TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas-AIRA Tech Assistance

2023 AIRA National Meeting

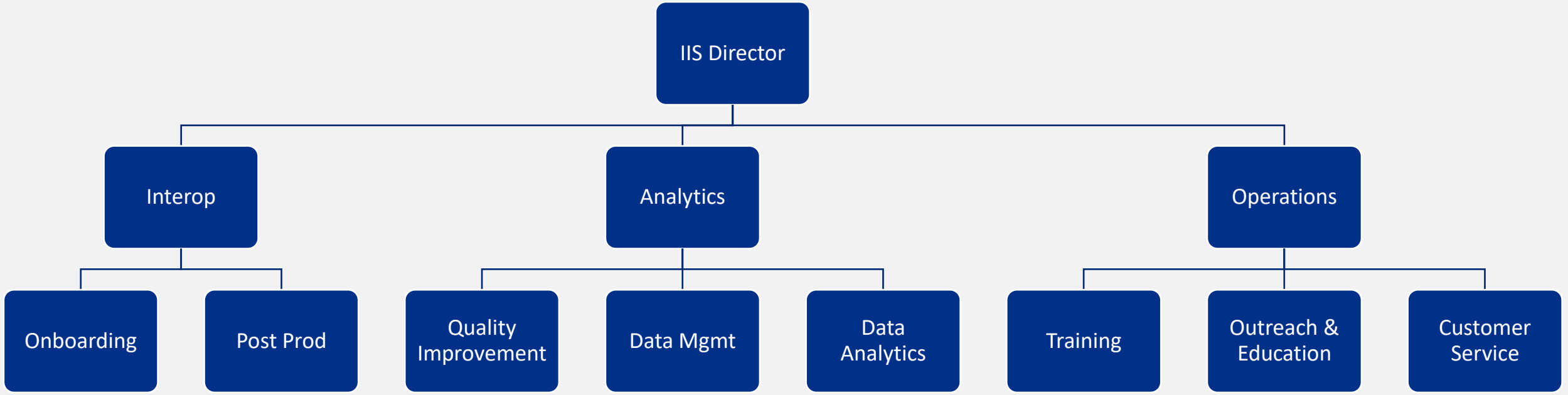
Kevin Allen, IIS Director, Texas Immunization Registry

Agenda

- Texas IIS Overview
- Areas of Need for Technical Assistance
- Impact of Technical Assistance

Texas IIS Overview

Texas IIS Team



Texas IIS Reporting Requirements

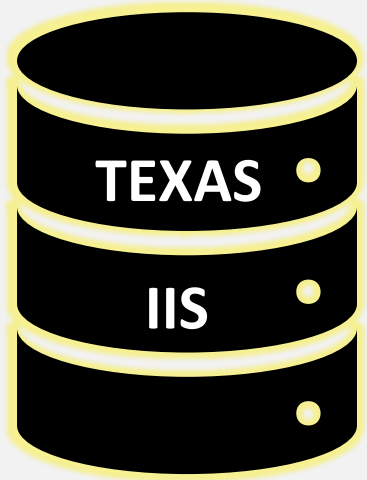
- Health care providers required to report to IIS immunizations administered to individuals under 18 years of age
- Payors required to report to IIS that receive data from a health care provider that administered immunizations to individuals under 18 years of age
- All antivirals, immunizations, and other medications administered during or in preparation of a declared disaster, must be reported to the IIS
- Large chain pharmacies report to IIS

Texas IIS Data Volume

296,506,688
immunization records

31,525,246
client records

51,233,063
COVID immunization records

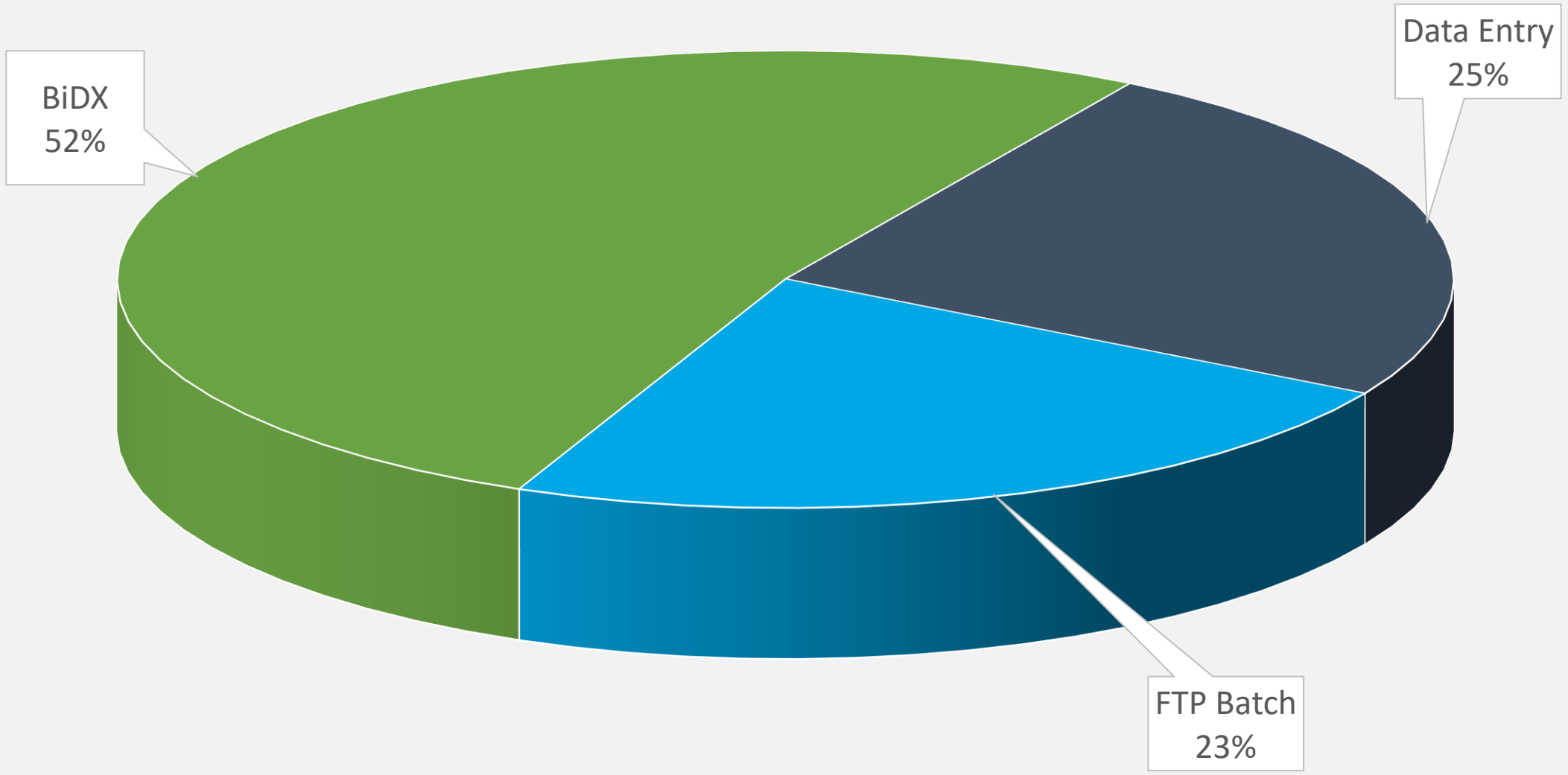


41,665
active users

1,051,144
therapeutic records

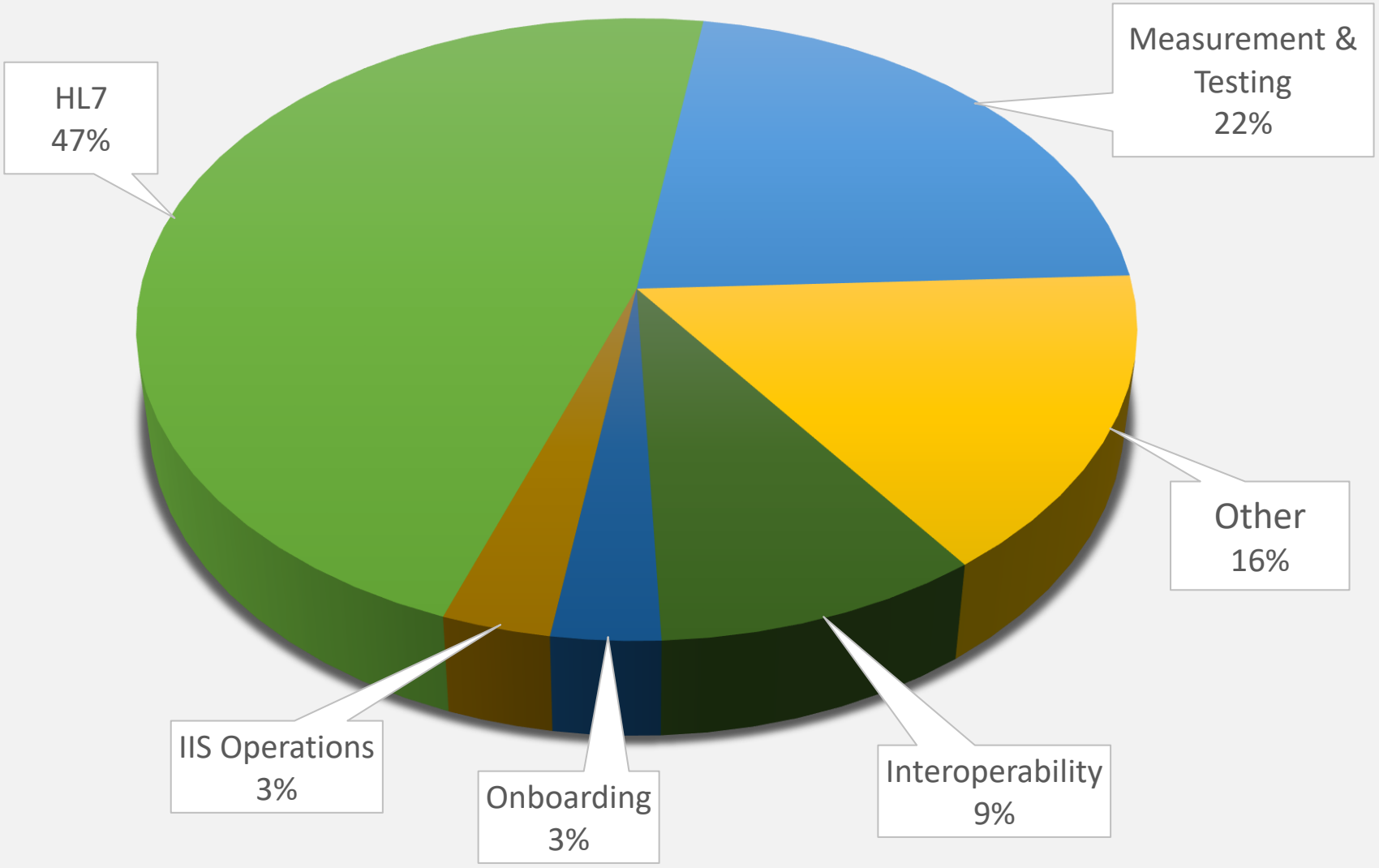
13,477
Org sites reporting

Immunizations Added by Source Type, 2020-2023

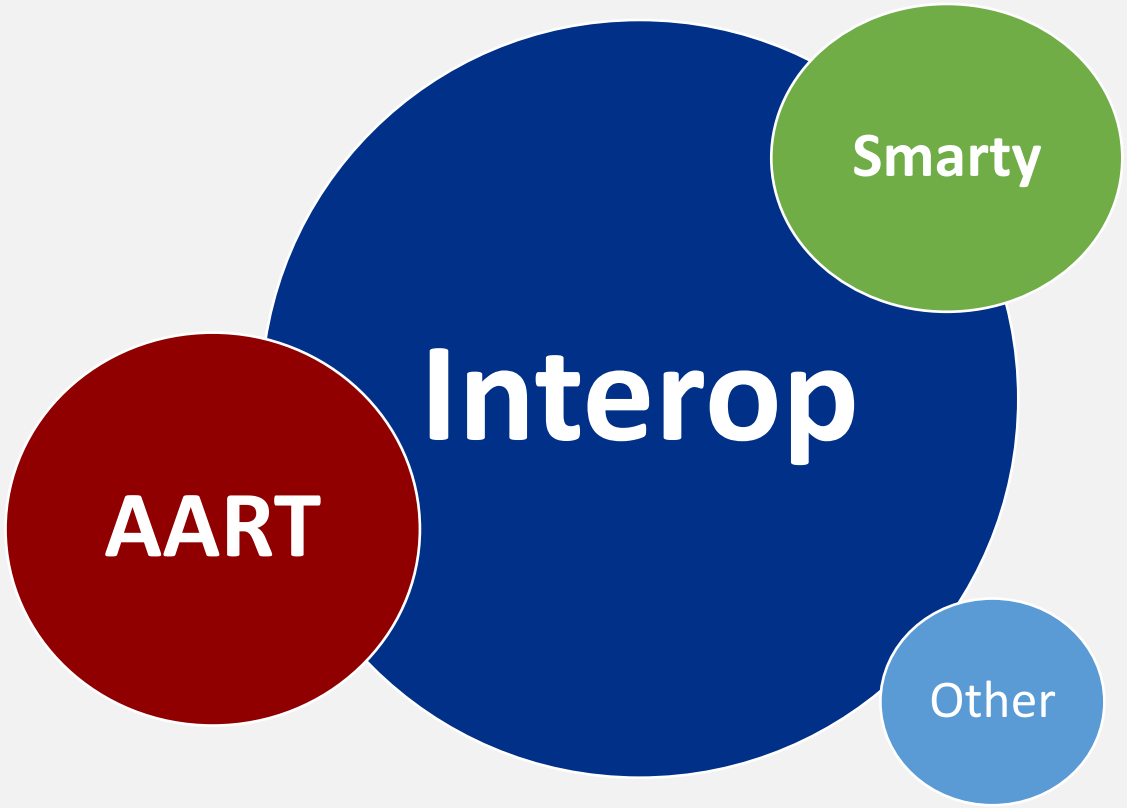


Areas of Need for Technical Assistance

Texas AIRA TA Requests by Category



Texas Areas of Need for Technical Assistance



IIS Replacement April 2017

- Dealing with Post Go-Live Issues
- Transition to new IIS vendor support

Lack of Web Services Knowledge

- Staff Turnover
- Little/No IT Support

Texas Consent Requirements

- Does not align with national standards
- EHRs unable to conform to Texas standard

No Providers onboarded < 2018

Texas IIS Bidirectional Timeline

2018

- BiDX IG Draft
- AIRA TA Review of IG
- BiDX IG Revisions
- BiDX IG Approved
- 50 Orgs ROI

2019

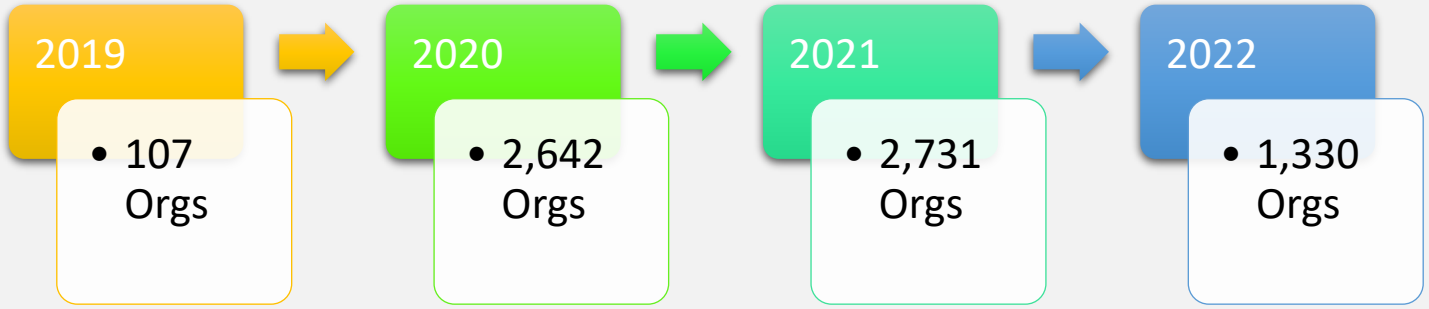
- Beta sites selected
- Created BiDX Resources
- Created Training Guides
- Refined Onboard Process

2020

- Formal Declaration of Readiness for BiDX 2021
- 4 DX Webinars
- AIRA EHR Vendor – Texas Collaboration Consent via HL7

Impact of Technical Assistance

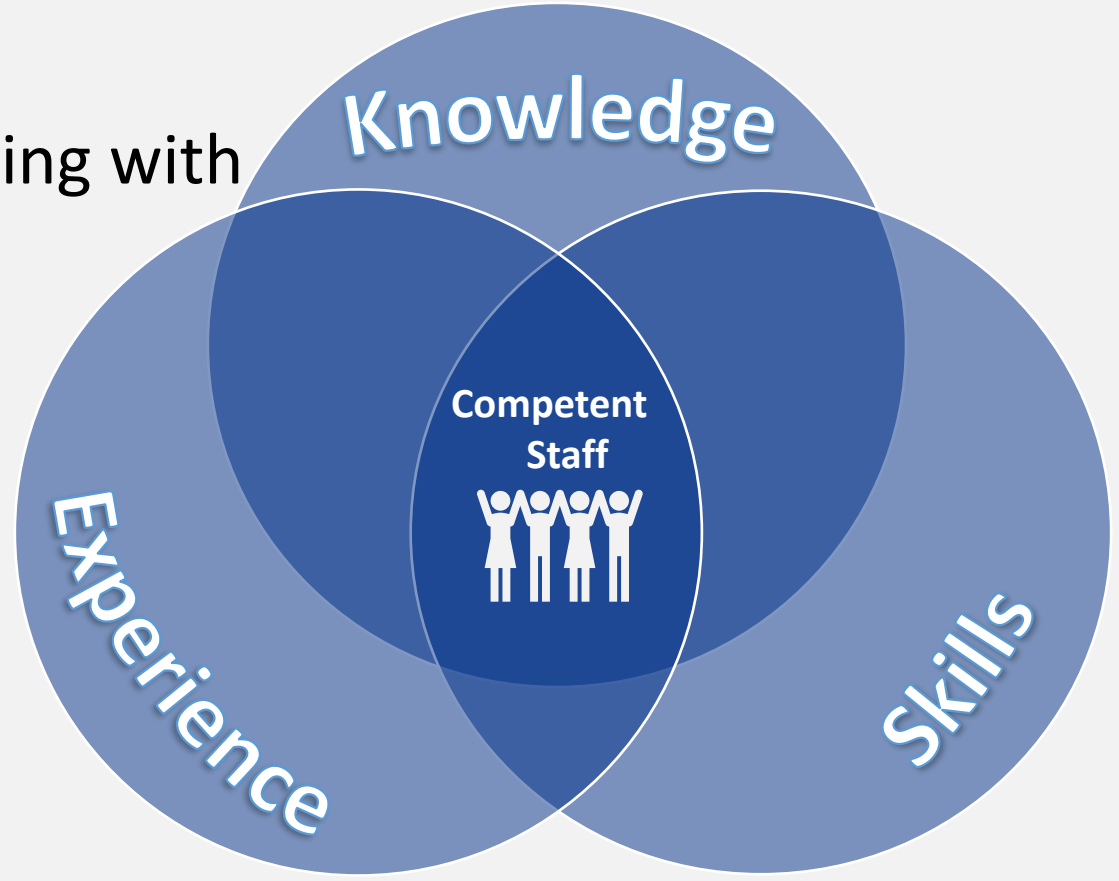
Impacts of AIRA Technical Assistance



- Onboarding Consensus-Based Recommendations (November 2018)
- Assistance with AART Assessments from AIRA
- EHR Monthly Community Meetings with Texas IIS Interoperability Team
  - “A Texas Communication Story”, AIRA Snapshot June 2021, Issue 90
- Development of Resources and Training Webinars
- Numerous Staff Taking AIRA Interoperability Course

Increased Competency of IIS Staff

- Confidence in conducting training webinars
- Ability to handle provider questions
- Enhanced communication while working with providers and EHR vendors
- Development of more effective data exchange guidance
- Increase in productivity



Thank You AIRA!

Thank you!

2023 AIRA National Meeting

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AIRA
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

How AIRA Saved the Day: VT Immunization Registry

Bridget Ahrens, MPH

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Why We Reached Out

- AIRA has long provided support we have appreciated including:
  - IIS basics (Discovery sessions)
  - Best Practice Guides
  - Repository
  - AART
  - MIROW
  - We ask them LOTS of questions!!

Prep Work is Key

- Get the right people there
    - Central IT support

- Develop a plan to focus on the right topics (AIRA charter)
    - Collaborate with AIRA to pull this together
    - Priority list of IT Development task – does order of planning make sense?
    - AART tool – are we meeting national standards for certification?
    - Functional Standards – what are we missing?

Prep Work is Key

- **Functional Standards – what are we missing?**

17.0	***The IIS supports immunization program activities during a public health emergency according to the jurisdiction's public health emergency plan.***	**STATUS**
17.1	The IIS leverages existing inventory, provider, and vaccine administration functionality to support public health emergency response.	✓
17.2	The IIS supports one or more strategies for rapid patient look-up as well as rapid data entry and submission, while maintaining data quality.	✓
17.3	The IIS supports the use of existing IIS data elements and functionality for capturing data by CDC-defined priority groups.	no current functionality (or definitions)
17.4	The IIS supports data generation for federal reporting requirements.	✓
17.5	The IIS supports the administration and tracking of, and reminder and recall for, adjuvanted vaccines.	needs TBD
	GOAL THREE: Support and inform stakeholder efforts to improve immunization rates.	
18.0	***The IIS provides predefined and ad hoc assessment and coverage reports that users can generate without assistance from the IIS.***	**STATUS**
18.1	The IIS produces Assesses IQIP assessments that adhere to published CDC operational and technical guidelines.	current report needs revision
18.2	The IIS assists with identification of under-immunized populations.	✓
18.3	The IIS enables immunization stakeholders to generate vaccination coverage assessments for populations they serve (e.g., schools, health plans, health departments).	✓

What Does Technical Assistance Look Like?

- Planning meeting, charter
- Weekly meetings with development team
- In person site visit with AIRA and CDC
- Follow-up meetings

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Outcome Measures

- Central IT acknowledged and appreciated the technical HL7 know-how AIRA can provide.
- Program Staff appreciated the perspective on, and guidance re enhancement prioritization.
- AIRA provided Summary Notes and Action Items to assist in long term planning for IIS development.

From the Big Picture…

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…to the Fine Print

The team reviewed the fields and requested recommendations for the ACKs to use.

- Missing Administered Units: W to accept/ignore
- MVX Code: W to accept/ignore. Leave as blank and do NOT turn it to Other.
- NK1-2.1+2.2: W to accept/ignore; develop monitoring process, provide education to determine issues in provider workflow if these errors continue.
- NK1-3: Map to Other, accept message and send W.
- PID 13-6: VT does not require phone number. Recommendation is a W. If the field is not required, and the format/message isn't correct, accept and change to blank/ignore.

Error	Description / Examples	Field	Vendor	Sites	Scope - 6 month time period [8/15/22 - 2/15/23]
Missing Administered Units	Amount being sent in RXA-6 and units field is blank	RXA-7	multiple	multiple	136 tickets (some with multiple records affected)
MVX Code Errors	Invalid manufacturer codes being sent	RXA-17.1	multiple	multiple	99 tickets (some with multiple records affected)
Missing Names in Next of Kin field	Either first or last name or both names are missing	NK1-2.1+2.2	Allscripts, eCW, Epic	multiple	66 tickets (some with multiple records affected)

Successes

- For the first time, Central IT had opportunity to speak with national experts from the IIS world.
- IT got answers to questions large and small re HL7.
- Developed a plan for prioritizing ongoing enhancements and capacity.

Photo credit: Computer Network Clip Art - Cliparts.co

Challenges

- In Person meeting important for gaining understanding of team and specific challenges.

- CDC advisor was not able to participate in person, and this made it more challenging.