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## Identifying Areas of Underimmunization in New York State

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According to recent National Immunization Surveys, immunization coverage in New York State (NYS) is high. However areas of underimmunization exist. This project used surrogate measures to identify zipcodes where children might be at risk for being underimmunized.

Surrogate measures are demographic and socioeconomic variables associated with a lack of access to health care, including immunizations. Ten indicators were selected based on literature and anecdotal experience. These indicators included: 1) children under 3 years of age, 2) non-Hispanic minority children, 3) Hispanic children, 4) live births with late or no prenatal care, 5) children in single householder family settings, 6) adults with a high school education or less, 7) Medicaid eligibles, 8) adults below the working poverty line and above the federal poverty line, 9) adults below the federal poverty line, and 10) children below the federal poverty line.

Data was derived from the 2000 Census, the NYS Office of Medicaid Management, and NYS Vital Records using SAS and Excel. Data was mapped to the zipcode level using a geographic mapping program, MapInfo. Vaccines for Children and WIC sites were geocoded using MapMarker. A final map, the index score for risk of underimmunization, summarized the ten individual indicator maps. Series of maps were created for Albany, Clinton, Onondaga, and Westchester Counties, using a variety of mapping styles.

These maps can help identify zipcodes at risk for underimmunization. By increasing coverage in these areas, we can protect the health of all New Yorkers.

