

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



AIRA
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	3
STRUCTURE	4
IIS COMMUNITY	5
ADVOCACY	6
MEDIA	7
EDUCATION	8
NATIONAL MEETING	9
ADULT	10
VACCINATE WITH CONFIDENCE	11
ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS	12
ASSISTANCE	13
MEASUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT	14
IMMUNIZATION INTEGRATION PROJECT (IIP)	16
IMMUNIZATION (IZ) GATEWAY	17
SHARED SERVICES	18
FINANCES	19
THANK YOU	20

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WELCOME



Dear AIRA Community,

It's hard to believe this year has come to a close. In many ways it feels like we're just beginning, especially when it comes to the pandemic. So much has happened so quickly this year, yet it also feels like it took too long for some things to get going. I'm so proud to be part of a community that has persevered in the face of adversity, and I know we'll come out stronger for it. As I look toward the coming year, I feel hopeful that we'll be moving toward a safer country and world. On behalf of all of us at AIRA, I want to express immense gratitude for the work done and commitment demonstrated by the IIS community and partners in the COVID-19 vaccine response. This community continues to persist through challenges with great fortitude. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we sincerely thank you; your impact over this last year was crucial in moving our nation onto a path of recovery.

Dave McCormick *Director, Indiana Immunization Division | AIRA President 2020-2021*



Greetings,

The AIRA community is made up of individuals who are hard-working and dedicated to ensuring that our nation's communities are healthy and safe. During the pandemic, IIS staff and partners rose to the occasion, again and again, giving everything they had to help the country stay healthy and get back on its feet. We are grateful, as many IIS staff also made the time to engage at the national level and participate in AIRA initiatives. As a collaborative body, we have coalesced around key activities and common goals in the interest of advancing all IIS together, particularly as new vaccines were made available to the general public and the role of IIS was thrust into the national spotlight. As an organization, we have evolved and grown to meet the needs of the community during this unsettled time. We've brought on new staff and created exciting initiatives that continue to gain momentum and interest from the community. As a membership-based organization, AIRA would not be able to do our work without our members and volunteers. I'm thankful for the board's strategic direction and leadership in fostering AIRA's mission and vision. I continue to be inspired by the commitment and work you are all taking on. Thank you for being pandemic heroes.

Rebecca Coyle *AIRA Executive Director*

VISION

To facilitate the sharing and use of immunization information by all partners and ensure that immunization information systems are fully supported and represented

MISSION

To promote and support the use of immunization information to ensure healthy communities

PURPOSE

To support and promote the development, implementation, and interoperability of immunization information systems through partnerships, peer and professional education/training, and resource development

1

AIRA BOARD

Officers/Executive Committee Members

- Dave McCormick, President, Indiana
- Christy Gray, President-Elect, Virginia
- Aaron Bieringer, Governance Chair, Minnesota
- Dannette Dronenburg, Secretary, Washington
- Heather Roth, Treasurer, Colorado

Directors

- Jeffrey McIntyre, Mississippi
- John Robinson, Philadelphia
- Mary Woinarowicz, North Dakota
- Melissa Mickle-Hope, New York City
- Kathryn Cruz, New Mexico
- Miriam Muscoplat, Minnesota
- Steve Murchie, Envision Technology Partners
- Tiffany Dent, STChealth

STRUCTURE

AIRA would not be the organization it is today without the incredible support and thoughtful contributions of our board and members. These individuals volunteer their time and attention to further the mission of AIRA and our IIS community.

2

AIRA VOLUNTEERS

AIRA has three types of volunteer groups: committees, workgroups, and user groups. Steering committees guide the development of projects and activities in the key areas of best practices and interoperability. Workgroups manage specific projects to support the needs of the organization and the IIS community. User groups bring community members together to discuss specific issues that they have in common.

3

AIRA STAFF

AIRA has a dedicated team providing support to the IIS community and conducting the work of the organization. AIRA's team grew by **26** talented individuals in 2021, increasing our combined years of experience working in IIS and immunization programs to over **345** years.

AIRA HOSTED **117**
COMMITTEE,
WORKGROUP,
& USER GROUP
MEETINGS IN 2021

IIS COMMUNITY

Despite the enormous strain the COVID-19 pandemic put on IIS staff, the community was able to adapt and respond to the demands of the pandemic vaccination campaign. AIRA is grateful for its members and the incredible work done advancing the community and public health.

AIRA's membership includes over 700 individuals, representing:



AIRA's amazing members can be described as:

innovative
supportive
IIS champions

resilient

dedicated
collaborative
passionate

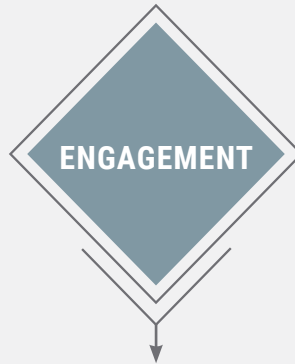
brave

ADVOCACY

AIRA's advocacy work is one of the primary ways we ensure IIS are supported and represented. In 2021, AIRA expanded and mobilized our partnerships in order to navigate the increased attention on the IIS community. AIRA's advocacy work involves three distinct steps:



where issues and trends that have the potential to impact IIS are identified



where collaboration with members and national stakeholders occurs



where IIS interests are represented and national priorities on policy, infrastructure, and funding are addressed

AIRA's strategic partnerships include:

Programmatic Organizations



Technical Organizations



Federal Agencies



**BY ENGAGING
STAKEHOLDERS
AND PARTNERS AT
A NATIONAL LEVEL,
AIRA ENSURES
IIS INTERESTS
ARE SUPPORTED
AND ADVANCED.**

Examples of our advocacy work over the past year include:

- Presenting at the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) and Pew Charitable Foundation's meeting on Modernizing Public Health Data Exchange for Immunization and advocating for better health care interoperability
- Testifying in front of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce hearing, titled *"Booster Shot: Enhancing Public Health through Vaccine Legislation,"* on modernization needed to support IIS
- Presenting to the FDA Foundation on IIS and possibilities of using IIS data to monitor patient safety

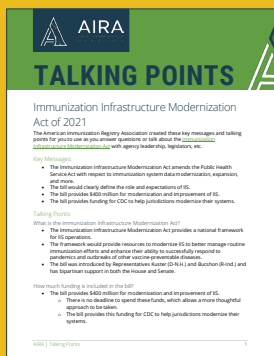
MEDIA

AIRA became a voice for the IIS community explaining to a broad audience what IIS are, why they're important, and how they would be important partners in the pandemic response.

AIRA created a media initiative to support and unify the messaging about the role of IIS in the COVID-19 response. The media initiative consisted of two main activities:

1

Creating resources specific to COVID-19, such as:



[Immunization Infrastructure Act Talking Points](#)



[SMART Health Cards Info Sheet](#)

2

Completing media interviews for print, web, television and podcast outlets



The most requested interview topics were:

Vaccine data

IIS/vaccine tracking systems

Vaccine credentials

Vaccine boosters

Vaccine distribution

AIRA completed **74 MEDIA INTERVIEWS** with 45 unique media organizations, including:

The New York Times



POLITICO

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

EDUCATION

To facilitate the sharing and use of immunization information, AIRA provides education on topics impacting the community. AIRA's trainings were modified to include fewer in-person sessions and more virtual events.

ONLINE TRAINING

AIRA hosted **24** different educational webinars reaching a total of **1,378 attendees**.

The webinars covered a wide range of topics including:

- COVID-19 vaccination response
- Vaccine credentialing
- Data quality improvement
- Electronic health records and IIS



AIRA OFFERED
AN EIGHT-WEEK
**MINDFULNESS
SERIES**
TO HELP ITS MEMBERS
**MANAGE STRESS &
INCREASE FOCUS.**

INTERACTIVE CALLS

AIRA held a town hall meeting and **four** member and partner calls during the year to share important updates and discuss issues impacting the IIS community.



MEMBER MEET-UPS

AIRA hosted **three** member meet-up sessions to give members an opportunity to connect with one another in an open, unstructured format to discuss any hot topics, news of the day, or current challenges. **Attended by 83 participants.**



NEWSLETTERS

AIRA's *Monthly Update* and quarterly *SnapShots* newsletter were published to highlight the progress, activities, and accomplishments of AIRA and IIS.



INTEROPERABILITY TRAINING COURSE

AIRA piloted a **13-week** course designed to provide a base knowledge of interoperability for immunization public health professionals. **54 participants** representing 17 jurisdictions enrolled in the course.



**92% OF
JURISDICTIONS
ATTENDED AIRA'S
EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS**

NATIONAL MEETING

The AIRA National Meeting pivoted from an in-person to a hybrid event with the option for attendees to join in person or online. The three-day meeting, held August 3–5 in Portland, Oregon, was a much-anticipated gathering of the IIS community.

AIRA had a record-setting

462 ATTENDEES

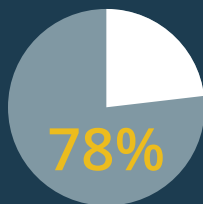
at the hybrid 2021 national meeting, including:



184 in-person attendees



278 virtual attendees



of IIS jurisdictions attended



of attendees found the meeting's content to be relevant to their work

AIRA's National Meeting wouldn't be as successful without the tremendous support from the public sector. The following organizations help to support not only the National Meeting but also the momentum that follows to advance IIS and public health.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

DIAMOND

VCI

PLATINUM

SSG

H&N Consulting

Epic

SANOFI

gsk

GOLD

aws

gainwell

ENVISION
TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

STChealth

SILVER

docket

AMCI Health Informatics

Cerner

VACmobile

optimoz

LexisNexis®
RISK SOLUTIONS

IronBridge

athenahealth

MERCK

“AIRA pulled it together during a pandemic! It is like putting tires on a car in the middle of a drag race.”

Anonymous Participant

ADULT

Improving the awareness and use of IIS among adult care providers

COVID-19 highlighted the importance of adult vaccination and access to adult vaccination data within IIS. Prior to the pandemic, AIRA initiated a two-year project to assess the challenges, existing practices, and opportunities to capture adult vaccination records.

AIRA worked with partners and key subject matter experts to: complete a [Landscape Analysis](#) summarizing existing approaches, systems, and capabilities for capturing adult vaccination records and develop a strategic road map for CDC outlining implementation strategies and recommendations for advancing the awareness, capture, and use of IIS for adults.



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Prioritize, fund, and staff adult vaccination capture activities
- ▶ Motivate providers to report
- ▶ Reduce or eliminate barriers to reporting
- ▶ Address data confidence/ data quality concerns



VACCINATE WITH CONFIDENCE

AIRA's Vaccinate with Confidence initiative began in 2019 with the objective of utilizing IIS and geographic data to identify areas of low vaccination rates or "pockets of need." AIRA provided tailored assistance to jurisdictions in a variety of formats, including:



Access to and
Training for
SmartyStreets



Epidemiologist
Staff
Augmentation



Customized
Programmatic
Recommendations

AIRA deployed a number of services to support data analysis, visualization, and reporting including Tableau training and user group support. Three fully customized, introductory Tableau training courses were provided, reaching 49 individuals across 19 jurisdictions. In addition, a Tableau User Group (TUG) was formed for anyone with an interest in data visualization. This user group is heavily attended and engagement is strong.

94% OF TABLEAU USER
GROUP PARTICIPANTS
REPORTED THAT
**ATTENDING THIS GROUP
HELPED THEM TO EITHER
PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY
ACHIEVE
THEIR GOALS**
WITH DATA VISUALIZATION.

“ The content was great for those of us who are new to Tableau ...I feel like I have a strong knowledge base moving forward. ”

Anonymous Participant
Tableau User Group

ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS

When routine immunization rates for children and adolescents plummeted because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a desire for nationwide, real-time, and accurate assessment of immunization coverage levels. The Routine Immunization initiative sought to:



Demonstrate that IIS are a **reliable source** of information for **assessing vaccine uptake** and coverage levels



Identify and increase the **analytics capacity** of IIS **staff** to **assess** routine immunization **coverage levels** for children and adolescents

AIRA initiated a pilot project with two vendors and seven IIS jurisdictions to extract immunization coverage data.

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS



At the conclusion of the pilot, AIRA developed a road map for the CDC that identified and described obstacles the IIS community faces in submitting coverage-level IIS data and provided recommendations and suggested activities that support implementation.

ASSISTANCE

AIRA offers a wide range of technical assistance (TA) to help the IIS community better align with national standards.

The most common topics of technical assistance requested:

- ▶ Assisting with the COVID-19 response
- ▶ Onboarding
- ▶ IIS staff orientation/ trainings

AIRA received 547 requests for technical assistance from **57 unique IIS jurisdictions** and **29 partner organizations** in 2021.

98% OF
TA PARTICIPANTS WOULD
REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM
AIRA STAFF AGAIN.

98% OF
TA PARTICIPANTS WERE
VERY SATISFIED OR
SATISFIED WITH THE
QUALITY AND
COMPLETENESS
OF THE ASSISTANCE
THEY RECEIVED.

“ You have given me much to review and digest—I am so appreciative of both your quick responsivity and the thoughtful way you have conveyed such dense content in an easily digestible and readily understandable way! ”

Jessica Dorr
Vermont Immunization Registry

AIRA HOSTED **20 VIRTUAL AART CLINICS** AND
27 IN-PERSON CLINICS DURING THE AIRA NATIONAL MEETING.



Anonymous feedback from AART Clinic Evaluation:

- “ I've always appreciated the thoughtful conversations with the AIRA folks! ”
- “ Knowledgeable staff and are aware of issues IIS are facing. ”
- “ AIRA staff is very responsive and timely in their communications. They are thoughtful in their responses and clear in the information they share. ”

MEASUREMENT & IMPROVEMENT

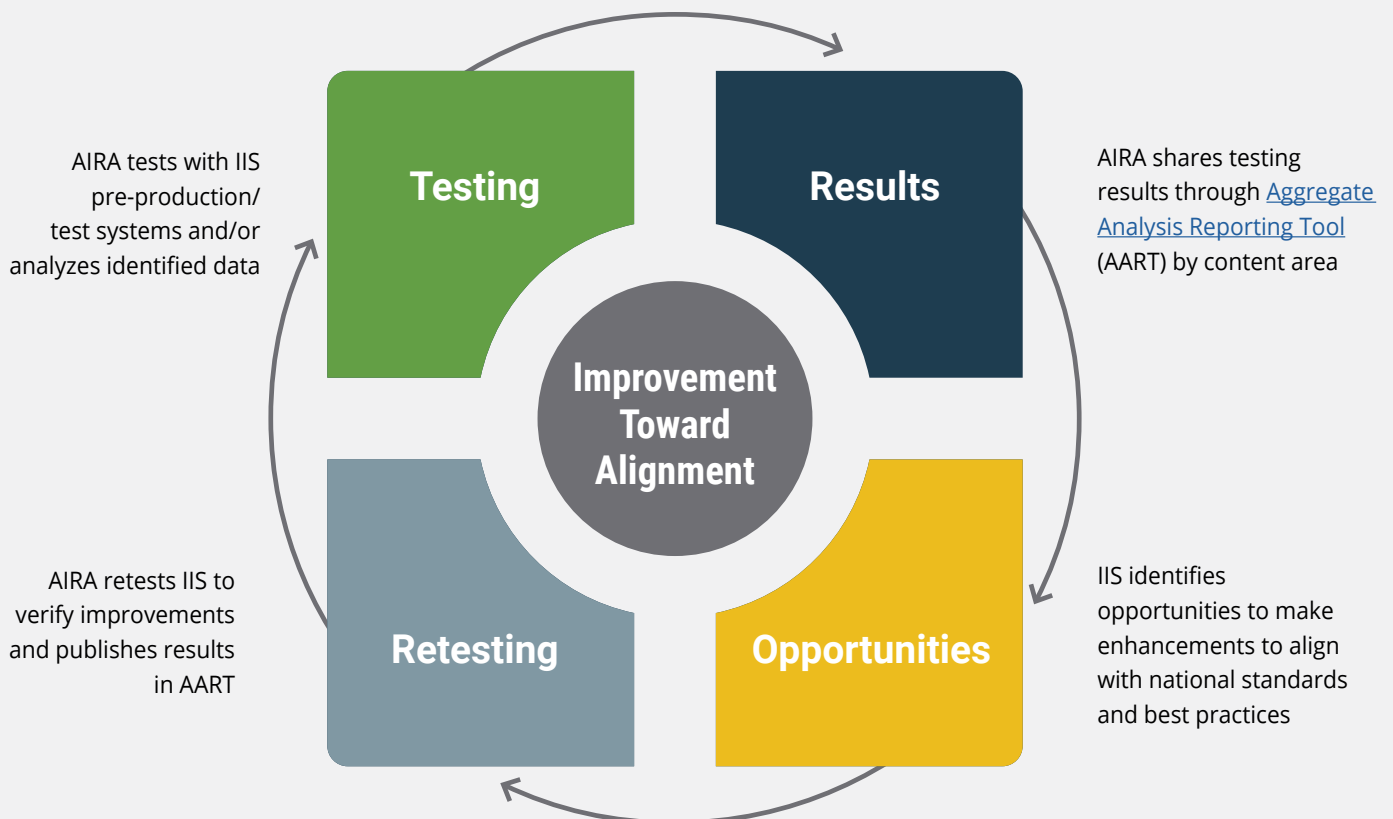
AIRA, in collaboration with the CDC, began the community-driven IIS Measurement and Improvement (M&I) Initiative in 2015. The goals of the M&I Initiative are to help IIS to more fully align with national standards and best practices through testing and to provide IIS with assistance in making improvements.

M&I is a three-stage process, with each content area progressing through the stages. The stages are:

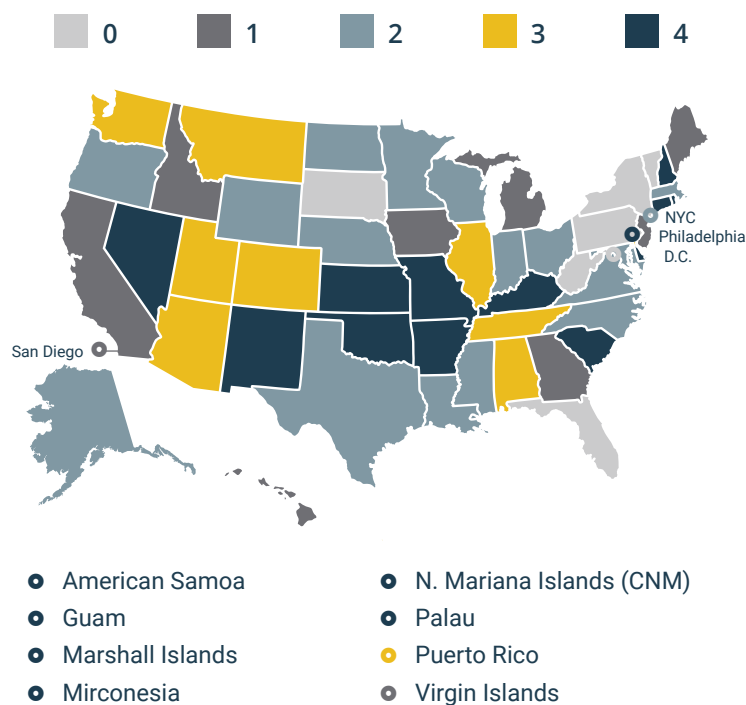


AIRA repeats this process for each content area to measure IIS functionality and capability within a specific functional area.

How the improvement process works:



VALIDATION RESULTS



AIRA recognizes the jurisdictions that have achieved validation in one or more of the content areas each year.

IIS Validated in 1, 2, 3, or 4 Content Areas

- ▶ 10 IIS validated in **ONE** content area.
- ▶ 16 IIS validated in **TWO** content areas.
- ▶ 10 IIS validated in **THREE** content areas.
- ▶ 19 IIS validated in **FOUR** content areas.

95% OF IIS JURISDICTIONS ARE **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING** IN THE M&I INITIATIVE.



IMMUNIZATION INTEGRATION PROGRAM (IIP)

In the fall of 2020, AIRA assumed leadership of the IIP, which aims to support and strengthen interoperability between health information technology and IIS.

The IIP's goal is to improve interoperability between IIS and EHRs to support:

- Improved immunization-related clinical decision-making
- Increased vaccination coverage rates
- Reduced vaccine-preventable diseases

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



AIRA and its partners use a two-pronged approach to achieve this goal:

1

TESTING & RECOGNITION

The **Testing and Recognition** initiative is a way for EHRs to be tested on immunization capabilities and to be recognized for their ability to exchange data with IIS.

2

COLLABORATIVE

The **Collaborative** brings together partners and creates a forum to develop recommendations and solutions to improve interoperability.

“The pandemic has shown us the importance of working together as an immunization community to collect complete, accurate information. This is an exciting time to work on immunization information integration and enhance systems for public health and patient care.”

Dave McCormick
IIP Executive Committee Co-Chair

IMMUNIZATION (IZ) GATEWAY

The IZ Gateway is a federally supported project that contains an IT infrastructure which supports the exchange of immunization data between IIS, provider organizations, and consumer applications. The use of the IZ Gateway was prioritized at a national level to streamline time and resource-intensive data exchange between providers, non-traditional vaccinators, and IIS. In the fall of 2020, AIRA joined the IZ Gateway team to support IIS awardees with onboarding, connecting, and sharing vaccination encounters through the IZ Gateway.

The IZ Gateway supports four use cases:



AIRA COMPLETED TESTING OF
45 IIS-TO-IZG CONNECTIONS

ASSISTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH
44 IIS JURISDICTIONS

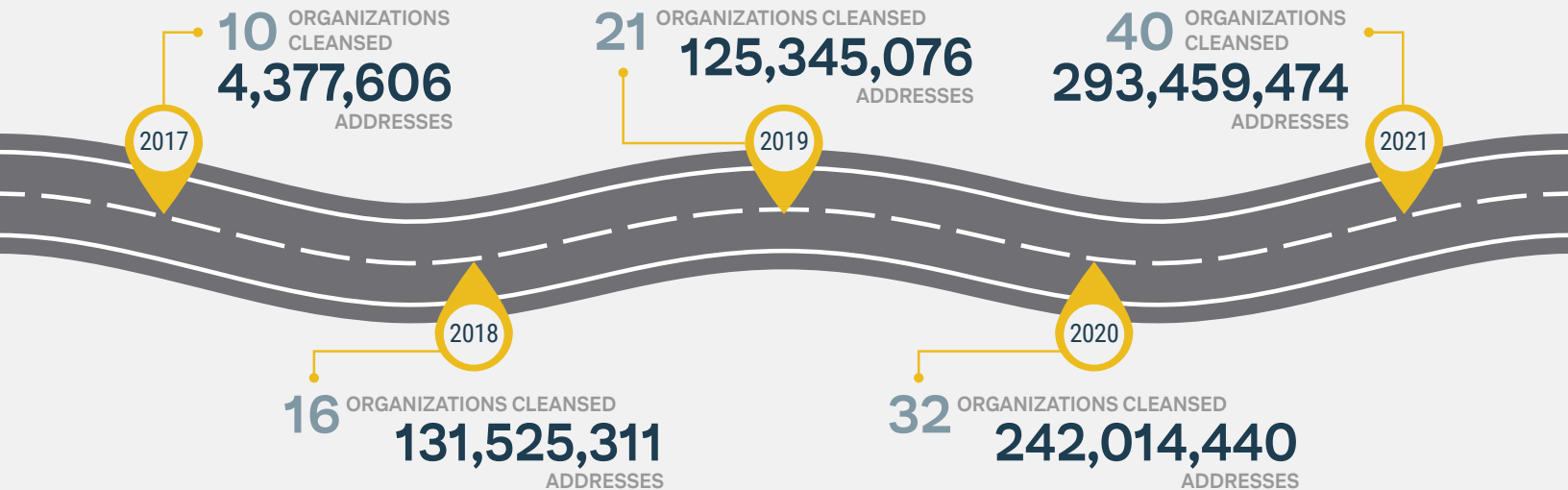
LED THE DEVELOPMENT
OF MULTIPLE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL IZ GATEWAY RELATED
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUALS AND RESOURCES.

SHARED SERVICES

AIRA provides members with collaborative tools and technologies to support the work of IIS and immunization programs. AIRA's shared services have expanded to include three different initiatives to better accommodate the needs of our members: **SmartyStreets**, **Onboarding Shared Services**, and the **Message Quality Evaluation (MQE) tool**.

SMARTYSTREETS

SmartyStreets is an address cleansing and geocoding service that can help IIS improve data quality.



AN AVERAGE OF
15,321,575 ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN
 CLEANSED AND GEOCODED **EACH MONTH.**

ONBOARDING SHARED SERVICES

During the pandemic, thousands of new data exchange partners needed to be onboarded to IIS. In collaboration with CDC, AIRA developed the Onboarding Shared Services program to support IIS in provider onboarding for immunization data exchange.

AIRA ENGAGED WITH
33 DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS
 TO ADDRESS COVID-RELATED
 PROVIDER ONBOARDING.

MESSAGE QUALITY EVALUATION (MQE) TOOL

The MQE tool is a community-driven initiative used to assist jurisdictions in consistently evaluating and improving the quality of incoming IIS data. This open-source application is a data quality tool available to all AIRA members.

“ We are really excited about the support the MQE tool can provide for our onboarding process. We'll be incorporating the 'Provider Report Card' capabilities and leverage that to make our interface with our providers consistent, delightful, and empowering. ”

Josh Hull, Software Architect

FINANCES

FY2021 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS



ASSETS
\$2,784,342

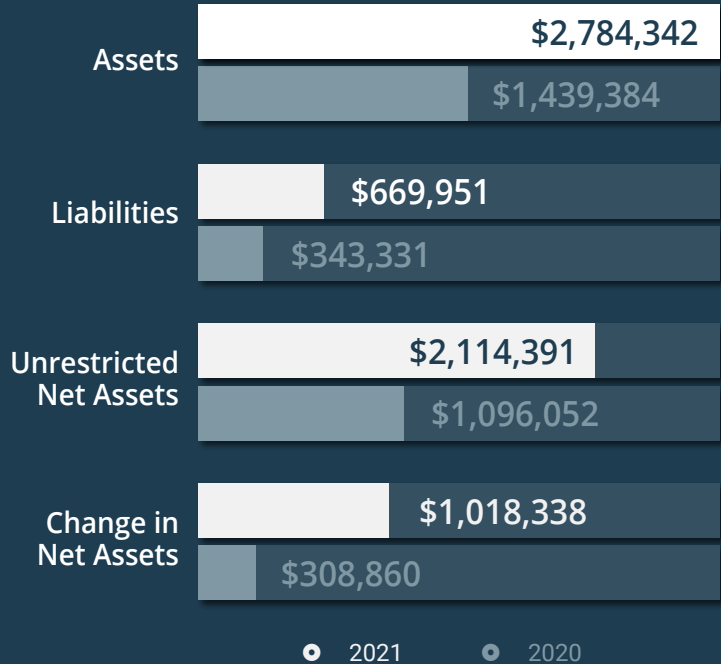


LIABILITIES
\$669,951

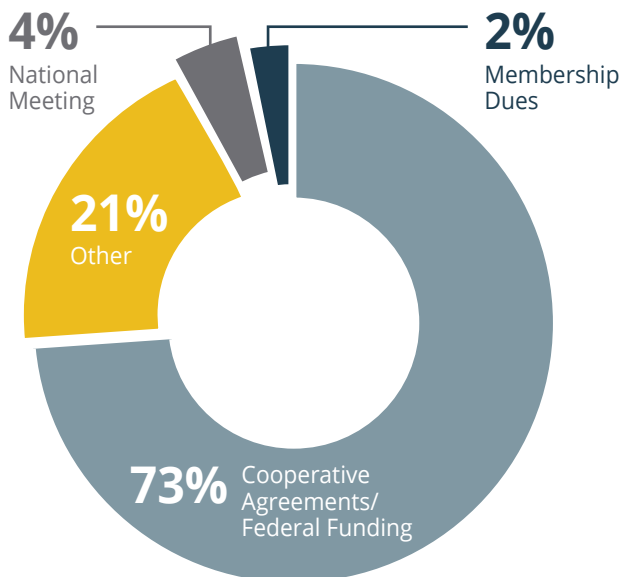


UNRESTRICTED
NET ASSETS
\$2,114,391

2021 VS. 2020 ASSET, LIABILITY, NET ASSET, AND CHANGE IN NET ASSET



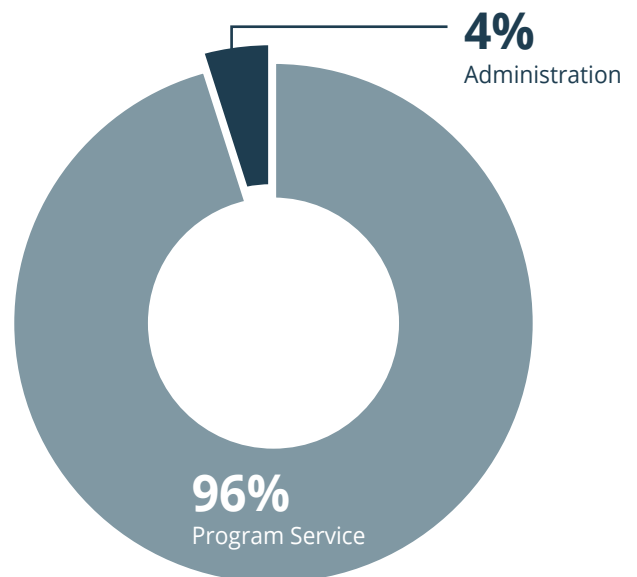
2021 REVENUE AND SUPPORT



TOTAL REVENUE:

\$7,572,074

2021 EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION



TOTAL EXPENDITURES:

\$6,553,736

THANK YOU

AIRA's members are made up of hard-working, dedicated individuals. Without the time and effort of our incredible volunteers, AIRA's work to improve immunization information systems and public health would not be possible. We are so thankful for our community's tremendous efforts during these particularly difficult COVID-19 times.

75%

OF IIS JURISDICTIONS
REGULARLY ATTENDED
A COMMITTEE,
WORKGROUP, OR USER
GROUP MEETING IN 2021!

28%

OF IIS JURISDICTIONS
PRESENTED OR
MODERATED AT THE AIRA
2021 NATIONAL MEETING.

OVERALL,

78%

OF IIS JURISDICTIONS
VOLUNTEERED
THEIR TIME AND
TALENTS WITH AIRA.

25%

OF IIS JURISDICTIONS
PRESENTED ON AN
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR
OR WROTE AN ARTICLE
FOR *SNAPSHOTS* THIS
PAST YEAR.

44%

OF IIS JURISDICTIONS
SUBMITTED OR
RESPONDED TO AN
INFORMATION REQUEST.

THANK YOU

The following partners contributed their time and talents with AIRA. Thank you for your efforts to coordinate and amplify the voice of immunization information systems and public health!

PARTNER COLLABORATORS

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)	Merck
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)	National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
American Health Care Association (AHCA)	National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC)	Network for Public Health Law
Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)	Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)
Allscripts	Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Altarum Institute	Office Practicum
athenahealth	Pfizer
Atlantic Management Center	Physicians Computer Company
Audacious Inquiry	Practice Fusion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Public Health Informatics Institute
Cerner Corporation	Scientific Technologies Corporation
Children's Hospital of Colorado	Schoolcare.com
Deloitte Consulting	Strategic Solutions Group
Docket	SW Partners
DXC (Gainwell)	The Commons Project
Envision Technology Partners, Inc.	University of Michigan Child Health Evaluation & Research Unit
Epic	University of Montana
Food & Drug Administration	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Foothold Technologies	VaxAtlas
HLN Consulting, LLC	Vaccination Credential Initiative (VCI)
Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)	Vanderbilt University Department of Biomedical Informatics
Immunize.org	World Health Organization (WHO)
Mayo Clinic Platform	
Microsoft Healthcare	
MetaStar	