New York State Department of Health Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) Program

The initiative took place over multiple communities among who volunteered to participate. Distribution is statewide.

Partners Involved: 57 County Health Departments in New York State. Vaccines for Children provider sites (hospitals, CHCs, private practice, rural health clinics

Description of the Integration: The Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) Program: Successful Integration of Public Health and Healthcare Delivery AFIX is a quality improvement strategy that is utilized by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to raise immunization coverage levels and improve standards of practice at the healthcare level. AFIX site visits are performed by NYS local health departments (LHDs). All providers that receive vaccine through the federally funded Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) must agree to participate in the AFIX program. The four key components of this strategy include: • Assessment of the healthcare provider’s vaccination immunization practices and coverage levels. Assessments are performed on two separate patient populations within the public or private provider sites. These include two year olds (24-35 month olds) and adolescents. Immunization records for both age groups are assessed for the completion of The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines. Data is assessed through an extract of the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). Through the assessment process, the LHD staff are able to diagnose any service delivery problems that may exist, identify useful changes in policy and practices and monitor and refine interventions. • Feedback of these results, including recommended strategies to improve processes, to the provider and office staff is performed in-person. Information is provided on immunization practices and coverage levels for the provider site. A written quality improvement plan outlining areas of improvement is established during this visit. Follow-up of the feedback session by NYS LHD staff typically occurs within six months of the initial visit and is an essential component to monitor a provider’s progress towards immunization goals that have been set. • Incentives to motivate healthcare providers to improve their immunization performance. LHD staff have an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the provider and emphasize their priorities. • eXchange of information or effective strategies that have yielded improved immunization practices.

- Resources Required: Federal grant
- Results: We monitor practice immunization levels using the New York State Immunization Information System immunization registry.
- Key Elements for Success: Cooperative, technical assistance approach Support of statewide professional organizations Local health departments engage with local providers
- Lessons Learned: See key elements above.

Movement on the Integration Scale: Start: mutual awareness; Finish: cooperation; Desired: cooperation

Website Links:

Contact Information:
Guthrie Birkhead
Deputy Commissioner, Office of Public Health
New York State Department of Health
Room 1415 Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
518 402 5382, gsb02@health.state.ny.us

Respondent Number: 150.142.232.4
Date Submitted: 3/29/2013