AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023
AIRA Community,

This year, we saw the official end to the COVID-19 pandemic. After more than three years of confronting a global pandemic, public health is transitioning to more routine operations. Even with this change, we know the demands of the pandemic era remain. Despite the demands, we exercised commitment and resilience as we continued serving and strengthening our communities. Noteworthy this past year:

- AIRA’s Measurement and Improvement (M&I) initiative continued to expand and make strides in validating IIS content areas.
- Physician’s Computer Company (PCC), a pediatric EHR, completed Immunization Integration Program (IIP) testing and achieved recognition.
- AIRA achieved record-breaking attendance at the AIRA 2023 National Meeting, and AIRA membership has continued to soar, growing 33%.

As we reflect on this year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the support of our members, board of directors, volunteers, corporate partners, and staff. Together, we have continued the work of promoting the use of immunization information to ensure healthy communities. While we cannot foresee what the next year will hold, I am confident knowing AIRA is backed by a remarkable community.

Rebecca Coyle, MSEd
AIRA Executive Director
About AIRA

The American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) is a vibrant membership organization dedicated to supporting continuous advancement of the nation’s leading public health information systems.

AIRA was founded in 1999 after a nationwide measles outbreak from 1989 to 1991 that prompted the development of immunization registries in communities and regions across the country. AIRA became an effective advocate and support for immunization registry development as the convener of a collaborative public health community. With members representing all states and local and territorial jurisdictions, AIRA’s work encompasses policy, technical, and educational aspects, bringing together the IIS community to work together to promote standards, develop and share best practices, and share collective knowledge and successes.

Today, AIRA brings together voices across the IIS community and uses its platform to provide invaluable education, advocacy, standards development, and measurement and improvement to the IIS community.

Vision
To facilitate the sharing and use of immunization information by all partners and ensure that IIS 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
About IIS

Immunization information systems (IIS) are confidential, population-based, computerized databases that record all immunization doses administered by participating providers to persons residing within a given geopolitical area. IIS are the most powerful tool for managing immunization records and supporting healthier communities.

1. Provides Consolidated Immunization Records
2. Manages Vaccine Inventory
3. Minimizes Vaccine Waste
4. Forecasts Immunizations
5. Reminds Patients of Due Dates
6. Spotlights Areas of Need
7. Expedites Response in an Outbreak
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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Nancy Sharova, Connecticut

Tiffany Dent, STChealth*

Stephen White, South Carolina*, AMCI

* Served a partial term
Communities of practice support the creation of best practice recommendations for IIS.

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.

of IIS had at least one staff member participate in an AIRA workgroup in FY 2023
AIRA Members and Corporate Partners

AIRA’s members include IIS and immunization program staff working in health departments, IIS implementers, nonprofits, and other organizations with an interest in IIS. AIRA’s membership also includes corporate partners, which are private sector organizations that support AIRA and its mission to enhance public health. In FY 2023, AIRA had 104 organization members representing over 1,200 individuals.

AIRA’s corporate partnership provides an excellent opportunity for private sector organizations to get involved in the IIS community and join AIRA in advancing IIS.

To learn more about AIRA membership, visit https://www.immregistries.org/membership-info.

*Corporate partners were previously called supporting members.
Member Spotlight: Wisconsin

AIRA has had a tremendous impact on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR), according to MATTHEW VERDON, WIR unit supervisor. “During my 17 years working with the Wisconsin Immunization Registry, AIRA has always been a seamless partner in the work we do. So seamless that, when pulling together my team recently to talk about how AIRA benefits us, nearly all were surprised just how widely AIRA positively impacts our work. Be it through participation in workgroups, webinars, and trainings or using the resources and tools, AIRA’s impact is widespread.” Newer and seasoned team members in Wisconsin agreed.

RACHEL HARVIEUX, WIR data deduplication specialist, is relatively new to IIS and public health. She has used countless AIRA resources in her training for her new role. “The AIRA resource repository has been a trusted resource for gathering background information specific to deduplication topics, helping to inform the redrafting of a manual, and procedural guidelines,” Rachel said. “The AIRA Standards and Interoperability Steering Committee and HL7 User Group meetings often discuss topics immediately relevant to ongoing work and projects. These discussions have helped with problem solving and confident decision making.”

According to KEVIN SAMUELSON, WIR implementation coordinator, AIRA has fostered important collaboration. “In my 13 years working around IIS, the collaboration between jurisdictions and other related entities (e.g., EHR vendors) has become more commonplace and has made for stronger relationships for the common good/goal of immunization management.”
AIRA has partnered with Illinois in significant ways. Senior epidemiologist JANAE PRICE said, “The Illinois Department of Public Health has been an AIRA member for over 15 years. The Immunization Section frequently uses tools provided by AIRA’s Measurement and Improvement Initiative and user groups and trainings to improve (1) data quality and HL7 data sharing within our IIS, (2) provider onboarding, and (3) skills in data visualization using programs such as Power BI and Tableau.”

In April 2023, AIRA launched a pilot project to help Illinois develop an interactive data visualization tool to display school vaccination coverage rates. According to Janae, “AIRA has been instrumental in helping the Illinois immunizations team gain quick hands-on training and 1:1 technical assistance related to working in Tableau. This has resulted in the development of the first of many Illinois public facing immunization dashboards. The team’s understanding of Tableau and its various layouts and feature options has expanded significantly and pushed our team to consider more creative ways of sharing immunization data, not only internally but also to a myriad of different external audiences (e.g., parents, school admin, local health departments).”

Janae shared how AIRA’s impact is widespread. “AIRA has played an instrumental role in standardizing data systems and processing across multiple IIS programs nationally. AIRA’s discovery sessions and national meetings have provided Illinois with timely opportunities to network and collaborate with jurisdictions and programs facing similar challenges.” Janae said, “We greatly appreciate AIRA’s dedication to providing hands-on help and assistance with data modernization. The Illinois Immunization Section shares the desire for improved and transparent data systems that can not only respond to future pandemics but also use data for public health action.”
Revenue, Assets, and Liabilities

AIRA plays a critical role in the immunization landscape by increasing the impact of IIS.

- **Total Revenue**: $7.4 million
- **Assets**: $2.7 million
- **Liabilities**: $842,000
FINANCIALS

Expenses

The vast majority of AIRA's funding goes toward key program services to advance IIS.

Expenses

- **PROGRAM SERVICES**: 90%
- **ADMIN**: 10%
Our Work

AIRA provides invaluable support to advance IIS. Working collaboratively with the IIS community and the CDC, AIRA brings together key partners and stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities facing the IIS community and develop standards and best practices for IIS.

Through education, advocacy, standards development, and the Measurement and Improvement (M&I) initiative, AIRA helps strengthen all IIS to ensure healthy communities.

What sets AIRA apart is the organization’s deep commitment to COLLABORATION. AIRA has 1,018 active AIRA workgroup members, including 644 members from all IIS.
Advocacy and Partnerships

Advocacy work is one of the primary ways AIRA ensures IIS are supported and represented. With an overarching view of the IIS landscape, AIRA elevates IIS needs and concerns to a national stage, speaking as the collective voice for the IIS community.

By engaging stakeholders and partners at a national level, AIRA ensures IIS interests are championed and advanced. AIRA’s strategic partnerships include various national organizations, as well as federal agencies.

AIRA’s ENGAGEMENT is widespread. Over 240 individuals from 94 organizations attended AIRA’s quarterly Members and Partners meetings in FY 2023.
OUR WORK

Convening the Community

AIRA convenes the IIS community to foster collaboration, explore latest IIS best practices, and address key priorities for IIS.

- **Educational webinars** provide training and education on key topics impacting the IIS community.

- **Newsletters**, including AIRA’s Weekly Update and quarterly SnapShots, highlight the progress, activities, and accomplishments of AIRA and IIS.

- **Regional workshops** and **national meetings** advance the IIS community by providing professional education and training, developing new relationships, and strengthening long-term partnerships.

AIRA’s **IMPACT** is expansive. Over 560 individuals from 132 organizations attended AIRA’s Discovery Sessions in FY 2023.
AIRA National Meeting
San Diego, CA

The AIRA 2023 National Meeting convened hundreds of participants to discuss the latest in IIS best practices. The agenda included critical topics for IIS such as consumer access, onboarding and interoperability, outbreak response, policy and workforce challenges, leveraging data, and more.

+ A record-setting **545 attendees** participated in-person.

+ **100%** of participants agreed the content was either relevant or very relevant to the work they do.

“This was one of THE BEST conferences I have been to. So well organized and engaging, and AIRA staff seem like a bunch of really fun people.”

Anonymous Participant
OUR WORK

Measurement and Improvement

Through the Measurement and Improvement (M&I) initiative, AIRA partners with individual IIS to identify opportunities for improvement and offers operational and technical assistance to help each IIS align with national standards to facilitate interoperability with other health care systems.

The M&I initiative provides all IIS with information and tools to more fully align with Functional Standards. The project connects IIS test systems with AIRA’s testing web application called the Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART). Within AART, each IIS has access to customized quarterly reports on how that individual IIS is doing in specific content areas, such as data quality and forecasting. Through this process, AIRA helps jurisdictions institute standards and improve their systems.

By bringing the IIS community together under broadly implemented standards, all IIS gain CREDIBILITY and become increasingly SUSTAINABLE.
Although participation is voluntary, 100% of IIS jurisdictions are actively participating in the M&I initiative.

In FY 2023, IIS were able to gain validation in the five following content areas:

1. Transport
2. Submission/Acknowledgment
3. Query/Response
4. Clinical Decision Support
5. Data Quality

Incoming/Ongoing

80% of IIS are validated in 2 or more content areas

Our Work

Measurement and Improvement

The M&I initiative’s final step is validation. Validation acknowledges IIS that are progressing toward or achieving alignment with community-selected measures and tests. This public-facing approach showcases how IIS are meeting or exceeding community standards for interoperability, functionality, and quality.
OUR WORK

Onboarding Shared Services Program

In collaboration with CDC, AIRA developed the Onboarding Shared Services program to support IIS in provider organization onboarding for immunization data exchange. The program uses the Onboarding Consensus-Based Recommendations for improving and standardizing onboarding and is designed to address several challenges including:

- Large queue of providers waiting to onboard
- Establishing or improving onboarding processes and/or documentation
- Staff training in provider onboarding and onboarding best practices

To address these needs, the onboarding program provides:

- Standardized documentation to support provider onboarding
- Onboarding templates that can be modified to meet jurisdictional needs
- Onboarding process consultation and development
- Live, instructor-led onboarding training

1,135 hours of onboarding technical assistance was provided to 16 jurisdictions across 27 TA tickets and 5 TA projects

I would highly recommend going through the AIRA onboarding TA process since it gives your jurisdiction a clear picture on areas for improvement.

Nicole Sullivan, Washington, D.C. IIS Program

This process was very helpful, and it was extremely nice to work with your team to achieve our goals. The team is extremely knowledgeable on all things onboarding.

Kim Gulliver, Colorado IIS Program
OUR WORK

Provider Organization Onboarding for IIS

AIRA’s Provider Organization Onboarding for IIS Course was held for the second time in summer 2023.

The training helps IIS implement standardized onboarding processes and procedures. The course is a live, interactive, instructor-led training that dives into each step of the onboarding process and includes best practices and implementation considerations.

“This course was great! I wish I would have had something like this when I began working with onboarding 7 years ago. Even with my experience I learned a lot and love attending these classes. The person running the classes did an outstanding job.”

IIS Participant

129 participants

including 102 IIS staff representing 39 jurisdictions

97% of attendees would recommend this course to a colleague in an onboarding role
OUR WORK

Education and Training

AIRA provides invaluable training opportunities for the IIS community, including Tableau and Power BI training for data visualization, the Provider Organization Onboarding for IIS Course, AART clinics, and the IIS Interoperability: Connecting Systems Course.

AIRA Course Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Type</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TABLEAU</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWER BI</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONBOARDING</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AART CLINICS</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTEROPERABILITY: CONNECTING SYSTEMS</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AIRA’s trainings **BENEFIT** the entire immunization community. In FY 2023, 83 organizations participated in an AIRA course, including 87% of IIS.
Data Visualization Training

AIRA hosted several trainings and user groups in FY 2023 to support data analysis, visualization, and reporting, including the Tableau User Group and Power BI User Group. These user groups bring the IIS community together to share how Tableau and Power BI can be used to achieve data visualization goals.

97% of Power BI user group participants agreed or strongly agreed that the training was a positive and worthwhile experience.

I really enjoyed the format of the class, as the homework and self-directed exercises allowed me to apply what we were learning in class and get comfortable with the new material.

Anonymous Participant

- **Tableau User Group**
  - 135 individuals across 40 state and local IIS jurisdictions representing 17 IIS implementers and other AIRA member organizations

- **Power BI User Group**
  - 120 individuals across 43 state and local IIS jurisdictions representing 23 IIS implementers and other AIRA member organizations
Technical Assistance

AIRA has a team of experts who provide technical assistance to help the IIS community align with national standards. An improved IIS ultimately allows health care providers to better serve their patients and the community, advancing public health nationwide.

**93%**
- of IIS received technical assistance from AIRA in FY 2023

**1,793**
- hours of technical assistance to all organizations

**94**
- organizations received technical assistance in FY 2023

**65%**
- Onboarding

**6%**
- HL7

**10%**
- Measurement and Testing

**8%**
- Data Quality

**11%**
- Other
OUR WORK

Address Cleansing

Smarty is an address cleansing and geocoding service, provided with CDC’s support, to help improve IIS data quality. By using Smarty, jurisdictions can validate addresses against United States Postal Service data and obtain the most accurate address, a United States Core Data for Interoperability data element.

To date, over 2.1 billion addresses have been cleansed with 49 signed partner agreements in place for the Smarty service.
OUR WORK

Immunization Integration Program

The Immunization Integration Program (IIP) is a collaborative partnership among CDC, AIRA, the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and expert consultants to improve immunization interoperability, information sharing, and management. The IIP strives to increase the quality and usage of immunization data through cross-sector collaboration and solution development, electronic health record (EHR) testing, and technical support.

- The IIP’s 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.
- The IIP Collaborative brings together partners and creates a forum to develop recommendations and solutions to improve interoperability.

2023 IIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Physician’s Computer Company (PCC), a pediatric EHR, completed IIP testing and achieved recognition!
- Immunization data exchange partners provided the IIP Collaborative with valuable input on vaccine-related code set successes and challenges.
- The IIP published 3 key pre-submission data validation resources and strategies:
  - Top Five Strategies for Improving Immunization Data Quality at the Point of Care
  - Data Entry Error Guide Template
  - Training Resources for Vaccine Data Entry Users
IZ Gateway

The IZ Gateway provides a centralized technical infrastructure that facilitates the flow of immunization data from IIS to vaccine providers that operate in multiple cities and states and back, as well as from IIS to consumers. The IZ Gateway Project aims to address gaps in data exchange between immunization registries, providers, and patients to provide more complete and accurate immunization records.

THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CDC, AIRA SUPPORTS THE IZ GATEWAY PROJECT BY:

- Developing strategies to assist IIS and multijurisdictional vaccine providers with connecting and exchanging data through the IZ Gateway
- Providing subject matter expertise to support IZ Gateway documentation development, review, and maintenance
- Tracking and monitoring completion of IZ Gateway legal agreements, specifically interjurisdictional MOUs

90% of interjurisdictional MOUs were signed and submitted to AIRA by the end of September 2023.
Emerging Standards

AIRA has been using our rapid cycle process to gather input and develop guidance for several years. The process empowers a small group of engaged, invested partners from diverse organizations to develop guidance or recommendations over approximately 4 weeks.

In the spring of 2023, the process was used to generate and evaluate potential approaches to accelerate IIS-to-IIS connections through CDC’s IZ Gateway. The workgroup generated 26 recommendations, which were reviewed by AIRA and small-group co-champions. A final list of 12 recommendations was created to move forward with evaluation and scoring, yielding a prioritized and well considered list of recommendations provided to CDC and its contractors.

In the coming year, AIRA will use this process to gather rapid and comprehensive input on additional emerging standards and technologies. We look forward to collaborating with the community to continually improve the exchange of immunization information.
Thank You

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

Accenture
Allscripts
Altarum Institute
Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
athenahealth
Atlantic Management Center
Audacious Inquiry
AZOVA
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Dakota
Business Rules Solutions
CAN Immunize
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Civitas Networks for Health
Countermind LLC
CureMed
Deloitte Consulting
Docket
Drummond Group, LLC
Dynavax
Envision Technology Partners, Inc.
Epic Systems Corporation
Ernst & Young
Gainwell Technologies (DXC)
HLN Consulting, LLC
M Corp
MITRE
National Association of School Nurses
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Network for Public Health Law
NORC at the University of Chicago
NVG LLC
Open Door Family Medical Center
Optumserve
Oracle
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
Physicians Computer Company (PCC)
Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)
Qvera
Regenstrief Institute, Inc
Restorasis
Scientific Technologies Corporation (STC)
Shatzkin Systems
Spokane Regional Health District
St. Luke’s
Strategic Solutions Group
University of Michigan Child Health
US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Westat
Join AIRA as we promote the use of immunization information, collaborate, advance best practices, and drive meaningful results for public health policy.