FERPA Compliant School Survey Design

2012 Program Manager’s Meeting

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Background

- Assessing coverage at school entry by sampling school records since 2004/2005.
- Immunization survey compared to school self reports
  - Self reports inaccurate – journal article
  - Detailed shot and exemption data
- Following years expanded: 7th grade, local and regional rates
FERPA Rule Changes

• December 2008

• DOB - Personally Identifiable Information
  – Critical information to assess compliance
  – Lost access to review school immunization records

• Colorado Department of Education
  – Home rule state - Negotiate MOUs with individual school districts
New Methodology

• Developed and implemented through ARRA School Best Practices Grant
• Doesn’t require DOB
  – Collect intervals between DOB and shot administration dates
• Rely on school nurses to select students and submit data
  – We make every effort to minimize the time it takes for them to complete the survey
New Methodology

• Sample Strategy
  – Originally sample schools: 50 schools, 20 students per school
  – Simple random sample of students: 350 students, between 270 – 300 schools

• Training
  – Webinars, recorded webinars

• Streamline submitting data - web application
New Methodology

- Web application
  - Front end schools enter DOB and shot dates directly off the immunization record
  - Back end calculates and stores the intervals
Implementation and Limitations

- **2010/2011 School Year**
  - 100% participation
  - 93% schools satisfied or very satisfied with survey process.

- **Limitations with new methodology**
  - Can’t assess by date, i.e. first day of school
  - Can’t oversample for local or regional results – too big a burden on school staff.
Replication

- Share SAS program to pull sample
- Share the web application
- Other options to calculate intervals
  - Date calculators available online
  - Spreadsheet
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