

diseases, time is better spent attending to the growing number of needs of these children. Through the introduction of immunization registries, the burden of manually assessing immunization records is becoming a thing of the past.

Nearly every state has an immunization information system. The majority of public health care providers, and many private providers, schools and child care centers currently benefit from their use. In many states, school and child care professionals are already working with an IIS to verify children's immunization status, eliminating the need to request records from parents and make individual calls to physicians to locate missing records.

The CDC and its partners, like Every Child By Two, work to inform all vaccine providers and school and child care professionals about these indispensable tools. These systems are a first step in moving towards electronic health records (EHRs), a major priority of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**For more information about IIS**

- “Health Care Providers Speak Out on Immunization Registries” is a CD-ROM that describes the benefits of using immunization registries. It includes messages from Mrs. Carter and the former chief of the Immunization Registry Branch at the CDC, and testimonials from clinic staff. For a free copy, please contact Every Child By Two at [info@ecbt.org](mailto:info@ecbt.org) or 202-783-7034. The video can also be viewed on the ECBT website at [www.ecbt.org/registries/marketingcdrom.cfm](http://www.ecbt.org/registries/marketingcdrom.cfm)
- For more information about IIS across the country and for contact information for each IIS, visit the Provider Section of the CDC's Immunization Information Systems website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/providers.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/providers.htm)

**Don't wait...  
call your local or state health  
department staff today!**

**HOW IMMUNIZATION  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
CAN HELP  
CHILD CARE CENTERS  
REDUCE TIME SPENT  
ASSESSING  
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**

**USING IIS TO SAVE YOUR OFFICE  
PRACTICE TIME AND MONEY**



**What are Immunization  
Information Systems (IIS)?**

Immunization information systems (also known as immunization registries) are free, confidential, computerized information systems that collect and contain vaccination data about all children and provide immediate access to a child's current immunization status. As families move in and out of public and private health care systems, providers are able to access a central source of information on each child, eliminating the need to obtain records from previous providers. In addition, IIS make it easier for parents to get their child's immunization record for child care, school or camp enrollment.

Immunization assessments are one of the many tasks required of child care centers each year. While this record keeping is vital to ensure that children who attend child care centers remain protected from vaccine-preventable



*“We believe that immunization registries are the best mechanism to maintain the high level of immunization rates that we are currently enjoying while at the same time locating that last 20% of children who continuously fall through the cracks of our health care system.”*

**Rosalynn Carter**  
Co-Founder, Every Child By Two and  
Former First Lady of the United States





## Immunization Information Systems: Why do you need them?

- There are 4 million births/year (11,000/day)
- By age two, children will need approximately twenty-six immunizations
- Parents must verify immunization status to enroll children in schools, child care and camp
- New vaccines are continuously added to the recommended immunization schedule
- 21% of children are over-immunized
- 2.1 million children are under-immunized and are at risk for disease
- 22% of American children see two immunization providers in their first 2 years of life, making it difficult to track records.

## What Benefits Can I Expect to Receive from Using Immunization Information Systems?

Immunization information systems can offer many benefits to child care professionals. As a child care professional, you are in charge of making certain that all your children are fully immunized and ready to play and learn. With the growing complexity of the recommended immunization schedule it has become increasingly difficult to determine which vaccines are required for each child. Working with your state's IIS will facilitate disease prevention by providing you with accurate and timely immunization records for each of your children. Using an IIS will help streamline the immunization assessment process, saving child care professionals time by alleviating the burdensome task of individually verifying each child's record.

## How Can My Child Care Center Begin Using IIS?

Child care centers that wish to gain access to automated immunization data should contact their local health department to determine whether an IIS is available in their state and how the child care center can begin collaborating with the immunization registry. Legal considerations regarding access to the IIS and parental consent must be addressed. For example, while some child care centers are permitted to log on directly to immunization systems only to view records, others are permitted to both view and update the records. In other instances, child care centers do not have direct access to the systems, but are provided with a printed listing of children's records and compliance status. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations also must be considered. For more information about IIS, please visit the ECBT website at [www.ecbt.org](http://www.ecbt.org)

## About ECBT

Every Child By Two (ECBT) was founded by Former First Lady of the United States Rosalynn Carter and Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers. Carter and Bumpers have been working to ensure timely infant immunizations since their husbands were governors in the early 1970's and have been credited with the passage of laws mandating school-age vaccination requirements during the Carter Administration. In 1991, Carter and Bumpers founded ECBT in response to the measles epidemic that killed nearly 150 people, many of them children. ECBT's mission is to raise awareness of the critical need for timely immunizations and foster a systematic way to immunize all of America's children by age two. To forward its agenda, ECBT enlists the support of elected officials and their spouses, concerned community leaders and representatives of many national organizations.

ECBT works in conjunction with the CDC to conduct educational programs for health-care providers and immunization advocates. We encourage policymakers to support policies that improve the health and well-being of children. We also support efforts to increase state and federal funding for immunization activities. The co-founders of ECBT continue to travel throughout the nation to highlight the need for continued vigilance to ensure that the 11,000 babies born every day receive life-saving vaccines on time. We have assisted in the development of immunization coalitions throughout the country and encourage the involvement of highly visible immunization advocates within the states. We work to achieve universal health insurance coverage for all recommended childhood vaccines and expanded Vaccines For Children (VFC) coverage for underinsured children.

One of ECBT's main priorities is to ensure that computerized immunization information systems, are used by all vaccine providers. We believe that these systems are essential to ensure that children do not continue to fall through the cracks in the health care system and that, when fully utilized, will be the key to institutionalizing immunization delivery nationwide.

