



*“To protect and improve
the health and environment
of the people of Colorado.”*

NEWS

Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246 303-692-2021

Contact: Lori Maldonado
Deputy Director, Communications
303-692-2028
Email: lori.maldonado@state.co.us

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010

Colorado Takes National Lead for Second Year on Tdap Vaccinations for Teens

DENVER-- For the second year in a row, Colorado led the nation in the percentage of teens receiving the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination, according to CDC's 2009 National Immunization Survey for Teens.

The survey, which provides national estimates of coverage for adolescent vaccinations, began providing data on a national level in 2006. State data became available in 2008.

Joni Reynolds, director of the Immunization Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said having state data allows states to track their progress from year-to-year.

She said, “Taking the lead in 2008 and 2009 validates our hard work in Colorado to improve teen vaccination rates. Adolescents are a challenging group because, unlike their younger siblings, they tend to see their doctors less often. This news reinforces that our work has been effective.”

The 2009 national survey of more than 20,000 teens ages 13-17 found an increase in the percentage of teens in this age group had received vaccines routinely recommended for 11- and 12-year-olds.

Specific nationwide findings and Colorado comparisons follow:

- Nationally, for one dose of the Tdap vaccine, coverage went up about 15 percentage points to about 56 percent. In Colorado, the Tdap rate increased 14 percentage points to 77 percent between 2008 and 2009.
- Nationally, for one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, coverage went up about 12 percentage points to 54 percent. In Colorado, the rate increased a significant 22 percentage points to 54 percent in 2009 compared to 2008.
- Nationally, for girls who received at least one dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, coverage increased seven points to about 44 percent. However, for girls who received the recommended three doses of HPV vaccine, coverage was only about 27 percent, a nine

percent increase. In Colorado, this rate increased 19 percentage points, significantly more than the national average. The number of Colorado teen girls receiving the recommended three doses of HPV vaccine jumped to 53 percent in 2009, up from 34 percent in 2008.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said, "Pertussis outbreaks in several states and an increase in pertussis-related infant deaths in California highlight how important it is for pre-teens to receive the Tdap booster. It is important for teens and adults to get a one-time dose of Tdap to protect themselves and those around them from whooping cough."

The CDC and state health officials encouraged parents to talk with their child's health care provider for a schedule of recommended vaccinations and checkups.

Reynolds encouraged families who need help paying for vaccines to ask their health care provider about Colorado's Vaccines for Children Program, <http://www.coloradovfc.com>, which provides free vaccines to uninsured children and many others with financial challenges.

The National Immunization Survey for Teens is a random telephone survey that collects teen immunization information from parents and caregivers, followed by verification of records with health care providers. The survey estimates the proportion of teens ages 13 through 17 years who have received the three recommended preteen vaccines, as well as three of the recommended childhood vaccines, at the time of the survey.

To view a copy of the survey, click on http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5932a3.htm?s_cid=mm5932a3_w