

**Additional Questions from Rep. Pete Higgins
Answers from Public Health/Jill Lewis
March 26, 2014**

How many uninsured children still receive vaccines purchased with the federal funds that have been cut since Sen. Stevens left office?

Federal Section 317 vaccine funding to Alaska has declined from \$4.3 million in 2010 to \$700,000 in 2013 and will drop to \$200,000 in 2014. Section 317-purchased vaccine has most recently been allocated to supplement the HB310 funding on select vaccines for 3,000-5,000 uninsured adults or insured adults in rural areas without access to care. None of the Section 317 funds has gone toward uninsured children.

What percentage of children will not be eligible for state supplied vaccine without SB169?

Currently, the state supplies 100% of the vaccine for children age 0-35 months and about 75% of the vaccine for children ages 3 – 18 years. The state does not currently supply any vaccine for fully insured children or adults, or Alaska Native adults seen at tribal facilities. The rest of the vaccine is being supplied by providers who purchase vaccine directly then seek reimbursement from insurers. Without SB169, once the HB310 funding ends June 30, 2015, the state would only supply vaccines for the 50% of the children with remaining federal and state funds. Providers must purchase vaccine themselves for the other 50% of the children and 100% of the adults. this population and seek reimbursement if available.

What is the projected impact without SB169? What groups would be hurt the most?

Without SB169,

- Health care providers would not to receive state-distributed vaccines for all covered patients and would not avoid the financial and administrative burdens of purchasing vaccines and maintaining separate vaccine storage and tracking systems;
- Health insurance plans/health care coverage will not be able to participate in a more efficient, cost-effective vaccination system; and
- The public would not have improved access to the recommended vaccines, which are estimated to lower health care costs considerably (for every \$1 spent on recommended vaccines, approximately \$10 is saved in health care costs).

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