



SNAPSHOTS

IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY NEWS *from the* AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION (AIRA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear IIS partners,

Happy spring! Hopefully, this finds most of you enjoying slightly warmer weather and longer days of light than during the winter months. We are excited to share the first *SnapShots* edition of the year with you. This edition highlights the usefulness of Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART) Clinics. For those of you who have ever read an AART report and thought, "What does this mean?" or "What do I do now?"—the AART Clinics are what you've been missing. These in-person clinics are offered yearly at the AIRA National Meeting and provide an opportunity to dive deep into your AART results with technical and subject matter experts, ideally equipping you with actionable next steps as follow-up. AART Clinics have quickly become a favorite attraction of the AIRA National Meeting, and this year's national gathering will be no exception.

This edition also includes an incredibly useful resource from the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)—the immunization information system (IIS) Procurement Toolkit—and some thoughts on rightsizing security in public health information systems. Solicitation and procurement of any IT system can be painful, overly complex, and burdensome. PHII's toolkit provides 23 different templates to help jurisdictions better navigate the challenges of IIS procurement. Having gone through a massive IIS solicitation and migration more than 13 years ago, I wish this resource had existed then! It's far better to learn from others than reinvent the wheel.

Finally, we are quickly approaching the AIRA 2024 National Meeting scheduled for May 7–9 in Orlando, Florida! AIRA received an incredible amount of interest from potential presenters through the abstract submission process. Thanks to AIRA staff, a thoughtfully crafted agenda has been drafted delivering high-quality programming to all attendees.

Continued on page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	1
THE JOURNEY TO AART CLINICS	3
PLANNING EFFECTIVELY FOR IIS PROCUREMENT	4
THE TECH CORNER	5

Welcome to *SnapShots*, the American Immunization Registry Association's newsletter about the progress, best practices, and accomplishments of immunization information systems (IIS) across the country. We invite you to share news about your IIS. Email us at info@immregistries.org with information about a successful programmatic or technical innovation, major accomplishment, or milestone that your IIS has reached.



SNAPSHOTS

IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY NEWS *from the* AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION (AIRA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Continued from page 1*

Joining us in Orlando as keynote speaker is Rachel Montañez, a recognized career and burnout expert and trusted advisor to some of the world's most powerful companies. Early-bird registration closes March 31, and general registration closes April 30. I always walk away from the AIRA National Meeting feeling refreshed, optimistic, and ready to bring more IIS innovation back to my program. I hope to see you all there!

I always walk away from the AIRA National Meeting feeling refreshed, optimistic, and ready to bring more IIS innovation back to my program.

Best,

Heather Roth, MA

Immunization Branch Chief, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
AIRA Board President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	1
THE JOURNEY TO AART CLINICS	3
PLANNING EFFECTIVELY FOR IIS PROCUREMENT	4
THE TECH CORNER	5

Welcome to *SnapShots*, the American Immunization Registry Association's newsletter about the progress, best practices, and accomplishments of immunization information systems (IIS) across the country. We invite you to share news about your IIS. Email us at info@immregistries.org with information about a successful programmatic or technical innovation, major accomplishment, or milestone that your IIS has reached.



THE JOURNEY TO AART CLINICS

In the mystical realm of IIS, there exists an annual pilgrimage to the Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART) Clinic at the AIRA National Meeting.

Here, intrepid IIS staffers driven by an insatiable determination to achieve validation in all areas of the Measurement and Improvement (M&I) initiative engage in personalized, one-on-one discussions about their M&I results with AIRA's technical and subject matter experts. These enchanting clinics foster open conversations about challenges, best practices, and targeted, actionable steps to improve IIS alignment with Functional Standards.

An IIS staffer who journeyed to the past year's AART Clinic in San Diego shared, "I love AART meetings... AART is a big onion, and there is a lot to uncover and delve into." At the meaningful gathering in San Diego, AIRA offered 47 sessions, attracting 40 jurisdictions with a diverse mix of new and seasoned attendees. The clinics provided a stage for discussions on data quality improvement strategies, new content areas like Data at Rest (DAR), and an overview of M&I, encapsulating the very essence of the IIS community's collaborative spirit. Ninety-two percent of those who embarked upon the AART Clinic pilgrimage in 2023 found the clinics to be "very informative" in understanding M&I results, while an impressive 95% expressed a likelihood to recommend this mystical experience to their colleagues.

For those who missed the chance to join the enchantment at the AIRA 2023 National Meeting, we extend an invitation to request a virtual AART clinic. The link to this virtual portal is a key to unlocking the treasure trove of IIS mastery: <https://www.immregistries.org/request-technical-assistance>. And fear not, registration for this year's annual AART Clinic pilgrimage at the AIRA 2024 National Meeting in Orlando, Florida, will be available later this spring!

In San Diego, AIRA offered 47 sessions, attracting 40 jurisdictions with a diverse mix of new and seasoned attendees.

*- Submitted by Alexandra Hayes, MA, and Tesha Lucas, MA,
American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)*



PLANNING EFFECTIVELY FOR IIS PROCUREMENT

Earlier this spring, the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) hosted a series of webinars on procurement for IIS.

These webinars centered on [PHII's IIS Procurement Toolkit](#), a free resource that walks readers through the steps of planning, solicitation, and contracting. The guidance in this toolkit can help IIS staff and immunization programs avoid what could be frustrating, time-consuming, and even costly missteps in the procurement process. The purpose of this toolkit is to empower IIS teams to adhere to best practices in the procurement process, which in turn enables teams to meet their IIS performance and sustainability goals down the line.

The guidance in this toolkit can help IIS staff and immunization programs avoid what could be frustrating, time-consuming, and even costly missteps in the procurement process.

We encourage IIS teams to work with their jurisdiction's CDC subject matter expert for further guidance on how best to leverage the [IIS Procurement Toolkit](#). This toolkit and all of PHII's other trainings and resources may be found on [PHII's IIS Learning Hub](#). Send any questions or follow-up comments to iis@phii.org.

PHII is also planning more innovative IIS technical assistance (TA) and workforce development resources for the coming year, including new e-learning courses on IIS topics. PHII is grateful for ongoing collaborations with CDC, AIRA, and jurisdictional IIS teams from around the United States in developing and refining these tools. Make sure you're signed up to receive [PHII's email updates](#) to stay informed of new resources and TA opportunities.

If you're attending the AIRA 2024 National Meeting, don't miss connecting with PHII at our booth in the exhibitor hall! We'll see you in Orlando.

- Submitted by Piper Hale, MPH, Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)

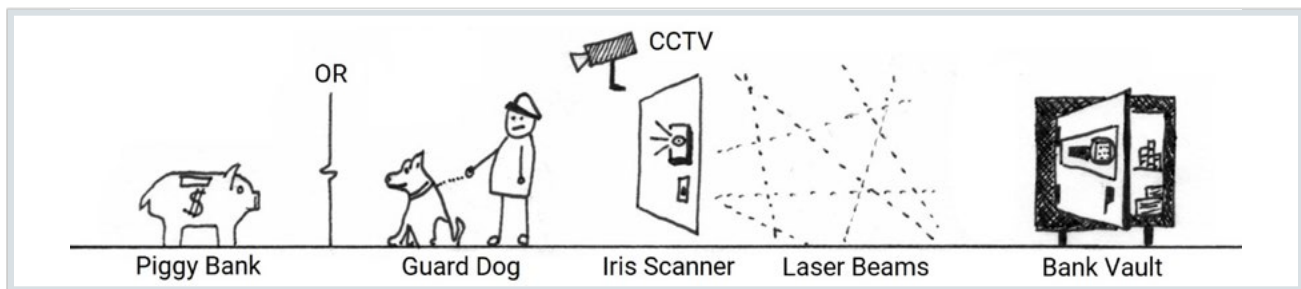


TECH CORNER

PROVIDING PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS WITH PRAGMATIC EXPLANATIONS OF TECHNICAL CONCEPTS

FROM PIGGY BANKS TO BANK VAULTS: RIGHTSIZING SECURITY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

Think back to when you had a piggy bank as a child—a simple yet effective way to save those coins for a special treat. Now, as an adult, surely you have progressed to banks with far more sophisticated security to store your valuables. It's quite a leap, but there's a lesson here.



The piggy bank was just right for its job, despite being less secure than a bank vault. For a child, the piggy bank, under the watchful eye of parents, provided an appropriate balance between risk and function. While more sophisticated, banks still aren't impregnable and therefore require the watchful eye and backup of cybersecurity and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to provide a larger yet appropriate balance between risk and function.

Key insight: Appropriately size security in public health systems.

This analogy is a gentle nudge toward thinking critically about security. **When it comes to state health information systems, it's about choosing security that is effective yet pragmatic.** A good example of this was a public health system (now no longer in operation) which required two separate user login steps: passwords that changed monthly and a physical token. However, this system held very little sensitive data and had robust mechanisms to prevent misuse of that data. The extra security made the system hard for the community to use, which was a factor in the failure of the project.

What is the benefit of appropriately sizing security in public health systems?

Overly complex security for public health systems can be as counterproductive as a child facing bank-like security to save a dollar—it's likely to discourage use and diminish functionality. In essence, public health professionals should seek a balanced approach: robust security that's suitably scaled to the data and context at hand, ensuring systems are not just secure but also accessible and efficient. By rightsizing security, you ensure that your public health systems are as functional and welcoming as they are protected.

- Submitted by Nathan Bunker, American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)

The "AIRA Tech Corner" is published as a blog. [Read more](#) on the AIRA website.