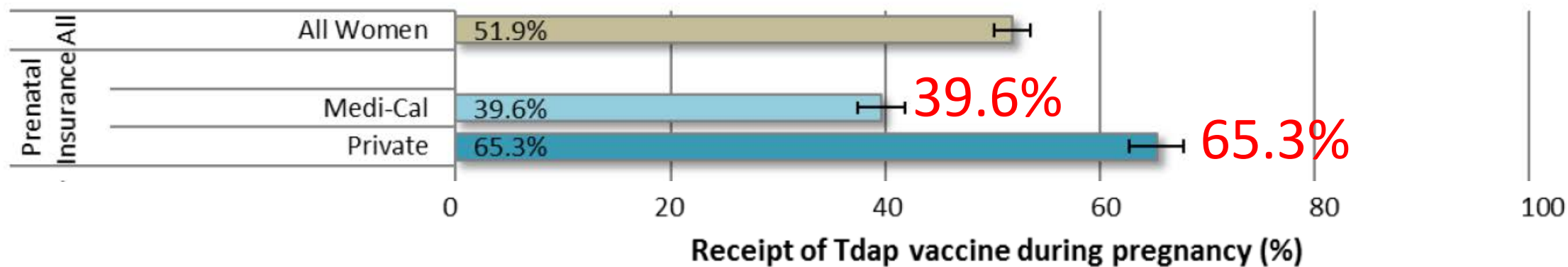
**Antibodies pass
to baby**



**Mom & baby
protected**

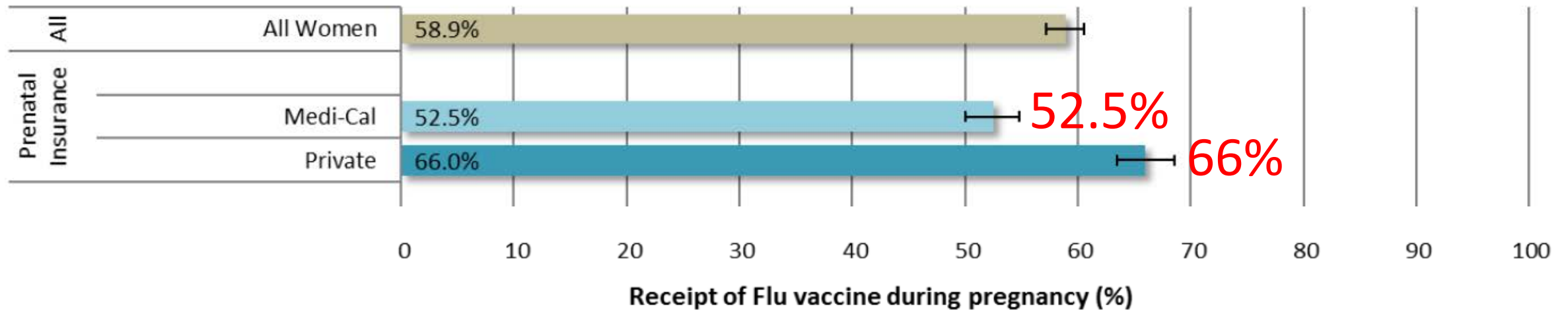
Receipt of Tdap Vaccine During Pregnancy

Maternal and Infant Health Assessment, 2016



Receipt of Flu Vaccine During Pregnancy

Maternal and Infant Health Assessment, 2016





What's happening?

- **Observation:** Fewer women on Medi-Cal are getting immunized compared to those on private insurance.
- **Question:** Do the largest providers of prenatal care for women on Medi-Cal (i.e., FQHCs) offer Tdap and Flu onsite for pregnant women?



FQHC Phone Survey

- Using Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) data, we identified 18 parent organizations that reported >1000 births in 2017 and reached 15/18
- Questions asked:
 - Which of your sites offer prenatal care?
 - Which of your prenatal care sites offer Tdap and flu for your pregnant?
 - Do you document immunization declinations?



FQHC Phone Survey Results

- **All** prenatal care sites stock both prenatal Tdap and flu
- **All** indicated tracking declinations

How well are they doing?

- Three clinics shared their immunization rate information

	2017 Tdap Rate	2017 Flu Rate
Parent Org 1	52.6%	29.4%
Parent Org 2	88.6%	61.8%
Parent Org 3*	27.5%	16.2%

* Clinic is still working on cleaning up data and including additional CPT codes

What do you do when women refuse FLU immunizations?

- “When they refuse flu, I typically wait until the second or third trimester to offer it again. By this time, mom is more open to receiving the flu shot. We track declinations so we can offer flu shots again at subsequent visits.”
- “I try to emphasize that being pregnant puts them at risk for flu complications, especially premature labor. A baby born too early can experience many health risks, including problems with brain development, hearing and vision loss, or worse.”
- “Some pregnant women are afraid of thimerosal. I tell them that they are special, and that because they are pregnant they can only get a special flu shot that is thimerosal-free.”

How well do you think you're doing?

- “Well, we haven’t run the rates, so we don’t know. But if we find we are doing poorly, I am going to convene a meeting to discuss strategies to improve.”
- “I think this varies from provider to provider. I’d say most of our OBGYNs know it’s important. From my experience, it’s the nurse midwives that think vaccines are unsafe and don’t recommend them.”
- “Well, our flu vaccine rates are low across the board because last year’s flu vaccine was not a good match. It was a hard sell. Patients thought it was pointless to get it.” – Parent Org 1



Tips from FQHCs: What has made a difference?

- **Participation in Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)**

“We are a CPSP provider and we get evaluated on our prenatal Tdap and flu rates. For us, immunizations are a must do. They are part of standard prenatal care.” - Parent Org 2

“We offer prenatal classes through our CPSP program, and immunizations are discussed as being part of a healthy pregnancy.”

- **EHR Prompts**

“We built our own EHR and the current functionality provides prompts to recommend vaccines. We also developed a clinic flow to ensure pregnant women are being offered immunizations.”

- Parent Org 2

- **Everyone is involved.**

“Everyone has a role in promoting prenatal immunizations.” - Parent Org 2



How can we (CDPH) support you?

- **Give us free vaccine!**

“We know offering immunizations is important but it is a financial burden.”

- **Share your resources**

“We would love to share additional information with our providers and pregnant patients.”

- **Ensure consistent messages**

“Education from all sides is essential. It’s important that pregnant women receive the same message everywhere they go, and they need to hear it from others.”



Next Steps for CDPH

- CAIR/birth certificate match to assess immunization coverage
- Learn what worked well for FQHCs with higher coverage (bright spots) and share with other FQHCs

Next Steps for ALL

- Promote new ACOG resources and strategies for effectively integrating immunizations into OBGYN care:
 - ✓ Administer routinely discussed and recommended vaccines
 - ✓ Create a culture of immunization by educating and involving all staff
 - ✓ Develop a standard process for assessing, recommending, administering, and documenting vaccination
 - ✓ Utilize existing systems and resources to conduct periodic assessments of immunization rates among patients to determine if and where progress is needed

Prenatal Tdap Toolkit: <http://eziz.org/resources/pertussis-promo-materials/prenatal-tdap/>

Next Steps for ALL (cont..)

Promote Strong Recommendations:

Talk to each patient directly.

- **The recommendation.** “ As your physician, I recommend you get the flu vaccine.”
- **A timeframe.** “ I want you to get the vaccine today before you leave.”
- **The benefit.** “ This will protect you and your baby from flu complications, including premature birth, stillbirth, hospitalization & death.”

CDPH Patient Materials

PROTECT YOUR BABY
Get your whooping cough and flu shots here!

Rx

Prescriber Name, Address, Phone Number: _____

Patient Name: _____ Date: _____

Vaccines recommended during pregnancy:

Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis [whooping cough]) during 3rd trimester
0.5 mL IM x 1

Inactivated Influenza
0.5 mL IM x 1

Prescriber's Signature: _____ License #: _____

These vaccines may be available from your primary care physician, local health department, or pharmacy. To find a nearby location, please visit www.vaccine.healthmap.org.

Your baby is counting on you for protection. Get vaccinated.

IMM-1143 (7/14)

Expecting?

Protect yourself and your baby against flu and whooping cough!

You may not realize it, but changes to your body during pregnancy put you and your baby at risk for serious complications from flu or whooping cough. Getting flu and whooping cough shots while you are pregnant can help protect you and your baby against these serious diseases. **The protection you get from the shots passes to your baby in the womb.** This will help protect your baby in early life when she is most vulnerable.

Is flu really dangerous?
Yes. If you get the flu, it is not the same as getting a common cold. You can still get the flu even if you are healthy and active. Flu can lead to serious complications such as high fever, pneumonia, and even death for both you and your baby. Flu can lead to pre-term birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth of the baby.

How dangerous is whooping cough?
For babies, catching whooping cough can lead to trouble breathing (turning blue or gasping for air), pneumonia, hospitalization, and death. For adults, coughing fits can last for months and lead to vomiting, trouble sleeping, and even broken ribs. Whooping cough is highly contagious and can easily spread to others, including babies.

How common are these diseases?
Each year, millions of Californians get flu, and hundreds of babies under 6 months of age are hospitalized due to flu. In 2014, over 11,000 people in California became ill with whooping cough, hundreds were hospitalized, and three infants died. In 2010, almost 10,000 Californians caught whooping cough, and 10 infants died. Tragically, more than 7 out of 10 babies hospitalized were younger than 6 months old.

How can I protect my baby and myself?
The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that all pregnant women get these life-saving shots:

- Flu Shot**
By late October (if possible). If you missed it, get it now!
- Whooping Cough Shot (Tdap)**
As early as possible during your third trimester—27 to 36 weeks of pregnancy—even if you got the shot before becoming pregnant. You will need to get the Tdap shot during **every** pregnancy.

Pass protection to your baby. Get immunized during pregnancy.

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch - GetImmunizedCA.org

IMM-1148 (8/17)

IMMUNIZATIONS for a Healthy Pregnancy

CDPH
California Department of Public Health

Your baby may be at risk for flu and whooping cough

Flu can be dangerous for you and your baby, causing:

- Low birth weight
- Premature birth
- Stillbirth
- Hospitalization
- Death

Whooping cough can also be dangerous for babies, causing:

- Coughing fits
- Gasping for air
- Serious lung infections
- Hospitalization
- Death

If you're pregnant:

- Get flu vaccine as soon as possible and
- Whooping cough (Tdap) vaccine in your third trimester of every pregnancy

The protection you get from these vaccines passes to your baby during pregnancy. Your baby counts on you for protection.

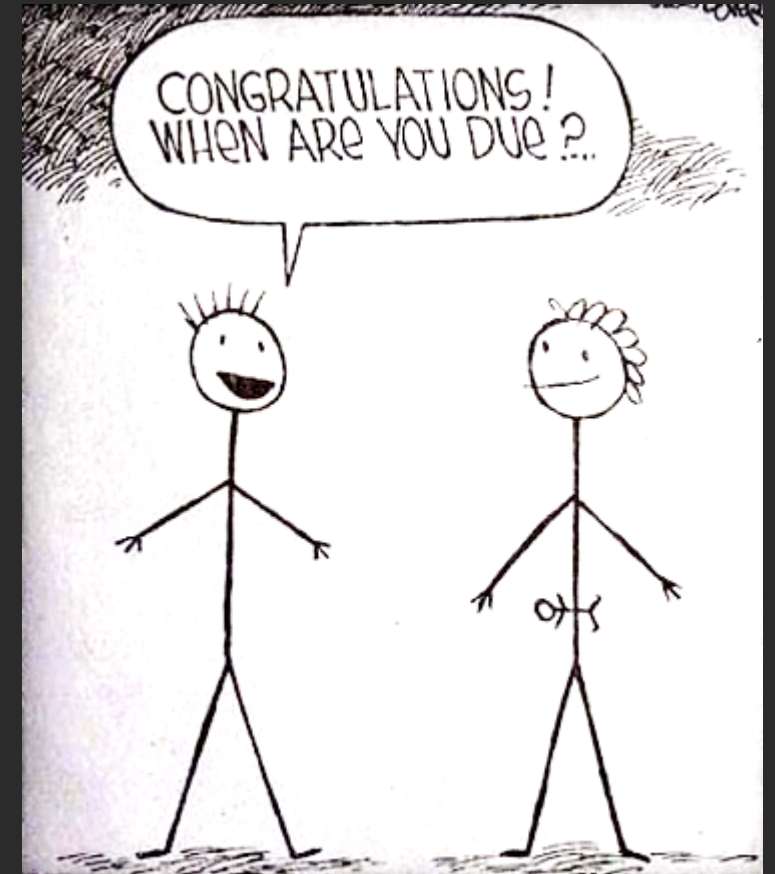
Talk to your doctor for more information

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QUESTIONS?

