



Initiatives and Interventions Addressing Health and Social Indicators in the United States

National Association of Planning Councils Initiatives Survey Results – for www.socialindicators.com

Initiative title: **Shots for Tots Regional Coalition**

City and state: **Sacramento, CALIFORNIA**

Indicators addressed: Immunizations at Age 2

Purpose, goals, and outcomes: Shot for Tots' strategic goal is to achieve a 90% immunization rate for two-year-olds in the seven county Sacramento Region by the year 2010. Key initiatives include: developing a regional, sustainable immunization registry to meet the national *Healthy People 2010* goal to have the immunization histories of 95% of children birth to age 5 years in the Shots for Tots KIDS registry; increasing the awareness of private providers and health plans of the need for self-assessment and feedback about vaccine delivery practices; reducing barriers within healthcare systems to accessing immunizations; increasing education and awareness of the importance of immunizations for infants and toddlers.

Description: In 1995 a broad-based coalition of public and private healthcare providers, community organizations and concerned individuals in Sacramento County came together to address the problem of immunization rates for two-year-olds that fell below 50%. There was wide spread agreement that one part of the solution was the development of an immunization tracking system (registry) that would contain a child's shot history and could be shared among providers, schools, health plans and WIC. By 1997, recognizing that health services do not stop at county lines, 6 other counties joined the coalition to help in the development of the registry. In 1999, Shots for Tots KIDS (Kids Immunization Data System) became part of the Statewide Immunization Information System supported by the California Department of Health Services, and in 2000, the registry was launched in the two pilot counties of Sutter and Yuba. Other complementary activities were initiated, including the assessment of immunization practices in 134 clinics and physician's offices and training in effective practices to increase immunization rates for over 540 health care providers.

When it began: 1995

Geographic area covered: Multiple counties: El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties, California

Changes in the community condition as a result of this initiative: Immunization levels within the region have increased from about 50% in 1995 to nearly 67% in 2003. One factor contributing to the increase was the improvement in the rates of immunization (a 12% gain) in the clinics and physician offices participating in the assessment program. Another factor was the establishment of the regional registry. In 2004 the registry serves five counties with the remaining two counties to be added by 2006. When the registry is fully populated, Shots for Tots KIDS expects to reach the national standard of 90% of two-year-old children fully immunized.

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