

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

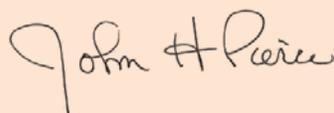
It has been a great year for the Washington Vaccine Association (WVA) and our mission to support access to vaccines for all children in the state. I am honored to serve with a group of strong advocates for such a critical component of our state's universal childhood vaccine program.

Washington is one of only 11 states that has a universal childhood vaccine program. That is a luxury we can't take for granted. Our community came together to put in place a system that allows kids access to vaccines regardless of whether they can afford them. It's the Washington way—to find uncommon solutions to common issues.

WVA is proud to be a key partner in this effective and efficient public-private partnership that provides children access to the life-saving vaccines they need. Together, we continue finding ways to improve and evolve our organization's impact. This is aided by the introduction of new Board members and operational leaders who have joined the team in the last year. They bring new perspectives and meaningful contributions to many initiatives.

Thank you for supporting WVA and Washington's kids. Together, our efforts have improved the overall health of children in our state.

If you want to know more or get involved, please contact us.



John H. Pierce, Board Chair
Senior VP and General Counsel,
Premera Blue Cross

Highlights from the Past Year



Strengthening Provider Relationships

Our program works because of our partnership with Washington providers and their staff. Together with the Washington State Department of Health we enable the administration of more than 2.8 million immunizations to children in Washington, ensuring all kids have access to vaccines, regardless of their insurance status. To strengthen this important partnership, we increased our efforts to connect with provider offices. We had a booth at The Pink Book regional conference in our own backyard (Tacoma) last October, where we networked with providers from around the country and learned the most up-to-date immunization information from the CDC. We also developed supplemental materials to explain the Dosage Based Assessment process to providers and their staff and made site visits to find out how the process has been working for them, answering questions and brainstorming improvements.



Exploring the WVA's Role in Increasing Washington State Immunization Rates

The impetus for the creation of the WVA was to ensure stable access to all recommended vaccines for all Washington State children in order to realize the full potential of modern vaccines to prevent costly disease and disability. Despite the success of the WVA in making childhood vaccines widely available to healthcare providers, many other barriers to increasing Washington State immunization rates remain, including vaccine acceptance, missed opportunities, access to primary care, and information gaps. The relative role of each of these barriers varies in communities across the state. Because the WVA is a nexus between healthcare providers, insurance and third-party administrators, and the Washington State Department of Health, the WVA may be in a unique position to bring together the key partners to address some of these challenges to increase immunization rates in Washington.



Ensuring Strong and Capable Leadership

The WVA continues to be blessed with skilled representatives from a broad spectrum of its stakeholder community who serve on its Board and committees. Though a number of Board members have transitioned to new ventures, we have had many new members join our team bringing fresh insight. This year we welcomed David Efrogmson (Group Health Cooperative), Cathy Falanga (Aetna), and Jeremy Martinez (Coordinated Care) to the Board. We also appreciate our current talent; join us in congratulating Board member Michele Roberts who won the 2016 Rising Star Award from the Association of Immunization Managers for demonstrating effective leadership.



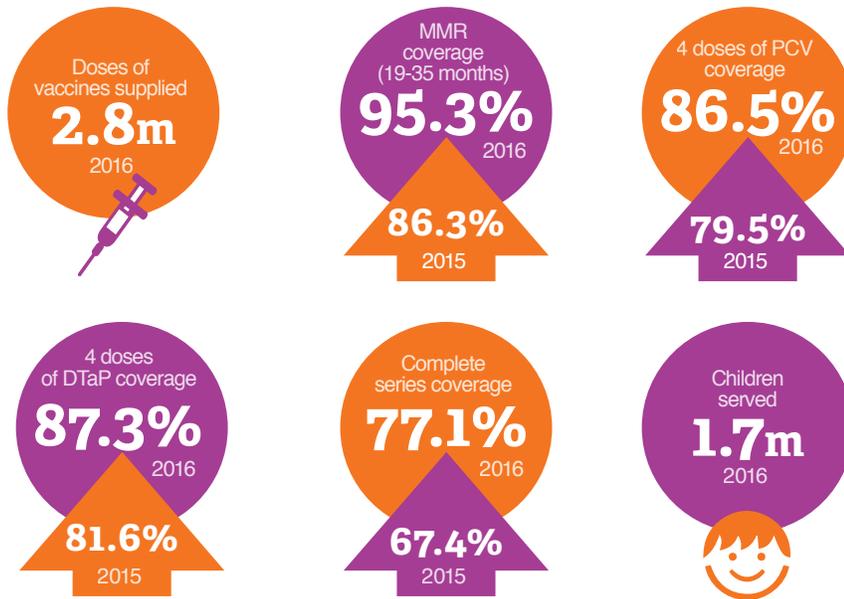
Continuing a Successful Partnership

The WVA model works thanks to the specialized support from the team at KidsVax®, now under the leadership of a new WVA Executive Director, Julia Walter. We are indebted to her predecessor Fred Potter and sincerely thank him for helping create the WVA and making it the success it is today. We'd also like to welcome Nicole G. Price to KidsVax®, as she will provide backup for Julia. Congratulations to Ashley Kittrell in her new role as Communications Coordinator for the WVA. Not only did Julia and Ashley assume primary responsibilities for the WVA, they both moved to Washington state from the east coast, giving the WVA two team members residing in-state.

2015-16 Immunizations At-a-Glance

Stabilized Vaccine Funding

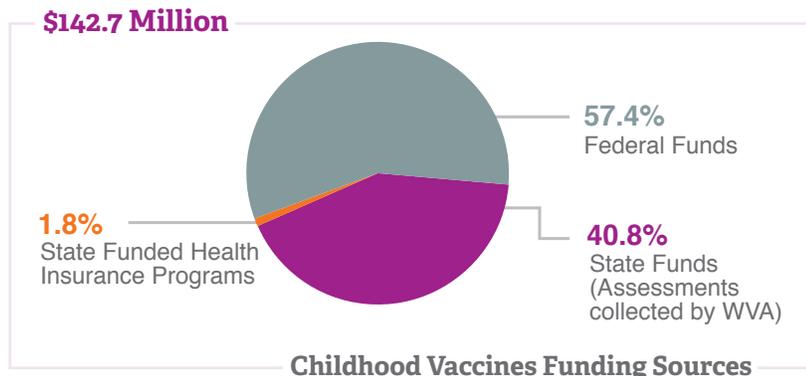
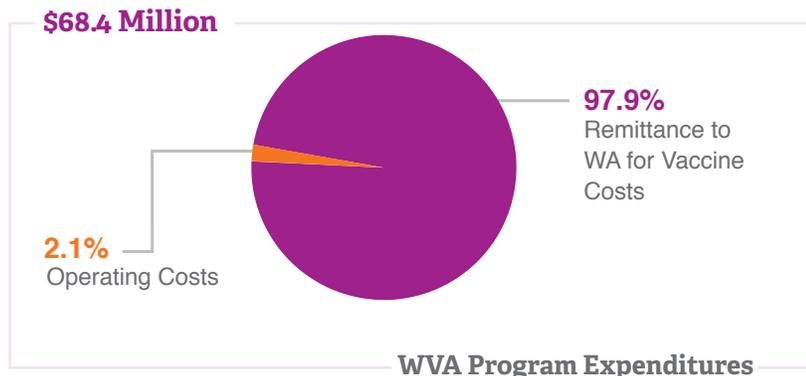
Stable vaccine funding is critical to improving Washington's childhood immunization rates. Our system protects vaccine supply from the fluctuations of the state budget and provider cash flows. Under our model, providers don't front the cost of vaccines. Instead, providers receive all childhood vaccines and use their existing administrative system to ensure WVA collects assessments from health plans to fund vaccine purchase.



Source: cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/nis/child/index.html

Financials

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



Source: <http://www.wavaccine.org/ar/2016>

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