

Vaccine Access Cooperative (VAC) on Pediatric COVID-19 Under 11 Years of Age Overview

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Association of
Immunization
Managers

DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

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About AIM

- The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is a nonprofit membership association comprised of the directors of the 64 federally funded state, territorial, and local public health immunization programs.
- Our members represent 50 states, 6 major cities, and 8 territories/freely associated states
- **Mission:** Through national leadership, advocacy, collaboration, and a collective voice, AIM represents and supports immunization programs in the development and implementation of effective immunization policies, programs, and practices.

The Concept

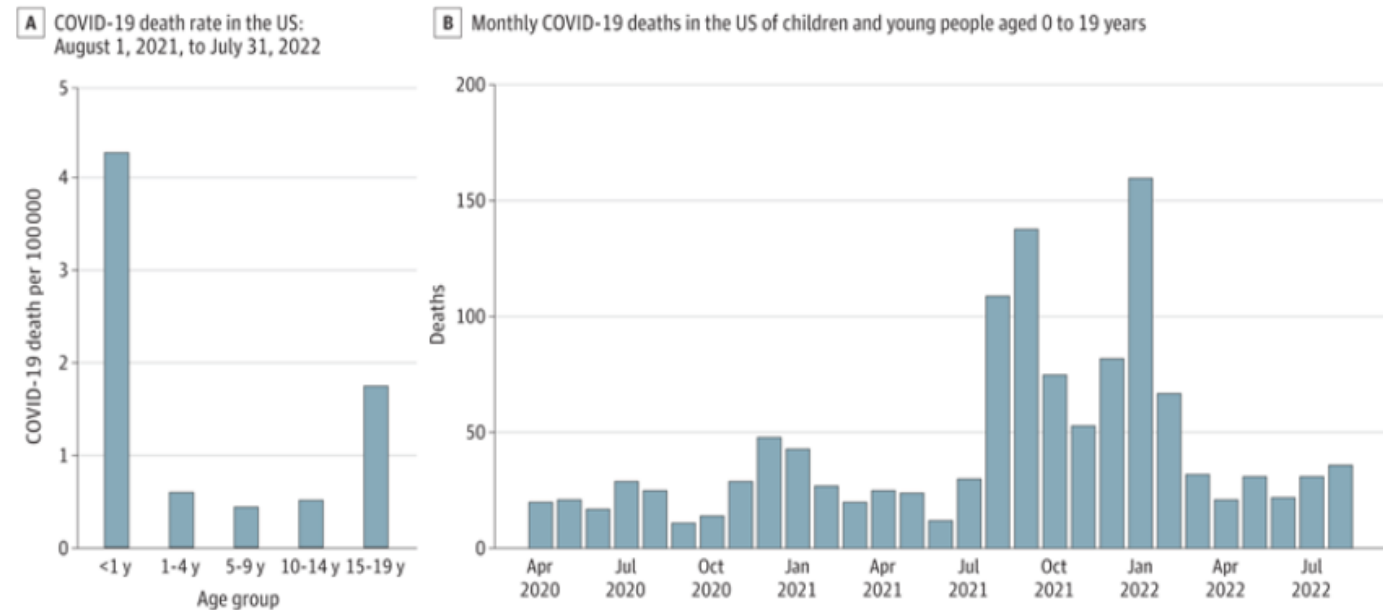
- Convene jurisdiction-based multi-agency teams to create jurisdiction-specific strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates among children ages 6 months – 11 years
- Collaboration of 3 nonprofit organizations to support a Vaccine Access Cooperative (VAC)
 - Association of Immunization Managers
 - Membership organization of 64 CDC-funded immunization programs
 - National Academy for State Health Policy
 - Non-partisan organization of, by, and for state policymakers
 - AcademyHealth
 - Professional home and leading national organization for health services researchers, policymakers, and health care practitioners and stakeholders
 - Home of the Medicaid Medical Directors Network
- Conduct pre- and post-surveys to understand challenges, opportunities, and accomplishments
- Foster the development of jurisdiction-based short-, medium-, and long-term goals and an intention to accomplish those goals over the next 12 months

The Case for Vaccinating Children Against COVID-19

U.S. Pediatric (0-19 years) COVID-19 Deaths 2020-2022

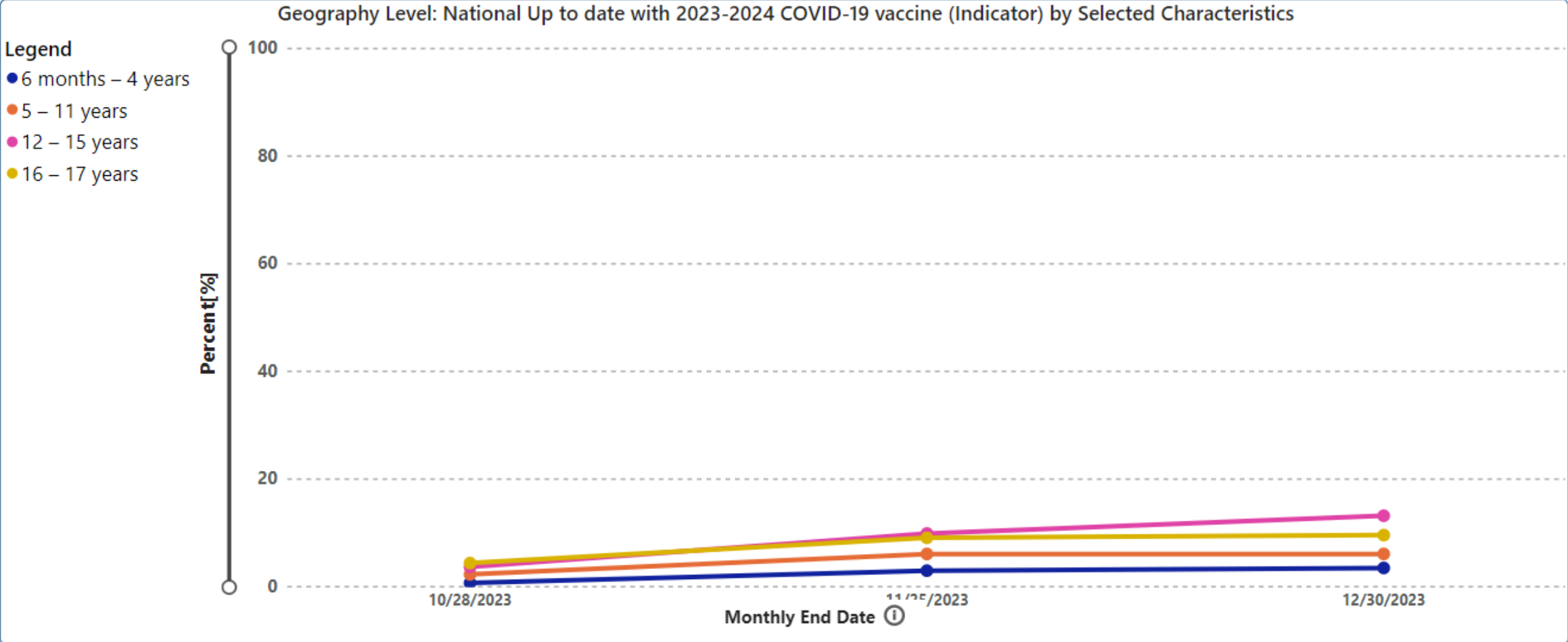
- 821 deaths (1:100,000)
 - 4.3:100,000 for those < 1 year old
- #8 cause of death overall
- #5 cause of disease-related deaths
- #1 cause of infectious or respiratory deaths
- 2% of all causes of death of children
- Deaths were higher during Delta and Omicron periods than earlier in the pandemic
- Deaths were higher than for any other disease prior to its vaccine's approval

Figure 1. COVID-19 Deaths Among Children and Young People Aged 0 to 19 Years in the US



Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Up-to-Date

through December 30, 2023



NOTE: Estimates with a denominator sample size of <30 are suppressed and shown as *** in the table and as gray in the maps.
 SOURCE: Estimates produced by NORC at the University of Chicago using CDC's National Immunization Survey-Child COVID-19 Module (NIS-CCM) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/nis/about.html>.
 ARCHIVED DATA: [Archived data before October 2023](#)

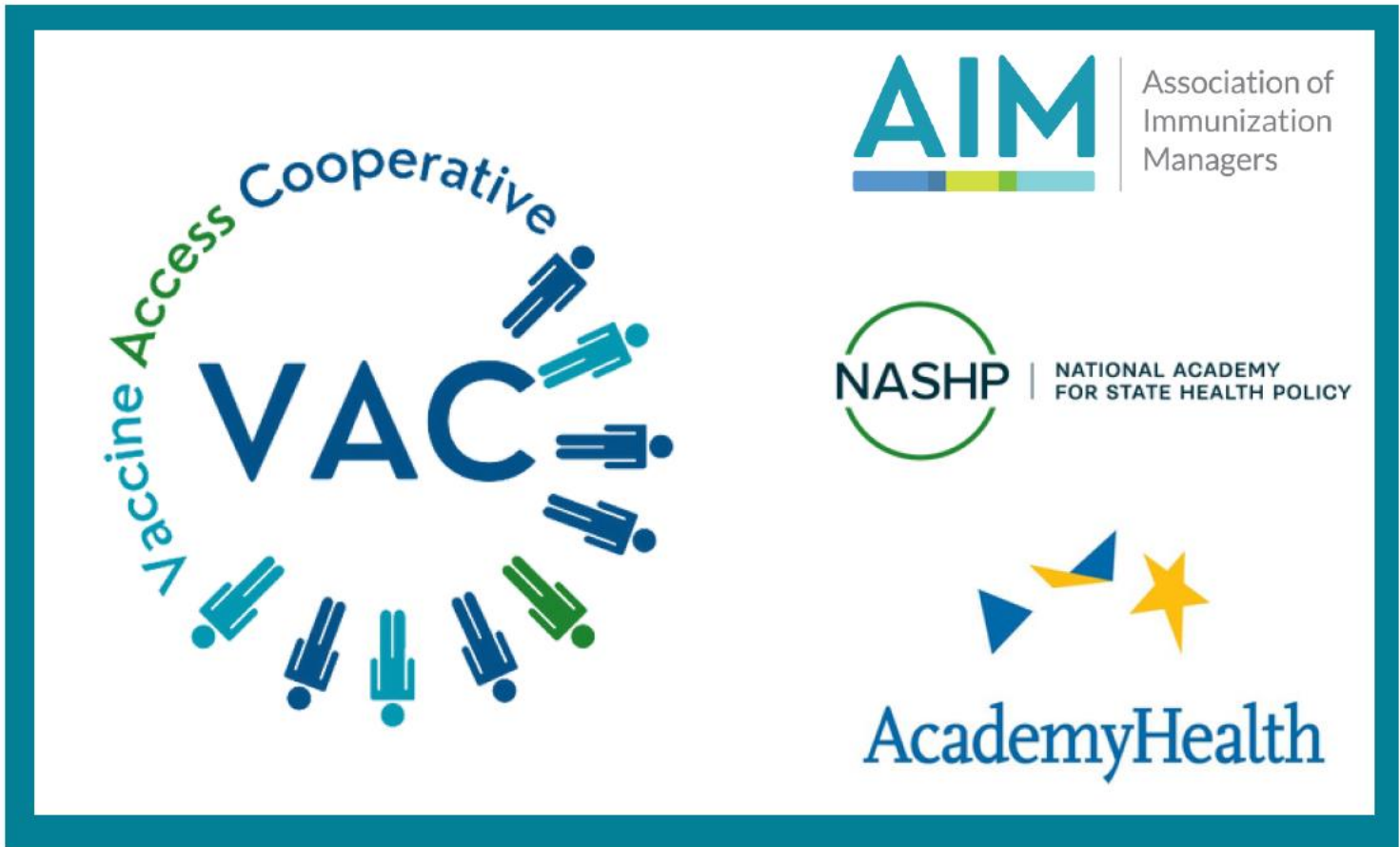
Children Under 5 Years



How many do we vaccinate?

About 7,000 per week ages 6 months through 4 years
(as of May 2023)

The Vaccine Access Cooperative (VAC) Process



- 63 of 64 CDC-funded immunization program jurisdictions
- Team participants: 1-10
- 315 attendees (excluding staff)
- >189 hours of jurisdiction-based strategic planning to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates for children

- March-June 2023
- 8 regional meetings
- 63 jurisdiction teams
 - Immunization programs
 - Medicaid programs
 - Pediatricians
 - Family physicians
 - Pharmacists
 - School health
 - Others
- Developed strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates among children

2023 VAC Regional Meeting Locations

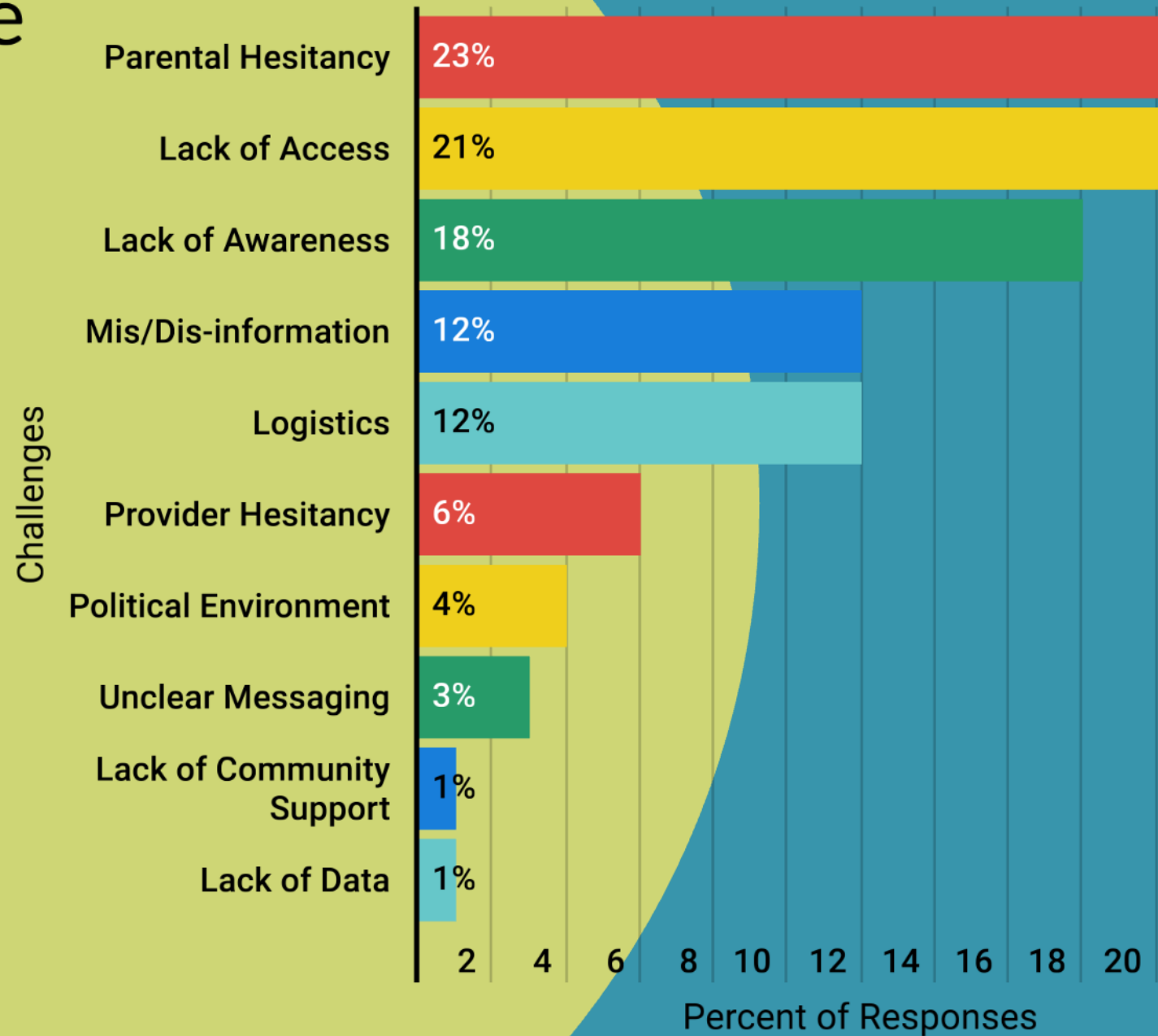


- ✓ Honolulu, HI
- ✓ Asheville, NC
- ✓ Itasca, IL
- ✓ Denver, CO
- ✓ Tulsa, OK
- ✓ New Orleans, LA
- ✓ Portland, OR
- ✓ Portland, ME

Pre-Meeting Survey Data

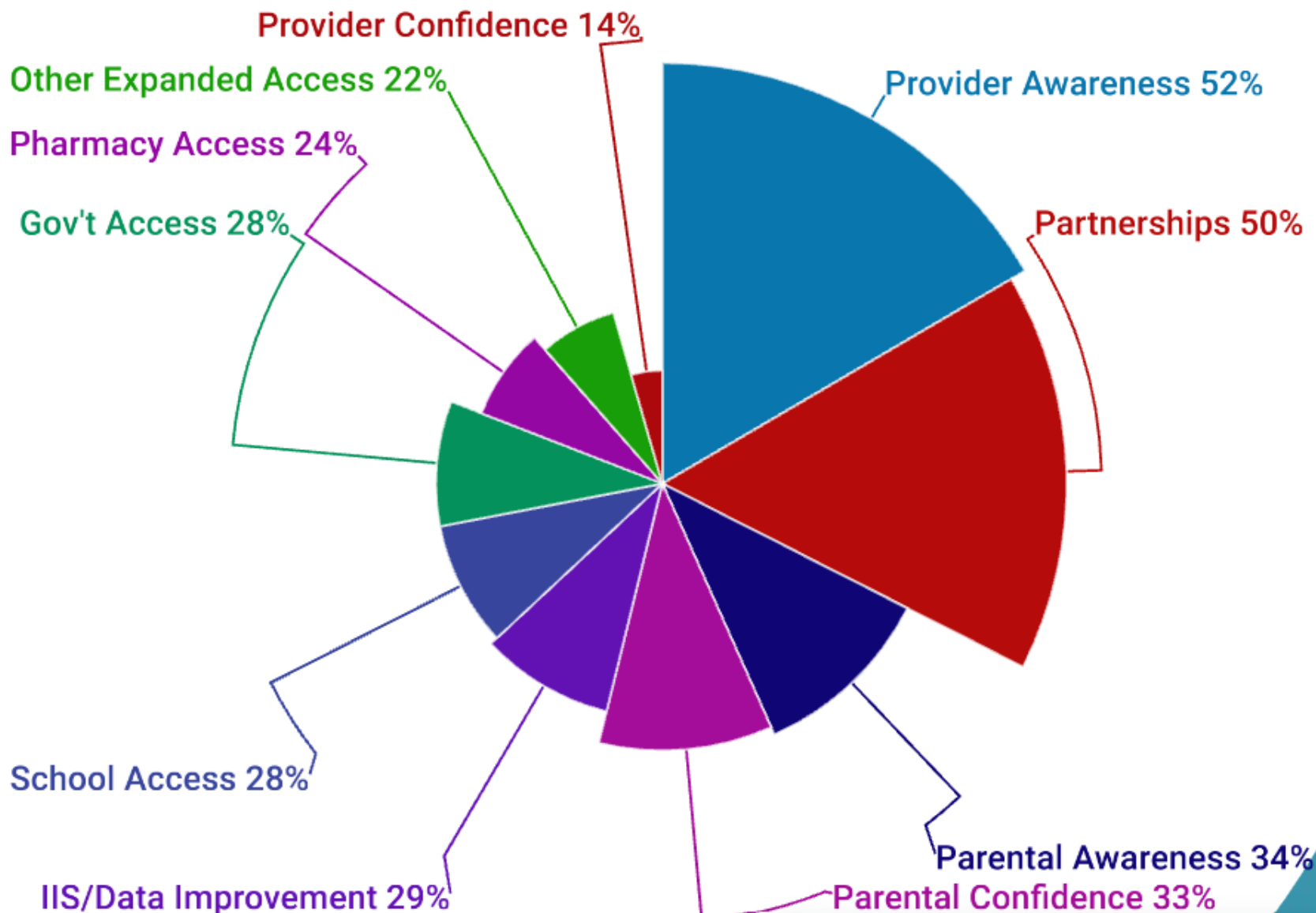
Pre-Conference Survey Top 3 Challenges:

10 regions (100%)
60 jurisdictions (94%)
209 participants (66%)
546 responses



Jurisdiction Action Plans

Team Plans



58 team plans

- 50 states (including 4 major cities that combined with their states)
- 2 major cities
- 6 US territories and federated states

Examples of VAC Plans

Access

Work with Pharmacies to become part of the VFC

Created school-located vaccination clinic, all childhood vaccines and COVID-19

Education

Targeted education to nurses around the importance of vaccination

Maximizing education modules to providers, target provider/sites in the vaccine deserts

Parental Hesitancy

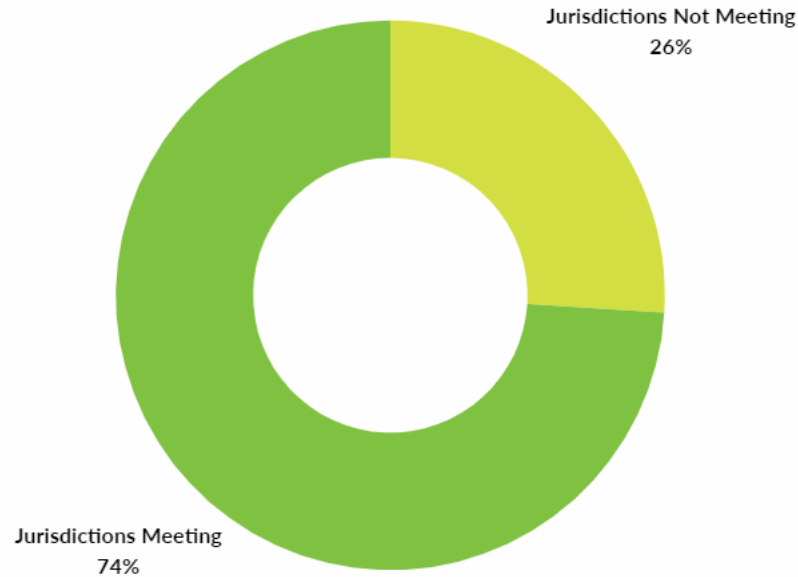
Use trusted messengers in the community

Address the cycle of providers not stocking/not recommending/no demand

Post Meeting Survey Data

6-Month Post Meeting Follow-up

Percentage of Jurisdiction Teams Responding to Follow-Up Survey that have Reconvened within 6-months of their VAC Meeting



Most common reasons for NOT meeting:

- Meeting was canceled and not rescheduled
- No one scheduled the first meeting
- Meeting participants had too many competing priorities

Examples of Reported Outcomes

- Messaging COVID-19, influenza, and RSV vaccinations to raise awareness
- Partnering with pharmacists to start a VFC and pharmacists pilot program
- Adding representatives from payer systems to work on common messaging, including representatives from payer quality improvement
- Planning a statewide immunization access summit to discuss options for removing barriers to vaccination and developing an improved vaccine finance and delivery system
- Messaging on the importance of vaccinations through school nurse communications
- Messaging to parents and providers through educational materials, and print and digital media
- Creation of a state Vaccine Access Cooperative that meets monthly and includes relevant partners to share resources and updates regarding immunization practices

Major Takeaways

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Access

- Parents who wish to vaccinate their children need ready access to vaccination sites
 - Medical homes
 - Pharmacies
 - Health centers
 - Health departments

Critical for patients 6 months to 4 years of age

Major Takeaways

Provider confidence

- A strong recommendation from providers is key to improving immunization rates and raising parental confidence
- Provider education and training is needed

Thank you!

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