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**What Organizational Characteristics and HEDIS Measures are Associated with Managed Care Organizations' Performance of Childhood Immunizations?**

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**Background:** The accountability of healthcare organizations can be tracked with the Health Plan Employer Data Information Set (HEDIS). HEDIS provides comparative information across health plans to measure the quality of care and preventive services for health plan beneficiaries.

**Methods:** Longitudinal regression analysis of both public and non-public reported health insurance plans' HEDIS measures submitted to NCQA from 1999 to 2002. HEDIS performance measures include a sample of approximately 400 enrollees each year. The outcome measure was the proportion of children in the plan that received 4 doses of DTP/DTaP, 3 doses of IPV, 1 dose of MMR, 3 doses of Hib, and 3 doses hepatitis B vaccine (4:3:1:3:3).

**Results:** The average immunization coverage (4:3:1:3:3) for health insurance plans during 1999 to 2002 was 63% to 67%. Plans that reported publicly had significantly higher childhood immunization coverage than plans that did not report publicly (9%, p-value <.0001). Plans with higher proportions of Hispanics had lower levels of immunization coverage (p-value <.0001). Immunization coverage varied significantly by region, with plans in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic having the highest coverage, and plans in the Mountain region having the lowest (p-value <.0001).

**Conclusions:** Managed healthcare organizations' performance measured by childhood immunization coverage varies by organizational and demographic factors. Describing characteristics of health insurance plans with good performance of preventive practices, such as immunizations, empowers employers and consumers in healthcare decision-making and can also encourage the healthcare industry to provide better preventive practices.