



Vaccines for Adults at Risk (VFAAR) Program

Shumethia Seal, MPH; Veronica Alvarez, MPA; Nichole Dantzler, BS; Justin Gero, MS; Adam Howsare, BS; James Lutz, MPA; Caroline Johnson, MD
Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA

Background

The creation of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) entitlement program in 1993 allowed the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) to reallocate federal discretionary 317 funding. PDPH used this funding to immunize medically at-risk adults. The adult immunization program started in 1994, targeting at-risk adults in shelters with Hepatitis A & B, influenza, and Td vaccines. The program has since expanded to include more community partners and vaccines, but still has the goal of serving the most medically at-risk, uninsured adults in Philadelphia.

Eligible

- Uninsured AND
- Between 19 and 64 years
- 65+ years; not enrolled in Medicare

Not Eligible

- Younger than 19 years
- Medicaid- and Medicare-enrolled
- Privately insured

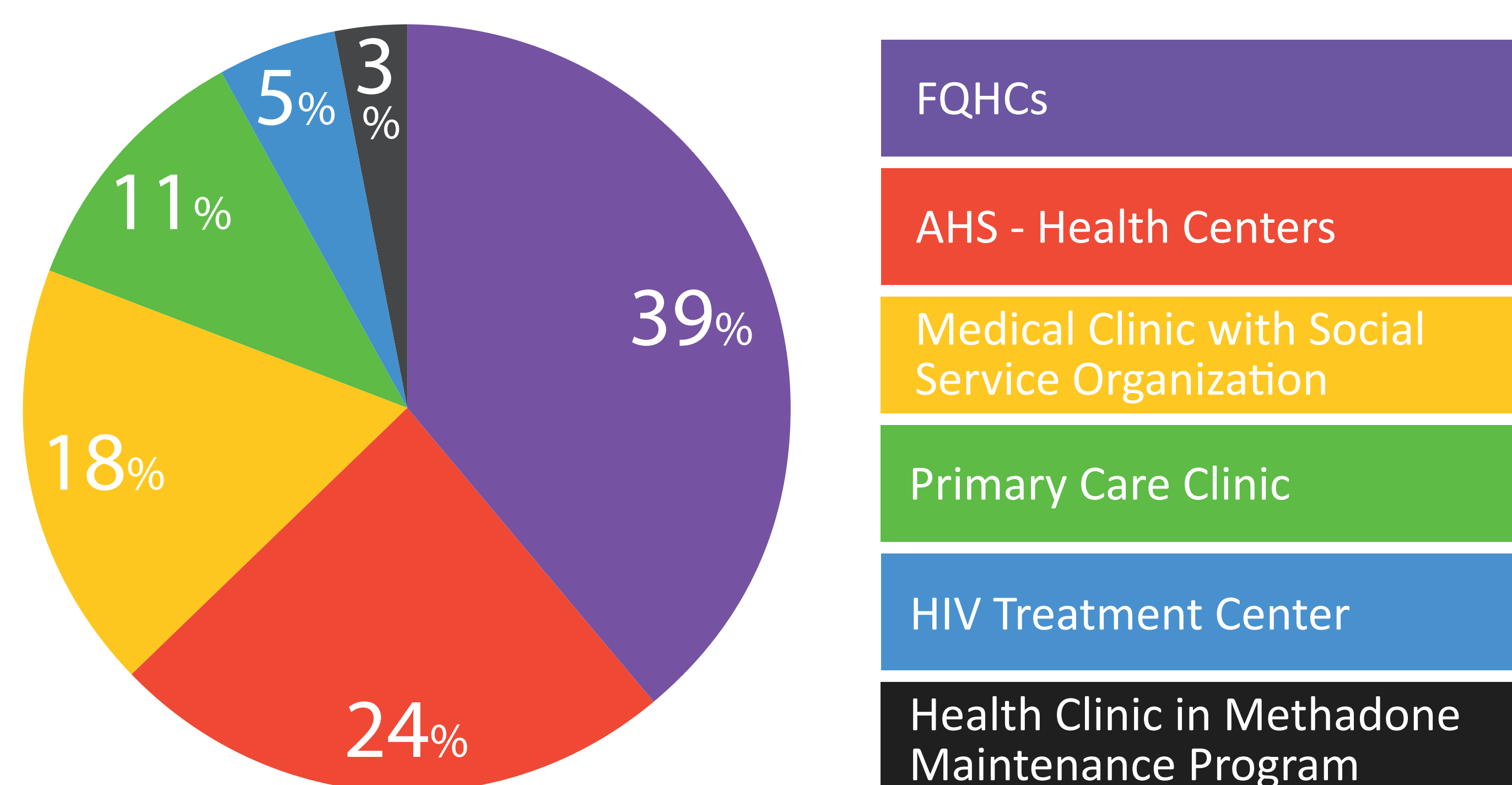
Providers

VFAAR Program sites include HIV treatment centers, FQHCs, health clinics in methadone maintenance programs, medical clinics that work with social service organizations, STD clinics and primary care clinics. Philadelphia's nine Ambulatory Health Service (AHS) Health Centers provide adult immunization to eligible patients with VFAAR Program vaccine (Figure 1).

There are currently 39 sites enrolled in the VFAAR Program. To enroll in the VFAAR Program, sites must complete an enrollment form and must:

- Serve VFAAR-eligible adult patients
- Have appropriate refrigeration and freezer units (no dorm style units)
- Record vaccine storage unit temperatures twice per day on VFAAR temperature logs
- Submit two weeks of vaccine storage temperature logs for review before finalizing program enrollment
- Have access to the Internet to order vaccines online
- Electronically report all administered vaccines to KIDS Plus IIS on at least a monthly basis
- Agree to and abide by the requirements and regulations described on the VFAAR enrollment forms

Figure 1. Types of Sites Enrolled in VFAAR, 2015



Program Goal

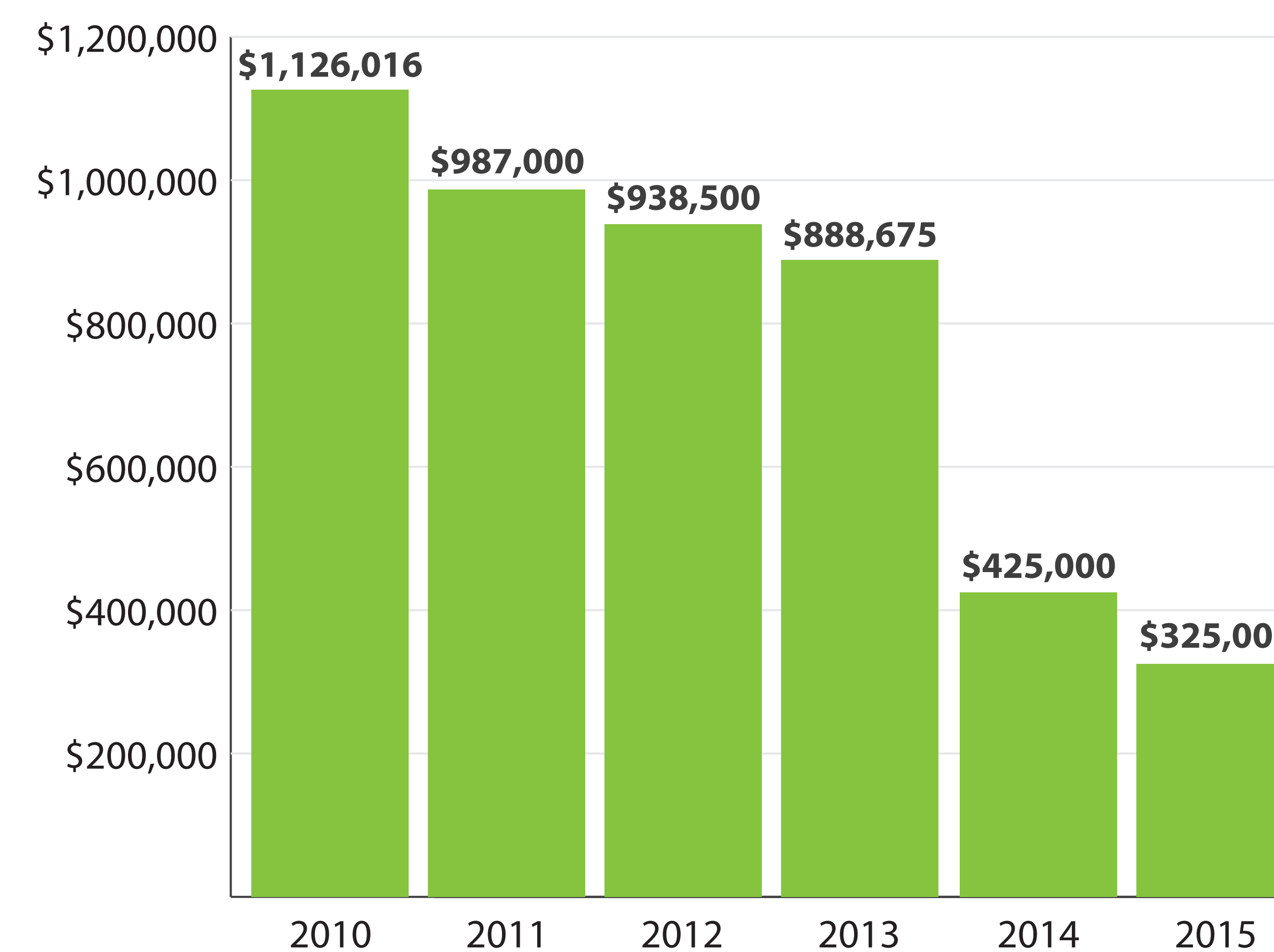
The VFAAR Program makes vaccine available to select providers serving adults at high-risk for vaccine preventable diseases. By removing financial barriers to immunization for both patients and providers, VFAAR:

- Ensures timely immunizations for at-risk adults
- Reduces missed opportunities for immunization
- Free program participation for immunization providers
- No out-of-pocket costs to patients for vaccines

Funding

Figure 2. VFAAR Vaccine Funding 2010-15

VFAAR Program uses federal discretionary 317 funding, which has decreased by 71% from 2010 to 2015.



KIDS Plus IIS and Adults

KIDS Plus Immunization Information System is operated by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. KIDS Plus IIS is a confidential, population-based, computerized, web-based system that collects immunization information for anyone receiving vaccine at Philadelphia area providers.

VFAAR-enrolled sites are required to report immunizations administered to KIDS Plus IIS. Sites can report via electronic files, paper logs, or HL7.

VFC and VFAAR

The VFAAR Program benefits from working closely with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. VFAAR follows VFC policies and procedures. Philadelphia has 19 providers that are eligible for both VFC and VFAAR programs. These hybrid sites are required to:

- Keep vaccine stock separate by funding source
- Administer program specific vaccine stock to program eligible patients.
- report all vaccines given for each program (VFC and VFAAR)

Community-based Influenza Campaign

Philadelphia Department of Public Health's (PDPH) Immunization Program coordinates a citywide community-based influenza vaccination campaign for adults each year. The campaign aims to:

- Raise awareness about the importance of annual flu vaccination
- Vaccinate those adults with no alternative sources of medical care; including uninsured, underinsured, the homeless, and the frail or infirmed

Community Flu Clinic (CFC) sites include churches, community centers, senior centers, soup kitchens, shelters, and health clinics.

Requirements for Host Sites

- Must be able to accommodate large number of people and be easily accessible
- Must be open to the public and operated on a first-come, first-served basis
- Host sites understand that the clinic date, time, and location will be advertised

Timeline

- Winter → Order doses of seasonal influenza vaccine for next season's campaign
- Summer → CFC planning meeting with PDPH, CFC coordinators, nursing school representatives, and volunteer medical providers
- Summer & Fall → PDPH staff coordinate logistics and scheduling of clinics

Vaccine Ordering and Supply

- Purchased using 317 funding
- CFCs pick up vaccines from PDPH and deliver unused vaccines to PDPH after clinic is completed

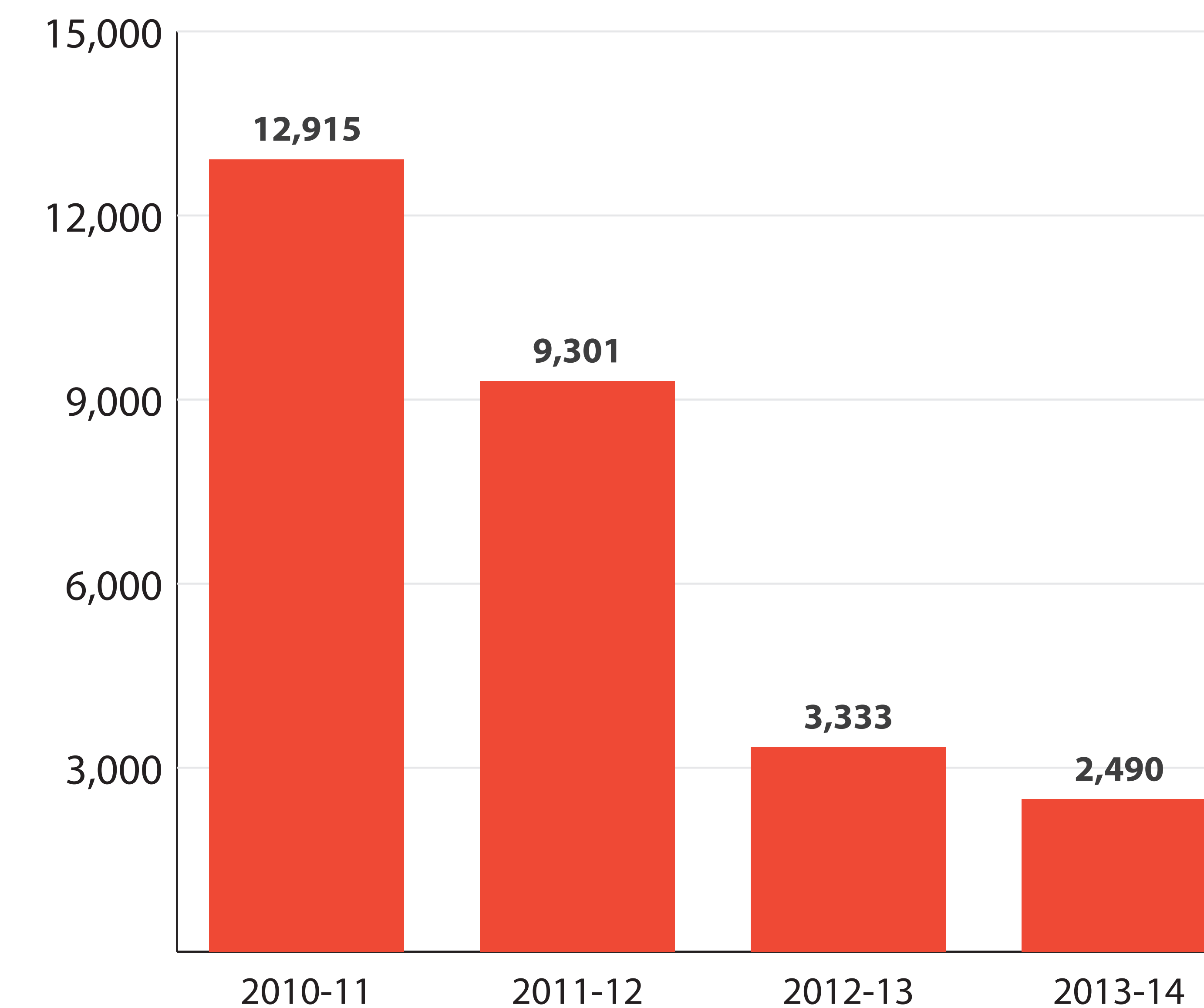
Clinic Supplies

- Inventory supplies on-hand in spring and order any supplies needed in early summer
- Each CFC receives a "clinic in a box," complete with everything except the vaccine
- Boxes are sent out as needed or ahead of time by UPS, CFC pick-up at PDPH, or PDPH drop off

Vaccine Administration Record

- A scan form was created to allow for easier data entry, better access to patient records, and quicker data analysis
- Supplied CFC sites with a single universal English form and foreign language templates
- Pre-paid envelopes supplied for easy return of completed forms

Figure 3. CFC Doses Administered 2010-14



For More Information

Shumethia Seal, MPH
VFAAR Coordinator

215-685-6424 or Shumethia.Seal@phila.gov