Immunization Protection in Child Care (IPiCC) UPDATE

March 23, 2013

We surveyed 583 child care directors (283 center-based and 300 home-based) to find out more about child care providers’ beliefs and experiences related to making sure children enrolled in their programs are immunized. Fifty-four percent of directors (312/583) responded to our survey from all 6 CCR&R regions. Here are some things we found out:

- **Most child care program directors believe that immunizations are safe, effective, and important.** The graph below highlights some results regarding directors’ attitudes about immunizations.

![Graph showing attitudes about immunizations]

- **The top 5 barriers to making sure children enrolled in child care programs are immunized** are shown below.

![Bar chart showing top 5 barriers]
Vaccine-preventable diseases do affect child care programs. About 5% of directors reported that a child in their program had been sick from varicella (chicken pox) in the past year, 6% had a child who had been sick from pertussis (whooping cough) in the past year, and 2 programs had a child who had been sick from measles in the past year.

We did not find many differences between home-based and center-based programs in terms of directors’ beliefs and experiences. The differences that we did find are highlighted below.

- Directors from home-based child care programs were less likely than directors from free-standing centers to allow children with exemptions from immunization to attend their programs.
- Directors from home-based programs were more likely to look to the Utah Child Care Licensing Program for information and training related to immunization requirements. Directors from centers were more likely to look to the Utah Immunization Program for information and training.

We identified a few gaps in knowledge that we are working with our partners in the Utah Child Care Licensing Program and the Utah Immunization Program to fix. Many child care directors who responded to the survey did not know about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program which is a program that provides low-cost or free vaccines to certain children. There also seemed to be some knowledge gaps about what to do if there was concern for a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak, such as pertussis (whooping cough), in the child care program.

We really appreciate the efforts that ALL child care providers are making to care for young children in our state. We also want to thank the child care providers who answered our survey or are participating in the IPiCC project in other ways.

To find out more about our survey results and the IPiCC project, you can contact Masha Boguslavsky at 801-213-4134 or by e-mail at masha.boguslavsky@hsc.utah.edu or Dr. Julie Shakib at 801-585-5349 or by e-mail at julie.shakib@hsc.utah.edu. You can also go to our website at www.ipicc.org