

# Science Support for Public Health Practice: Emory Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (Emory PERRC)

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## About the Emory PERRC

- **Target mission:** Conduct research aimed at creating and maintaining sustainable preparedness and response systems throughout US public health network
- **Center Principal Investigator:** Ruth Berkelman, MD
- **4 Primary Research Projects:**
  - Assessing Utility of Incident Command Systems & Emergency Operations Centers
  - Strengthening Academic – Community Partnerships in Preparedness
  - Improving Disaster Planning for Nursing Home, Home Health, and Dialysis Providers
  - Immunization Systems and Public Health Preparedness



## Immunization Systems & Public Health Preparedness Project

- **Project Director:** Saad Omer, MBBS, MPH, PhD
- **Research Objective:** Identify ways to improve the US immunization system for emergency preparedness and response
- **Research question:** What immunization program practices help or hinder states' efforts to mitigate adverse events from vaccine shortages?
- **Method:** Study impacts of past vaccine shortages on state vaccine programs and providers



## Immunization Systems & Public Health Preparedness Project

### 2 primary components:

- **Surveys of Immunization Program Managers**
  - Obtain state-level information and perceptions
  - Key collaborator: Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)
- **Surveys of Vaccine Provider Sites**
  - Obtain provider-level perceptions and input
  - Key collaborators: State-level officials



## Surveys of Immunization Program Managers

	First IPM Survey	Second IPM Survey
<b>Topics covered</b>	2007 – 2009 Hib vaccine shortage; IIS functionalities; plans for H1N1 campaign management	2009 H1N1 vaccination campaign; perceptions of collaborating with Emergency Preparedness Staff; use of ICS/EOC
<b>Dates conducted</b>	July – October 2009	July – August 2010
<b>Response rate (n = 64)</b>	56%	86%
<b>Value added</b>	Challenges with vaccine transfer among states; AIM using results to support policy recommendations	Data on use of ICS/EOC during an actual pandemic response; lessons learned on working with EP staff

## Surveys of Vaccine Provider Sites

- **Engagement with state partners in OR and LA:**
  - Worked with state partners to identify issues of greatest importance to them:
    - Communications
    - Anticipated use of IIS
    - Knowledge of federal and state guidance
  - Launched survey before receipt of H1N1 vaccine
  - Rapid turn around to partners

## Value Added to State Partners

OREGON	LOUISIANA
Provider sites preferred email and blast fax; consider using IIS to push communications out to providers	Provider sites want email communication; consider a reliable and updatable email system
Assess adding vaccination status prompts to IIS	Posting alerts to IIS homepage is effective
Consider developing messages to help providers and public understand H1N1 prioritization decisions	Cancelled \$5,000 Twitter campaign

## Immunization Systems Project

- Extended engagement with state partners in OR and LA:
  - LA partner presented results at 2009 AIM Program Managers Meeting
  - Participation in Emory PERRC events, national meetings (e.g., AIM Program Managers Meeting, 2010 National Immunization Conference)
  - Authorship on posters for 2010 National Immunization Conference, papers

## Enhancing Value Added to State Partners

### Enhancing value added to state partners:

- Engagement from research outset
  - What's valuable to you?
- Publications, issue briefs, webinars
  - Push information before traditional publication
- Working with professional associations
  - ASTHO, AIM
- Conference sessions, posters, ad hoc meetings
  - 12 abstracts submitted to 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit



## Thank you!

For more information on all Emory PERRC projects:  
[http://www.sph.emory.edu/PHSR/Emory\\_PERRC/](http://www.sph.emory.edu/PHSR/Emory_PERRC/)

Or contact the Emory PERRC Senior Research  
Project Coordinator, Hallie Willis, for more  
information on specific projects:  
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