



Our Mission:

The Saint Louis University School of Public Health is dedicated to the discovery, translation, and dissemination of public health knowledge to improve the health and well being of all.



The ABC Immunization Calendar

The ABC Immunization Calendar software program creates customized monthly calendars for parents and their babies ages 2 and younger. The calendars are full-color and wall-sized (11"x17"), and include: (1) information about home safety, injury prevention, clinical preventive services, parenting skills, and child development, all matched to the baby's age in months; (2) ongoing tracking of the baby's height and weight; (3) a digital picture of the baby; and, (4) a reminder of the baby's next immunization appointment. The content of each monthly calendar is tailored to each specific baby and family based upon information obtained from parents in a brief (16-question) enrollment interview. Testing and dissemination of this program was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Deaconess Foundation of St. Louis, and the Greater St. Louis Health Foundation. Matthew Kreuter is principal investigator.

Project Contact:
Charlene Caburnay
caburnay@slu.edu

Discovery

What is the health problem?

- ❖ Immunization is the only protection against eight major preventable childhood diseases. If even a few cases of a disease occur, children who are not properly immunized are at risk of catching the disease and spreading it to others.
- ❖ As many as two-thirds of babies in the City of St. Louis do not receive the full childhood immunization series, well below State and National levels and far from meeting the national objectives as set by the U.S. Public Health Service.

Deleted: (90%)

Translation

How do we take what we know and apply it to childhood immunization?

- ❖ Recent guidelines and recommendations suggest recognizing the effort required for poor families to overcome difficulties and barriers to have their children immunized, and providing personally valued incentives and reinforcement that will encourage timely and continued adherence.
- ❖ A 1-year randomized trial conducted with funding from the CDC found that health centers that received the calendar showed a marked increase in immunization rates. These positive findings encouraged us to work toward achieving more widespread adoption of the program.
- ❖ To assure that program ownership could be transferred to participating health centers, we created two detailed guides to assist them – an Implementation Guide and User's Manual.

Dissemination

How did we disseminate the ABC Immunization Calendar program?

- ❖ We conducted a 1-day training session with representatives from public health centers to learn how the immunization calendar program can be put in place at their centers.
- ❖ We completed site visits to conduct assessments of the organizational and physical environment and signed letters of agreement indicating the organization's commitment to the project.
- ❖ We provided technical assistance by working closely with a staff member or team from each health center to put the program in place and get it started.

Change

What changes occurred because of the dissemination?

- ❖ Fourteen health and day care centers in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and in Harlem and Washington Heights, NY have offered the program to their patients.
- ❖ Immunization rates at health centers offering the program have increased.
- ❖ Enrollment into the program at participating health centers has increased.

Saint Louis University School of Public Health
<http://publichealth.slu.edu>