

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Vaccine Facts and Policy Project?

The Vaccine Facts and Policy (VFAP) Project is a collaborative effort between George Washington University (GWU), the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM), and the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC).

How does the project benefit my organization?

The wide array of data available through the online database allows partners to see a more complete view of the U.S. immunization landscape and infrastructure in each of the 64 state, city, and territorial immunization programs. Users will find useful, relevant information in one place for the first time. Additionally, users will be able to identify programs with specific characteristics or activities.

“Having state level vaccine facts and policies consolidated in one easy to search location is a valuable tool for state immunization program managers who are looking at updating their own immunization policies. It is also a valuable tool for legislators and others interested in immunization laws, regulations and policies.”

— PEJMAN TALEBIAN, AIM Chair

Where do the data come from?

The data used in the project are primarily collected from national level sources including surveys and reports that have been completed by the 64 immunization programs. All data are identified and linked to the original source (Figure 1). Currently the website includes 14 sources, including the CDC Immunization Information Systems (IIS) Annual Report, AIM Partner data (e.g., AIRA, ASTHO), National Immunization Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, and the U.S. Census. The partners also conduct primary research: AIM conducts an annual survey; GWU conducts research on issues related to vaccine law and policy.

Figure 1. Source List with Hyperlink to Original Data

CDC IIS Report 2012 – CDC Immunization Information Systems Annual Report 2012: CDC Survey of Immunization Programs regarding functionality and policy around Immunization Information Systems
[LINK](http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/registry/IISAR/IISAR_QUERY.asp) ← www2a.cdc.gov/nip/registry/IISAR/IISAR_QUERY.asp

How does the online database work?

Using the VFAP website, you will be able to view and print the data by jurisdiction or topic. The *profile* reports include all the information about the selected state, city, or territory available on the website (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Profile View




PROFILE FOR ALABAMA

Demographics and Rates
Fiscal Environment
Law and Policy

LAW: CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Offender vaccine assessments YEAR: 2011

Yes

NOTES

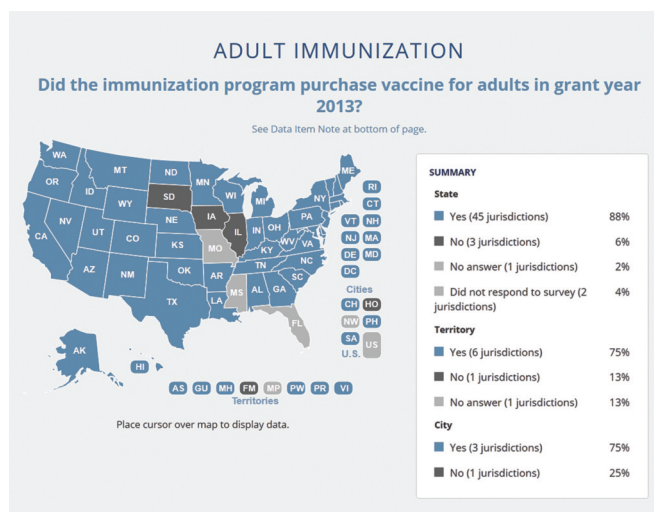
Alabama Department of Corrections, Female Inmate Handbook, Aug. 1, 2013
Upon new arrival to the ADOC reception institution, you will receive an initial medical and mental health intake screening assessment of which is conducted by qualified health care professionals on staff . . . Within fourteen (14) days of your new arrival to the reception institution, you will be scheduled for a complete health examination. This examination may include . . . health history, and an age / gender appropriate physical examination.

When viewing information by topic, data are shown for all 64 jurisdictions simultaneously (Figure 3). Additionally, data can be viewed in map form when browsing data by topic (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Topic View, Jurisdiction Values

Jurisdiction	Value	Source
Alabama	Yes	CDC IIS Report 2012
Alaska	Yes	CDC IIS Report 2012
Arizona	Yes	CDC IIS Report 2012
Arkansas	Yes	CDC IIS Report 2012
California	Yes	CDC IIS Report 2012
Colorado	Yes	CDC IIS Report 2012

Figure 4. Topic View, Map and Summary Table



What information is reported?

The project includes information on a broad range of immunization policy topics, such as demographics and coverage rates, the fiscal environment, immunization law and policy, strategies and initiatives, and the structure of the immunization program (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Data Topics

Demographics and Rates	Fiscal Environment	Law and Policy	Strategies and Initiatives	Structure of the Immunization Program
Demographics Vaccine Coverage Rates Vaccine Preventable Disease Rates	General Funds Prevention and Public Health Funds (PPHF)	Law: Correction Facilities Law: Immunization Information Systems Law: Long Term Care Facilities Law: Medicaid Law: School Entry Requirements Law: Standing orders Policy: Vaccination Requirements	Adult Immunization Non-Traditional Providers Program Priorities Special Initiatives/Strategies	Immunization Advisory Boards Immunization Information Systems Structure of Immunization Programs Structure of State and Local Health Systems

Some of the information on the site is dated. What are the plans to update the site?

We are aware that the immunization environment is rapidly changing. We have presented our initial findings and developed the website. Now that the site is operational, we intend to update the data frequently. Project partners are working to identify funding to maintain and update the website. If funding can be secured, data will be updated as they come available. Email us if you know of a funding opportunity to help maintain and update the site.

Are there plans to add more categories of data like adolescents, HPV, influenza, or pandemic preparedness?

Yes, our goal is to include additional categories of data and data items. We can easily expand categories of data, add additional data items, and display updated data with a revised collection period. Please email us to recommend a new category of data or new data items.

Some features on the site are not available. When will they be?

Currently, VFAP partners are working with the programmers to make formatting and functionality improvements. Other features including search, comparisons, and custom reports are envisioned. Please note, the website is optimized for recent versions of Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Google Chrome, and some features may not work properly on older versions of web browsers.

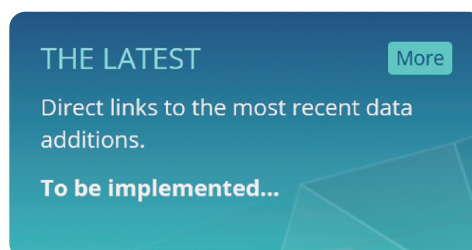
Our organization has some data that would be useful to add. Does VFAP accept other data sources?

Yes, the intention is to make VFAP a comprehensive database without burdening immunization programs by collecting information that is already available from partners and other sources. However, VFAP only includes data that meet internal data quality standards. Please email us if you would like to add your organization's data, are aware of a source with new data, or if you'd like to recommend a new source.

Will our organization be notified when new data are posted?

Yes, project partners will add notifications of data updates to newsletters, social media, and other regular communications. In addition, every time the data are updated on the website, "The Latest" feature on vaccinefactsandpolicy.org will list direct links to the most recent data additions (Figure 6).

Figure 6. "The Latest" Feature



One of my collaborators, committees or workgroups would benefit from learning more about the VFAP project. Can someone present to us?

Yes, project partners are available to present the project on calls, webinars, or in-person meetings. We encourage you to email us with your request.

How is this project funded?

VFAP is supported by an educational grant from Pfizer, Inc. However, Pfizer, Inc. provides no input into the content of the project. Project partners are working to identify funding to maintain and update the website. We encourage all interested parties to email us if you become aware of a funding opportunity to help maintain and update the site.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at info@VaccineFactsAndPolicy.org.