

Evaluation of the Vaccines for Children Program from the Provider's Perspective in Arkansas, 2025

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Background: Enrolled providers in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program improves accessibility of immunizations to children of parents or guardians who cannot afford them.

Objectives: We evaluated the Arkansas VFC provider experience on the fiscal and logistical demands, successes and challenges, and identified areas to improve provider experience in the VFC program.

Methods: We designed and disseminated a survey to all 404 Arkansas VFC providers. Based on job title, challenges with meeting program requirements, burdens (i.e., time and fiscal), and successes were assessed using a 5-point Likert scale. Some questions were accompanied by open-text fields. Surveys were analyzed descriptively.

Results: In total, 185 (46%) VFC providers submitted a survey response, representing 44 of 75 (59%) Arkansas counties. Fiscal demands among VFC coordinators included the expense of large private vaccine orders and vaccine waste. For medical directors, a majority (72%) were unsure of the amount invested in the VFC infrastructure over the past 5 years. Logistical demands for VFC coordinators included maintaining separate VFC and private vaccine inventories and price checking. For medical directors, burdens were the initial site visit and completing enrollment forms. Successes included proactiveness of ADH staff and resource availability. Areas for improvement include sending contact information for VFC representatives

and creating an editable PDF for required forms.

Conclusions: The evaluation identified successes in the relationship between ADH and VFC providers, as well as program burdens. The survey will be conducted annually to identify and address challenges of enrolled Arkansas VFC providers.

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