

# Saskatoon Tribal Council's Inner-City Immunization Program

**Type of Project:** Education/Event  
**Organization:** STC Health & Family Services Inc.  
Urban Immunization Program  
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## Objective:

To improve inner-city immunization rates beyond the current rate of 46% to a target rate of 75% to 85% in one year.

**Target Audience:** Parents

**Project Summary:** The Saskatoon Tribal Council Chiefs have long been aware of the disparity in health status between their people and the general Canadian population. This has been affirmed through various studies and research, including the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey Wave I (1997) and Wave II (2003). With the immunization coverage rate in the Saskatoon urban inner core neighborhoods estimated to be below 50%, the threat to everyone's health becomes a shared concern.

The Inner-City Immunization Program will deliver immunization services to the core neighbourhood by a staff known to the parents which are at best, elusive to reach. The Tribal Council access to members living in the city core is most effectively established through family connections. The program will:

- inform parents of the importance of childhood immunization through education brochures and meet and greet luncheon educational sessions
- improve access to routine childhood immunizations through use of mobile clinics in malls, stores, parks, pools and on the streets
- assist with transportation to immunization clinics (a known barrier to immunization)
- develop strategies to improve immunization clinic attendance

## The program will be evaluated through:

- a questionnaire measuring the effectiveness of the educational sessions
- the number of immunizations completed via the mobile program
- a comparison of immunization rates against the current immunization rate coverage of 46%

**Completion Date: December 2007**

## Outcomes:

The Inner City Immunization Program resulted in approximately 1,000 immunizations given in 2007. Outreach initiatives included flyer mailings, lunch and learn sessions, full day clinics with flexible hours to accommodate working parents, and on-demand home visits. Small incentives were helpful to encourage the completion of the immunization series for infants and toddlers (i.e., teething rings, rattles, bath toys, baby nail clippers, "sippy" cups, and small toys). The use of mail outs, handouts and posters were found to be the most effective strategies in driving the increase in the number of newborns immunized. Formal measurement of immunization coverage rates will take place in the Health Disparities Survey to be conducted by the health district in the future.