



Preparedness Before the Storm

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Legal and Policy Barriers to Effective Use of Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) in a Public Health Emergency

- Learning Objectives:
 - Identify legal and policy barriers to effective use of a health information exchange during a public health emergency.
 - Identify possible solutions to these barriers that can be implemented prior to a public health emergency.

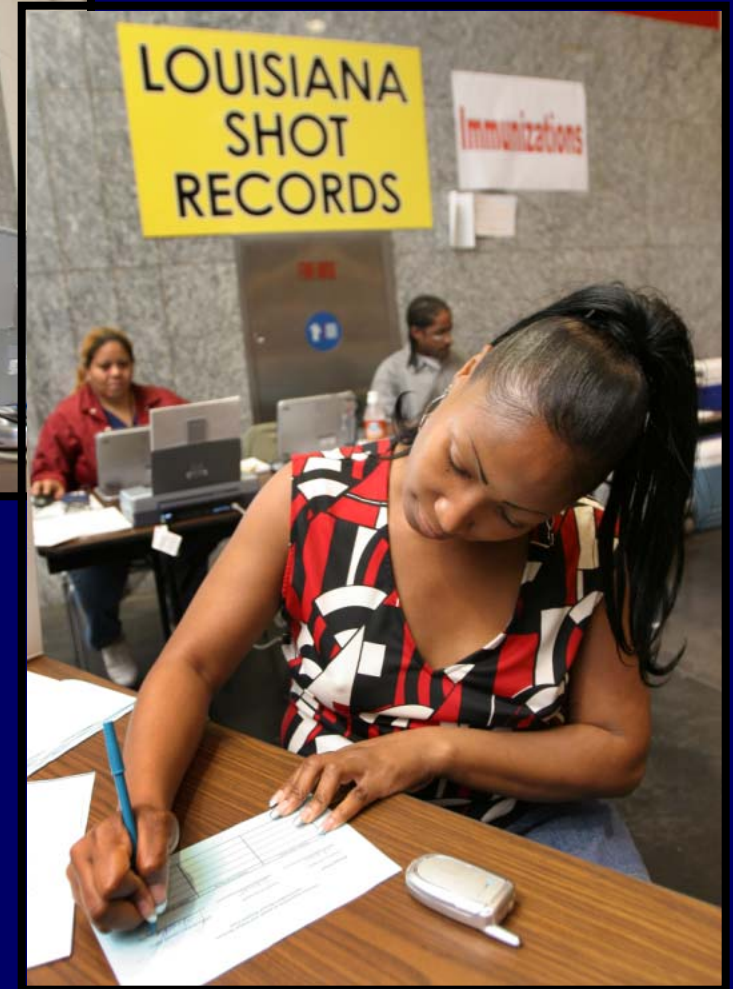


Mass Migration





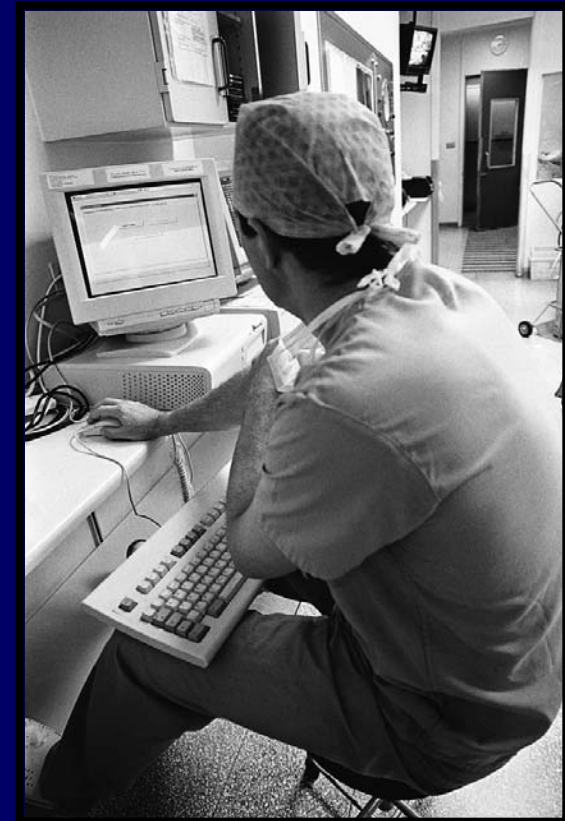
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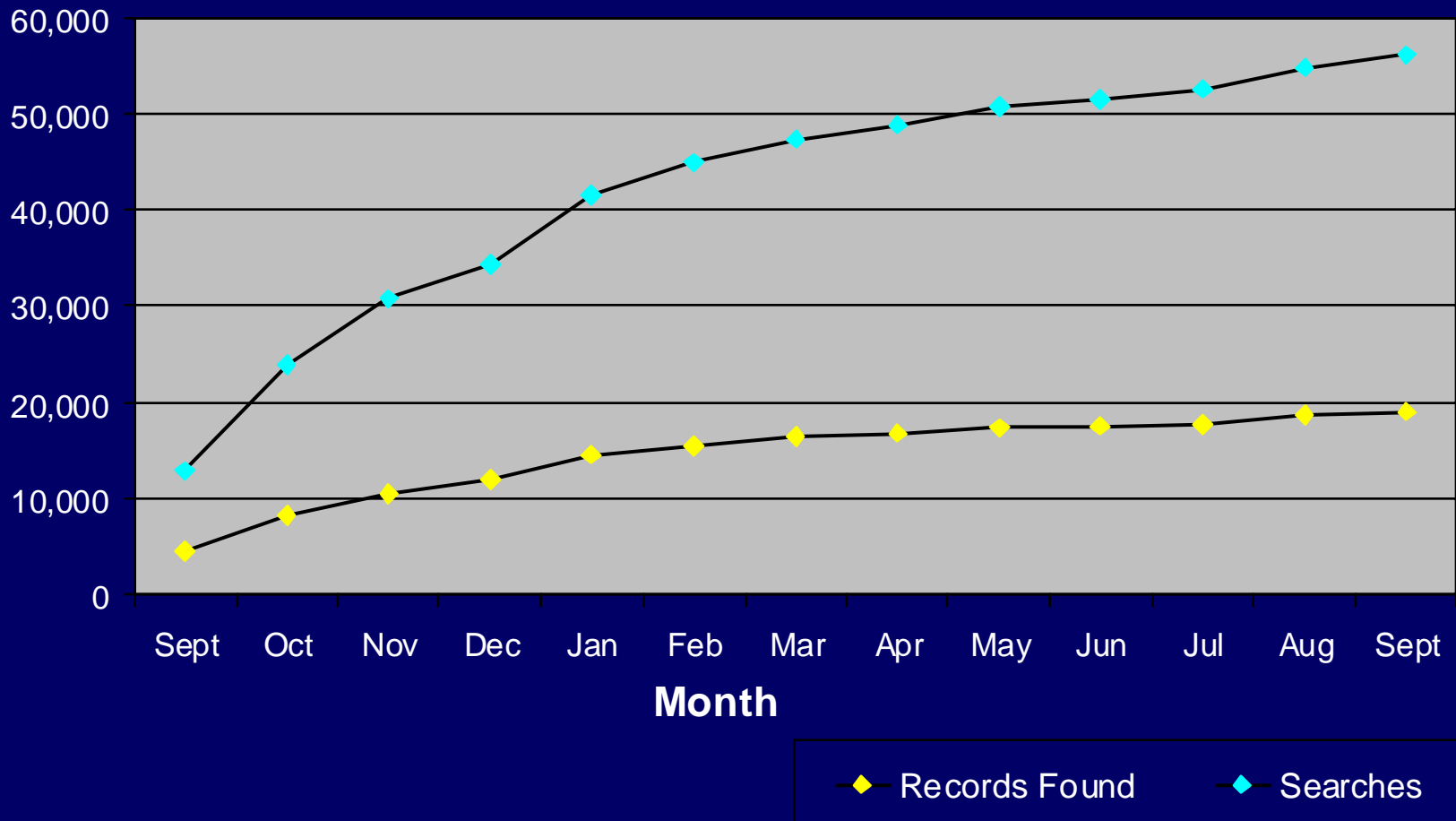
Information is vital

What is an Immunization Information System (IIS)?

- An IIS is a health information exchange dedicated exclusively to sharing immunization information. They serve as key tools to increase and sustain high immunization rates by:
 - consolidating vaccination records from multiple health-care providers,
 - providing immunization records to the provider at the point of service,
 - generating reminder and recall notifications, and
 - assessing clinic and vaccination coverage.

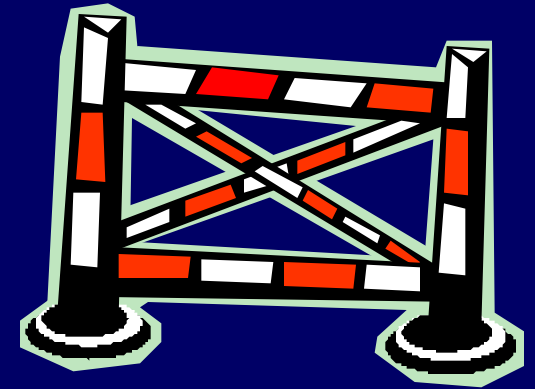


Number of LINKS Immunization Records Searched and Found through HHCIR After Hurricane Katrina





Barriers



- ✓ Age Range of Participants
- ✓ Interstate Data Sharing
- ✓ Consent Issues
- ✓ Safeguarding Privacy
- ✓ Mandatory Provider Participation

Age Range of Participants



- Adults receive preventive medical care in many non-traditional sites and have highly fragmented medical records.
- Vaccines and other emergency response pharmaceuticals such as antivirals, are in short supply during emergencies—HIEs can be used to ration supply to certain high-risk groups.

Interstate Data Sharing

- Enabling legislation required to share data between states.
- Uniform Standards are crucial to ensure interoperability.
 - HL7 messaging facilitates quick data exchange.



Every Child by Two

Presents

**The Model Interstate
Immunization Information
Sharing Statute**



Consent



- “The department by rule shall develop guidelines to...require the written consent of a parent, managing conservator, or guardian of a patient before any information relating to the patient is included in the registry.”

Tex. Health and Safety Code § 161.007 (d) (2005).

Fact: 96% consent to inclusion in the registry if offered the opportunity!

Consent

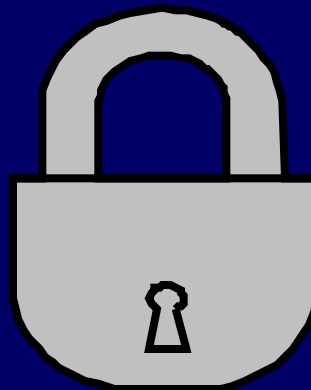


Voluntary
Exclusion

Safeguarding Privacy

- HIPAA & state law govern privacy of health information.
 - HIPAA is a floor not a ceiling. State law may be more stringent.
- Technology should be developed and implemented to protect health information (e.g. two factor authentication tools).
- Offer patients the opportunity to choose which information is shared through the use of smart cards or other devices.

INSURANCE COMPANY NAME	COVERAGE TYPE
MEMBER NAME: JOHN DOE MEMBER NUMBER: XXX-XX-XXXX	EFFECTIVE DATE: XX-XX-XXXX
GROUP #: XXXXXX-XXX-XXX	PRESCRIPTION GROUP #: XXXXX
PCP CO-PAY: \$15.00 SPECIALIST CO-PAY: \$25.00 EMER. ROOM CO-PAY: \$75.00	PRESCRIPTION CO-PAY: \$15 GENERIC \$20 NAME BRAND
MEMBER SERVICES: 1-800-XXX-XXXX CLAIMS/INQUIRIES: 1-800-XXX-XXXX	



Mandatory Participation



- Participation in IIS is only mandatory in 12 states.
- Some statutes are “toothless” → Penalties should be created and enforced.
- Medical societies and medical schools should work towards making participation in health information exchanges the mainstream standard of care.
- Provide incentives and assistance through partnerships where possible (managed care, Rotary).





Questions?



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