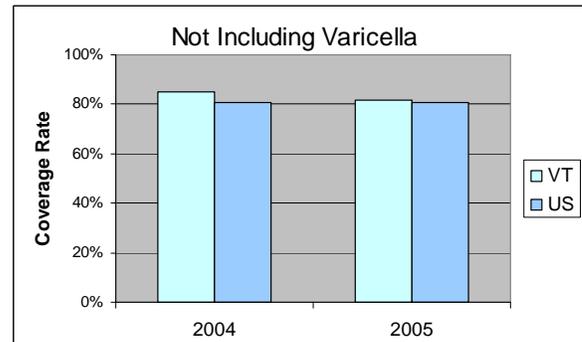
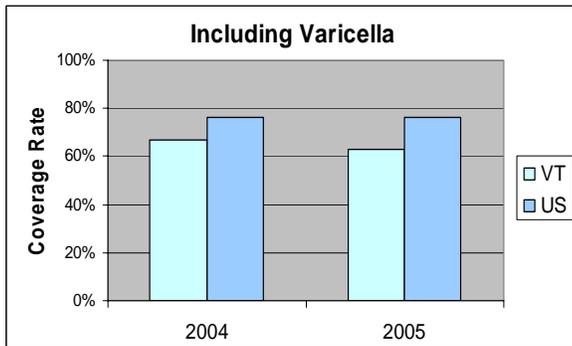


IMPORTANT NEWS- National Immunization Survey Results

Vermont Ranks 51st in the Nation

Vermont's coverage rate for 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 hepatitis B and 1 varicella vaccine is the lowest in the nation. 2005 is the first year that varicella vaccine was included in the standard measurement. When varicella vaccine is excluded in the measurement for 2005, Vermont ranks 27th in the nation.



Reviewing the Recommendations

The ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) has not released an updated schedule that incorporates the recent additions to the childhood schedule. Below is a sample schedule from Vermont Department of Health.

When Do Children and Teens Need Vaccinations? + = combined vaccines						
Birth	Hepatitis B					
2 months	Hepatitis B + DTaP + Polio					
4 months	HIB	PCV	Rotavirus			
6 months	HIB	PCV	Rotavirus			
	HIB	PCV	Rotavirus	Influenza	(every flu season until age 5)	
12 –15 months	MMR + Varicella		HIB	PCV	Hepatitis A	
15 –18 months	DTaP			Hepatitis A (6 months after 1 st dose)		
4–6 years	MMR + Varicella		DTaP	Polio		
10–18 years	Tdap	Meningococcal Recommended for college freshmen living in dorms	Varicella? If no vaccine or disease	Influenza? For individuals at higher risk for complications	HPV 3 dose series for females stay tuned.....	

About the National Immunization Survey (NIS)

On September 15th the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released NIS results.

- Parents of children aged 19–35 months were randomly interviewed about their children's immunization status
- Information collected was verified by the provider practice office
- Every state in the nation and the District of Columbia participated in the survey

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- The following Immunizations were assessed:

	4	3	1	3	3	1
2 months	DTAP	IPV		HIB	Hepatitis B	
4 months	DTAP	IPV		HIB	Hepatitis B	
6 months	DTAP	IPV		HIB	Hepatitis B	
12 –15months			MMR			
15 –18 months	DTAP					Varicella

Now What?

The Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program met by conference call with its' Immunization Advisory Committee (a group of providers of health care for children- pediatricians, family practice providers, nurses and Vermont Department of Health employees) to discuss immunization issues on 09/15/06. The group was surprised and concerned about the results of the National Immunization Survey. With nowhere to go but up, the group recommended:

- Get the word out to our provider network about this information
- Work with media to provide messages to families of children about risks and benefit of vaccine vs. disease
- Work with the Vermont chapters of the AAP and AAFP to discuss strategies for improvement of immunization coverage rates and to explore what supports providers need in the office
- Continue VDH work on making varicella vaccination a requirement for school and child care entry
- Have the Vermont Department of Health clarify issue of vaccine supply
- Provide a venue for vaccination services if a provider office can not supply the vaccine
- Establish a reminder/recall system – utilize the Immunization Registry

Putting Varicella Recommendations into Place

To meet the new two dose recommendation, it is recommended that providers give their 1 year-old patients a combined MMRV and give this combined vaccine again at the 4-5 year old well-child visit. For older children who have had no history of disease, and only one varicella vaccine, a repeat varicella vaccine is recommended at their next well child appointment.

Ordering Varicella Vaccine

Orders are placed by provider practices that have been certified to store varicella and MMRV vaccine by calling the Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program at 1 800 464 4343 ext 7638. Orders are placed once per week with the manufacturer. Currently, MMRV is shipping within two weeks. Varicella vaccine is shipping in 3-4 weeks. Due to these longer shipping intervals and the new recommendation for two dose varicella vaccine series, practices should anticipate that they may need to place an order sooner and that it might be larger. Some small sites that were previously not able to use enough MMRV and varicella vaccine may be eligible to do so, as they might use 10 doses of vaccine/year with the new recommendations.

VDH District Offices Offer Immunization Services

Each district office of the Vermont Department of Health will have varicella vaccine and combined MMRV vaccine by October of 2006 to offer to pediatric patients who cannot get vaccinated at the primary care provider office site. There is no charge to a patient who is vaccinated by the Vermont Department of Health.

Future

This immunization ranking is not a statistic that makes Vermont proud. We want to work with our communities to provide top notch immunization services to all of Vermont's children. If you want your practice to participate in Vermont Department of Health in-service education activities, have your 24 month old patient population assessed for immunization coverage rates (for your own information), or weigh in with thoughts..... Please contact us.