

Immunizations in the City of Baltimore: 2004



GOAL:

- To increase immunization coverage so that in the year 2010, 85% of Baltimore's children between the ages of 19 and 35 months are protected against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae B and varicella.

IMPORTANCE OF FULL VACCINE COVERAGE

Vaccines protect children against nine diseases that previously resulted in thousands of hospitalizations and premature deaths. By age two, every child needs to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Tetanus
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Haemophilus influenzae B
- Varicella (Chickenpox is a recent requirement)
- Pneumonia (Pneumonia is a recent requirement)

The primary immunization series is called the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series and includes: 4 diphtheria/ pertussis/ tetanus shots, 3 polio shots, 1 measles/mumps/rubella shot, 3 haemophilus influenzae B shots, 3 hepatitis B shots, and 1 varicella shot.

IMMUNIZATION INCREASE IN BALTIMORE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

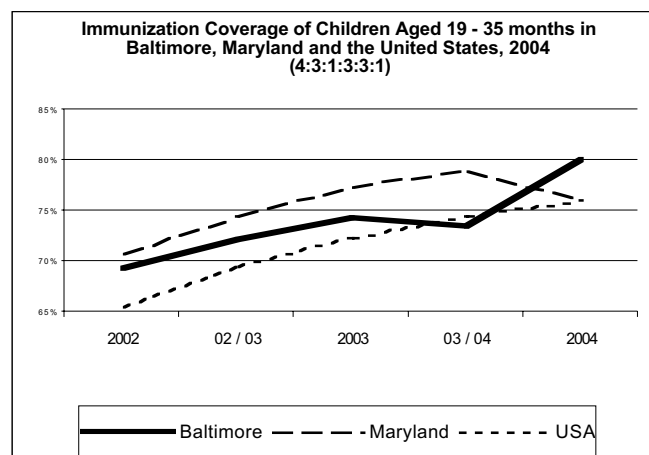
The Center for Disease Control's National Immunization Program recently recognized Baltimore with a "Most

Improved" award for childhood immunization coverage among U.S. municipalities.¹

For 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, Baltimore's immunization rate increased from 69.4% in 2002 to 80.0% in 2004, a gain of 10.6 percentage points. In comparison, the national and Maryland rate was 76.0% in 2004 -- 4 percentage points lower than the Baltimore rate.²

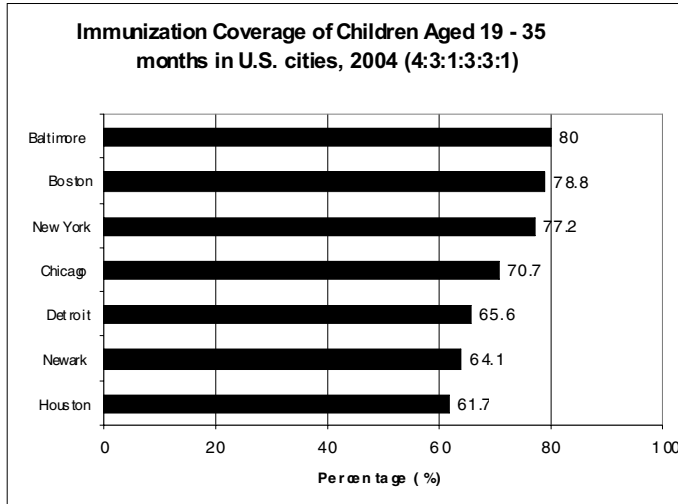
Baltimore's gain in immunization coverage translates into 1,160 additional children between the ages of 19 and 35 months who have been protected against serious illness.

Figure 1.



A review of CDC national data for 2004 indicates that Baltimore has the highest immunization rate of any city under surveillance, as shown in Figure 2. Only three counties in the National Immunization Survey -- Jefferson (AL), Davidson (TN) and DeKalb/Fulton (GA) -- achieved a higher immunization rate than the City of Baltimore.³

Figure 2.



DATA-DRIVEN STRATEGY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROGRESS IN IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE

To increase immunization coverage, the Baltimore City Health Department implemented a comprehensive database to track infant immunization. The database identified zip codes in the city with low immunization rates. These areas were then targeted for improvement by:

- Providing continuing support to physicians and other medical providers;
- Providing immunizations at malls, day care centers, youth centers, public health clinics, churches and community centers; and
- Delivering vaccinations on a mobile vaccine van on the streets of Baltimore.

This data-driven approach remains the centerpiece of the city's effort to increase immunization.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Anne Bailowitz, John Lamoureux, Sarah Norman, Barbara Squires.

Notes

¹ The award was based on data from 2001 – 2004. Because the varicella vaccine was first included in the primary series in 2002, the national award was based on the 4:3:3:1:3:3 series.

² National Immunization Program, National Immunization Survey. Accessed March 3, 2006. (Available online at: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/coverage/nis/04/tab26_431331_race_iap.xls)

³ Ibid.