



***Barriers and Facilitators to Immunization Grantees'  
Collection of Immunization and Exemption Data  
for Children Entering Kindergarten***

**Survey Results**

**Presented by:  
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## Project Background

- CDC contract *Strengthening the Evidence Base: Monitoring Vaccination Coverage and Exemptions among Kindergarteners.*
- Ideally, the CDC wants grantees to use consistent methods to collect data that can be used to monitor adherence with the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice)-recommended vaccination schedule to permit state-to-state comparisons.
- Overarching goal of project: To determine what would be necessary for grantees to consistently collect and report immunization and exemption data for kindergarteners.

## Survey Background

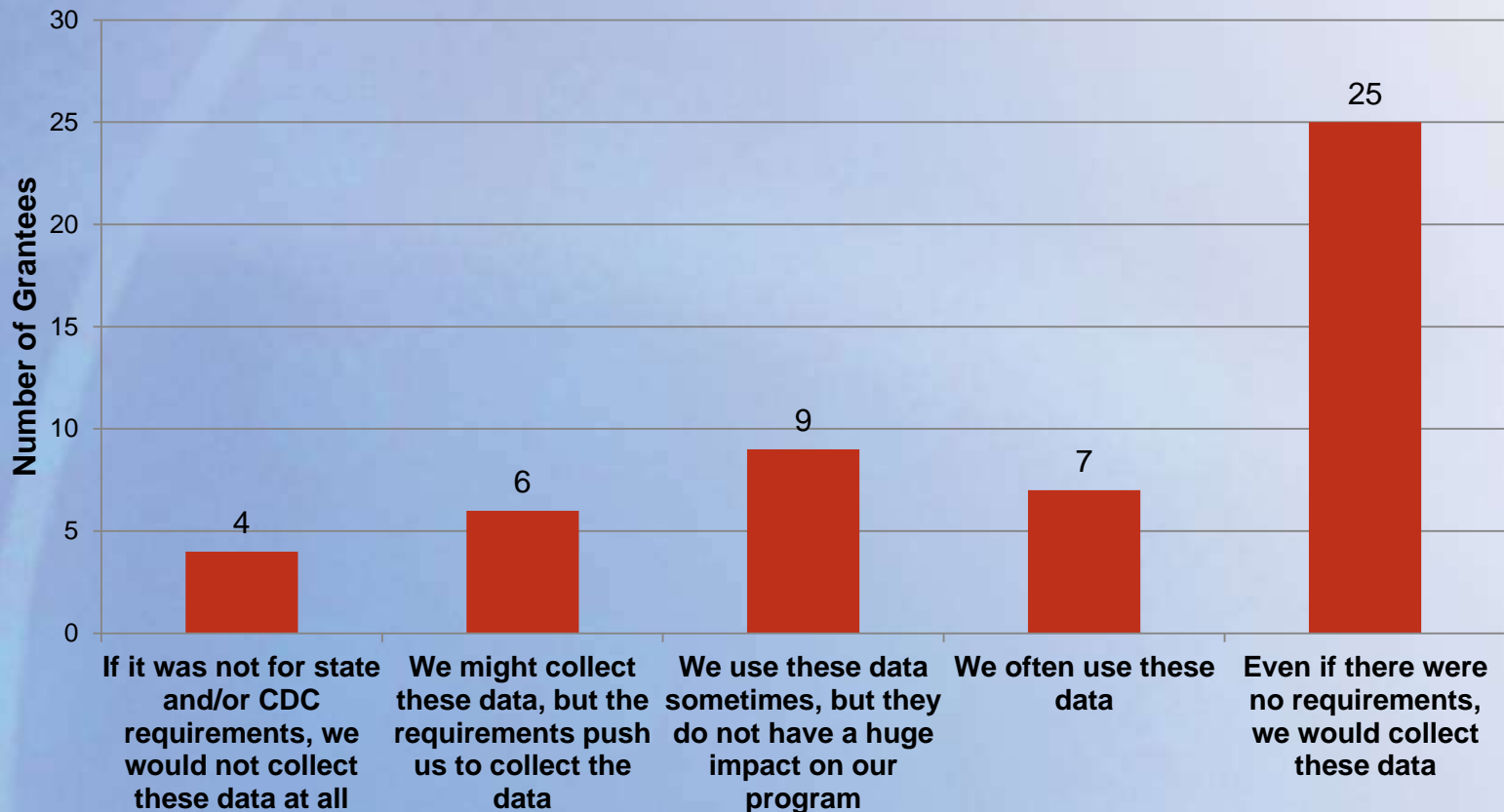
- **Primary goal of survey:** Identify barriers and facilitators to grantees' efforts to collect and report data to monitor immunization and exemptions among kindergarteners
- **Survey Structure:** 56 closed- and open-ended questions answered via 1 hour telephone interview
- **Timing of survey:** Conducted all interviews between July 22 and September 16, 2010
- **Survey participants:**
  - All 50 state grantees – 100% participation!
  - 4 urban-area grantees: Washington, DC; New York City, NY; Houston, TX; and San Antonio, TX (remaining urban grantees did not collect/report school immunization data)

## Survey Topics

- Process for Collecting and Documenting Immunization Data
- Barriers and Facilitators to Collecting Immunization and Exemption Data for Children Entering Kindergarten
- State-to-State Comparisons
- Validity
- Tracking Homeschooled Children
- Exemptions
- Kindergarten Entry Requirements
- Data Use
- Implementation and Enforcement
- Technical Assistance Needs

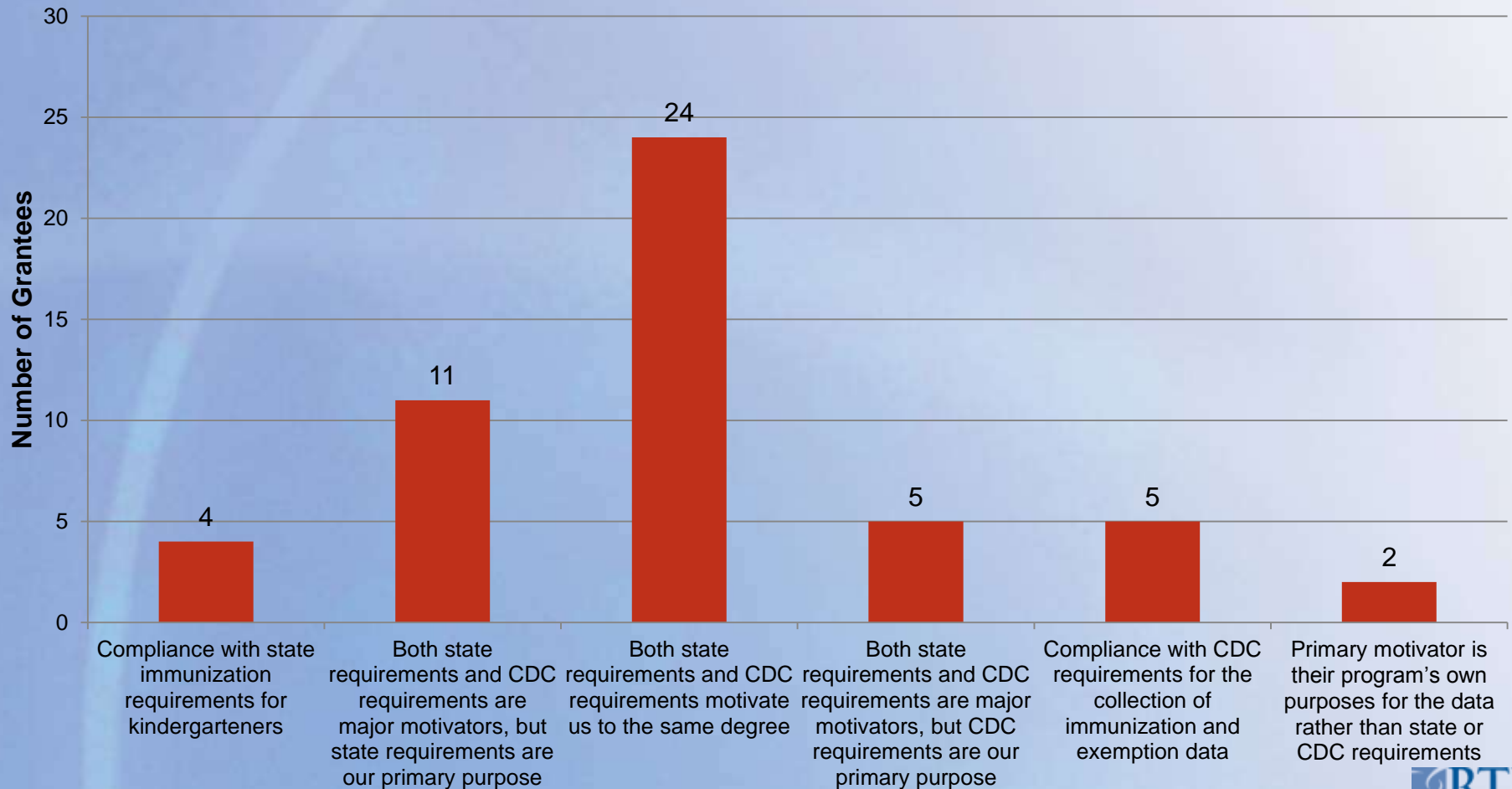
# Importance of Kindergarten Immunization Data to Grantees

Among the range of activities performed by your program, please gauge the importance of collecting and reporting immunization and exemption data for children entering kindergarten?



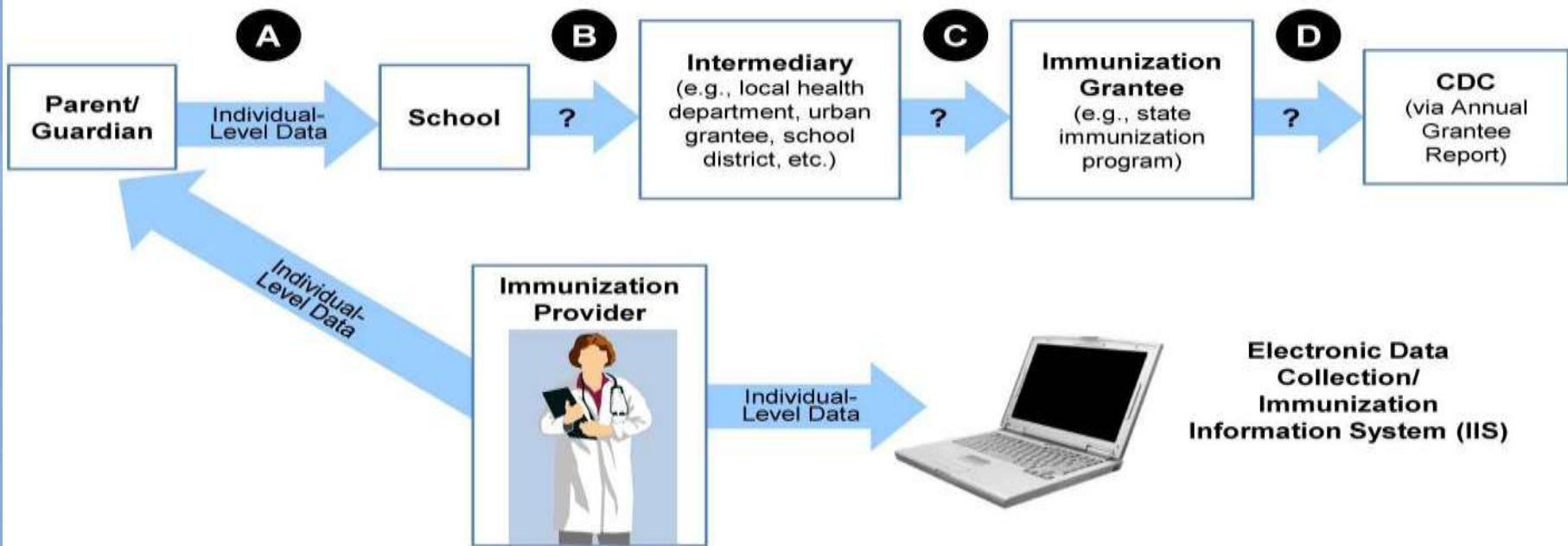
## Primary Purpose for Collecting This Data

Both your state and the CDC have requirements for the collection of immunization and exemption data for children entering kindergarten. What is your program's primary purpose (rationale/motivator) for collecting these data?

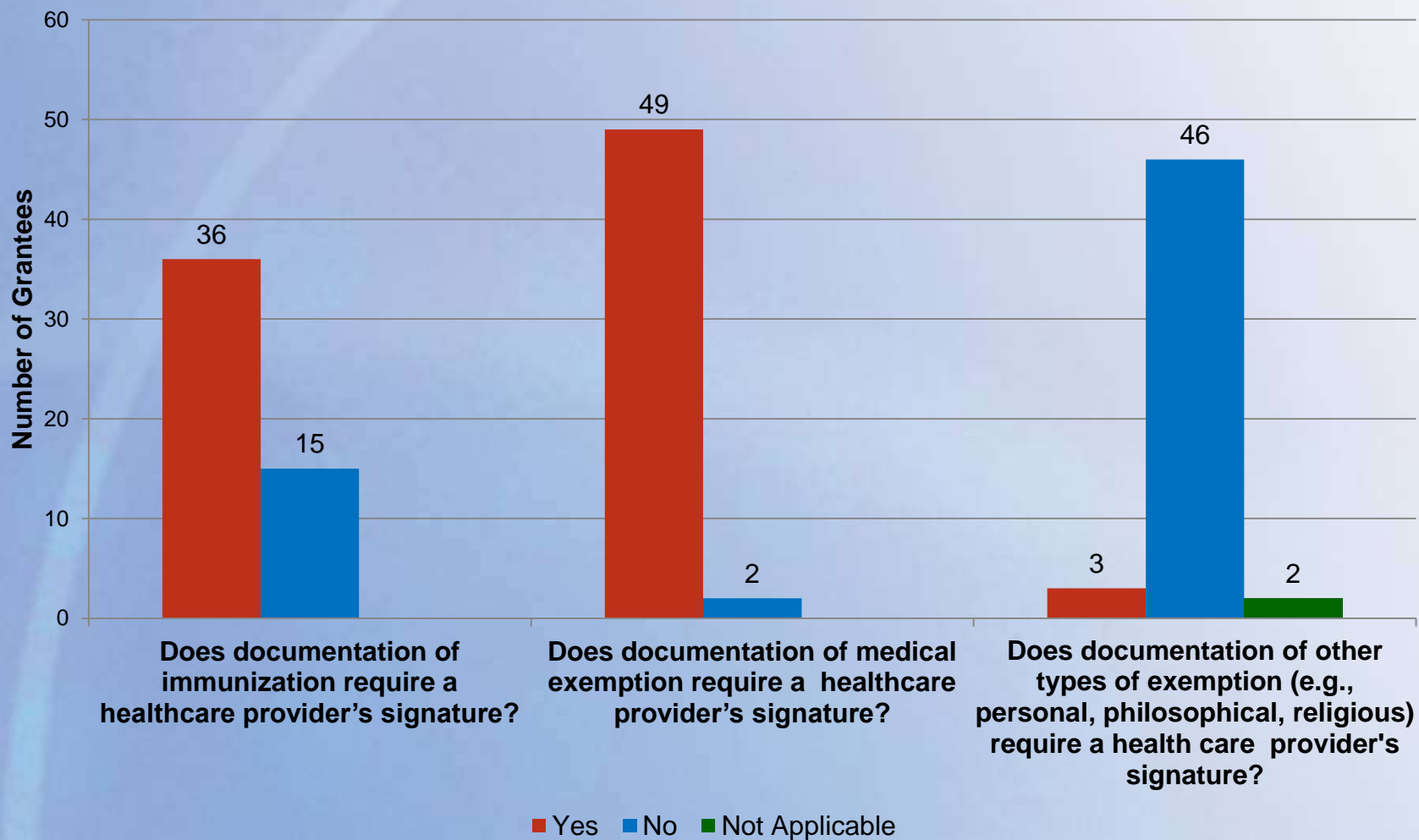


# Schematic of Data Flow

## Immunization Record: Schematic of Data Flow

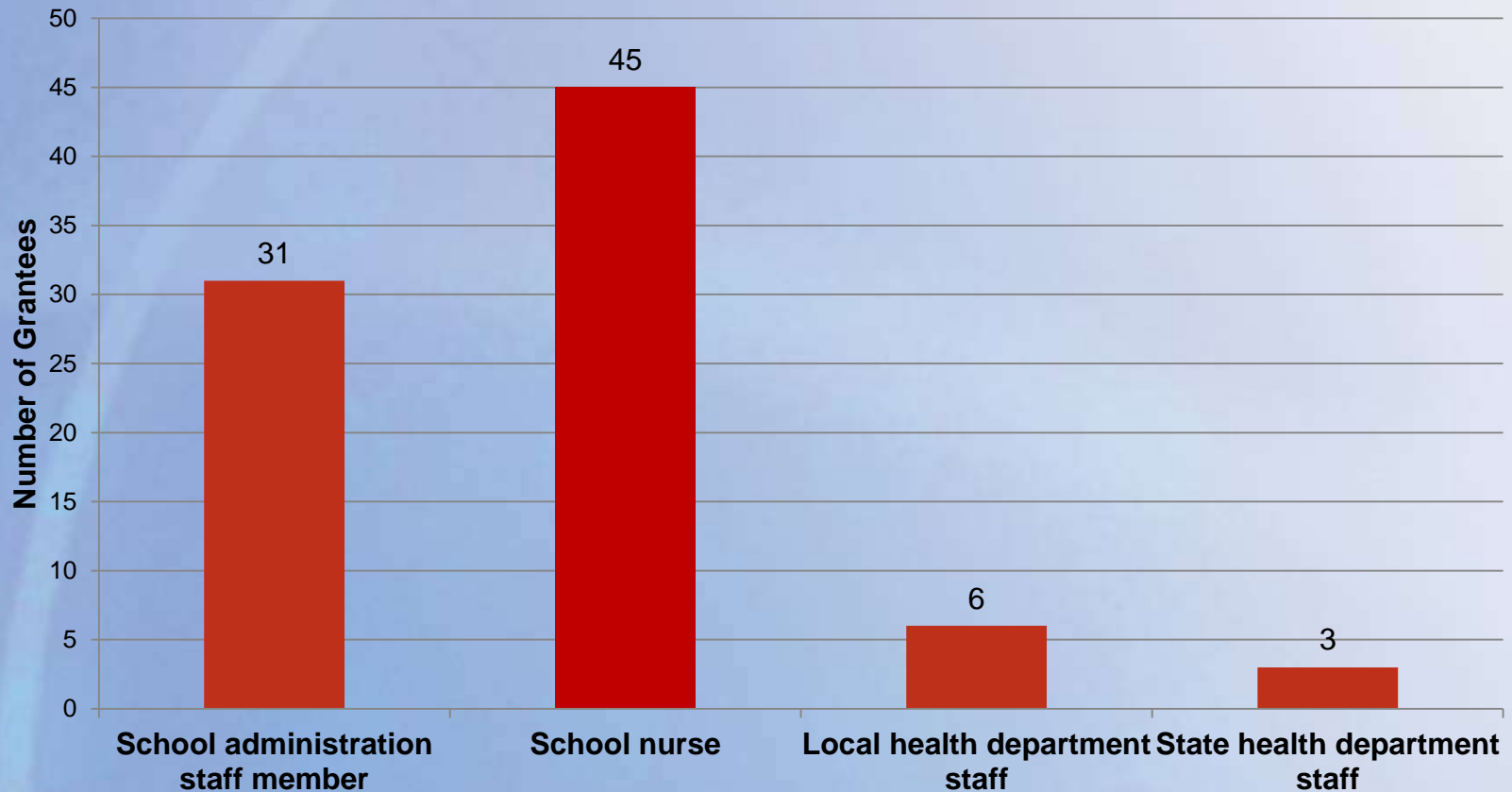


# Provider Signatures on Immunization Documentation



## Data Collection at the Schools

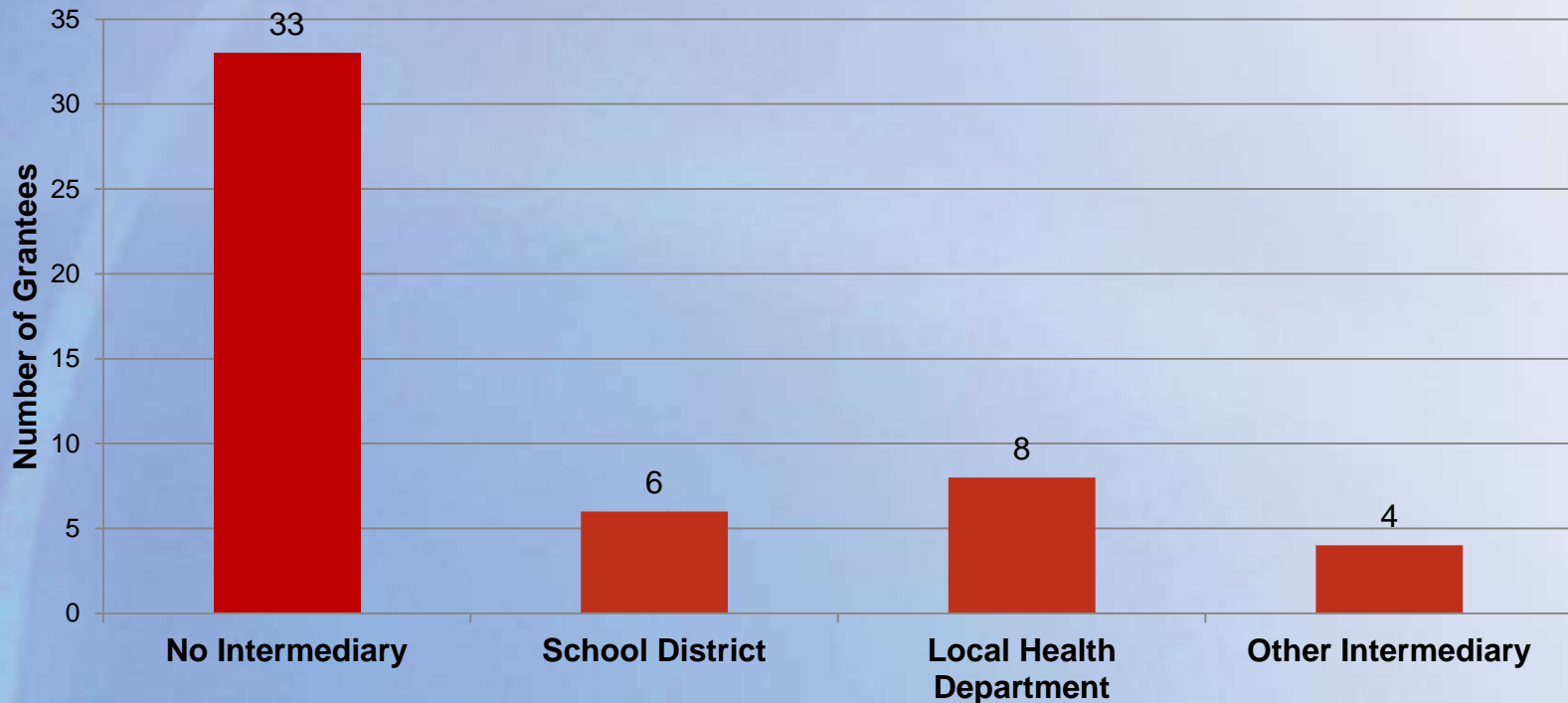
**Who collects the data from the school to transfer the data to the next step (intermediary or grantee)? (Select all that apply)**



\* A total of 49 grantees responded to this question.

## Intermediary Organizations

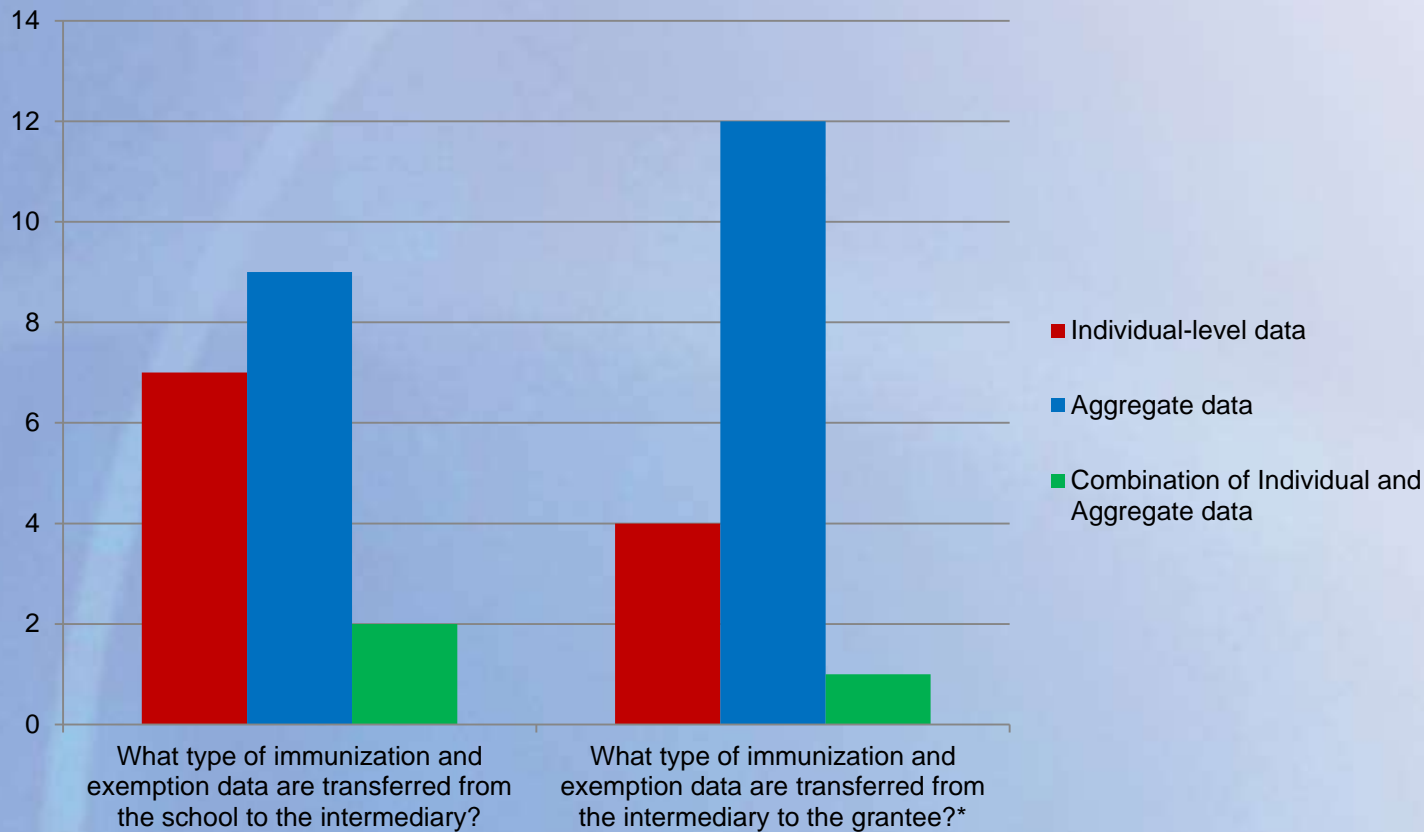
- Are data reported to (or collected by) an intermediary, such as the local health department, urban grantee, school district, etc. the majority of the time?
- If an intermediary is involved the majority of the time, who or what is the intermediary?



*\*In cases in which the use of an intermediary depended on whether the school is public or private, we erred on the side of what happens in public schools since they represent the majority condition.*

# Types of Data Transferred

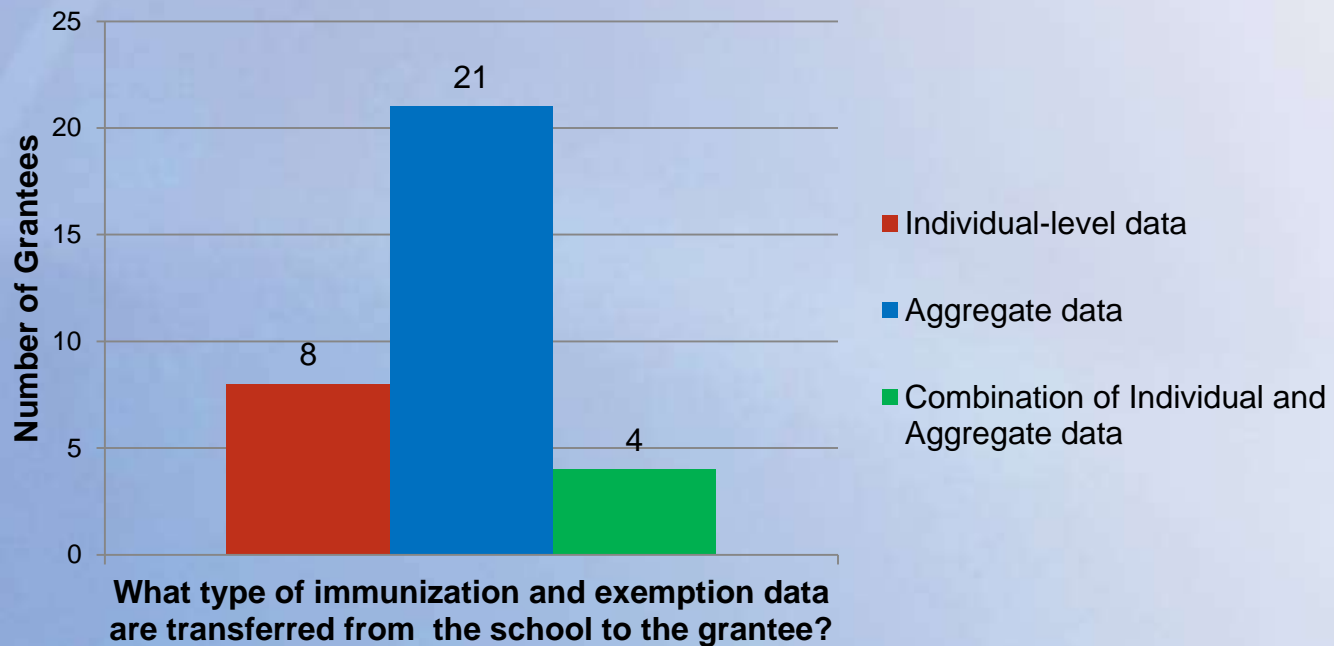
For the **18** grantees with an intermediary:



*\* A total of 17 out of the 18 grantees with intermediaries responded to this question.*

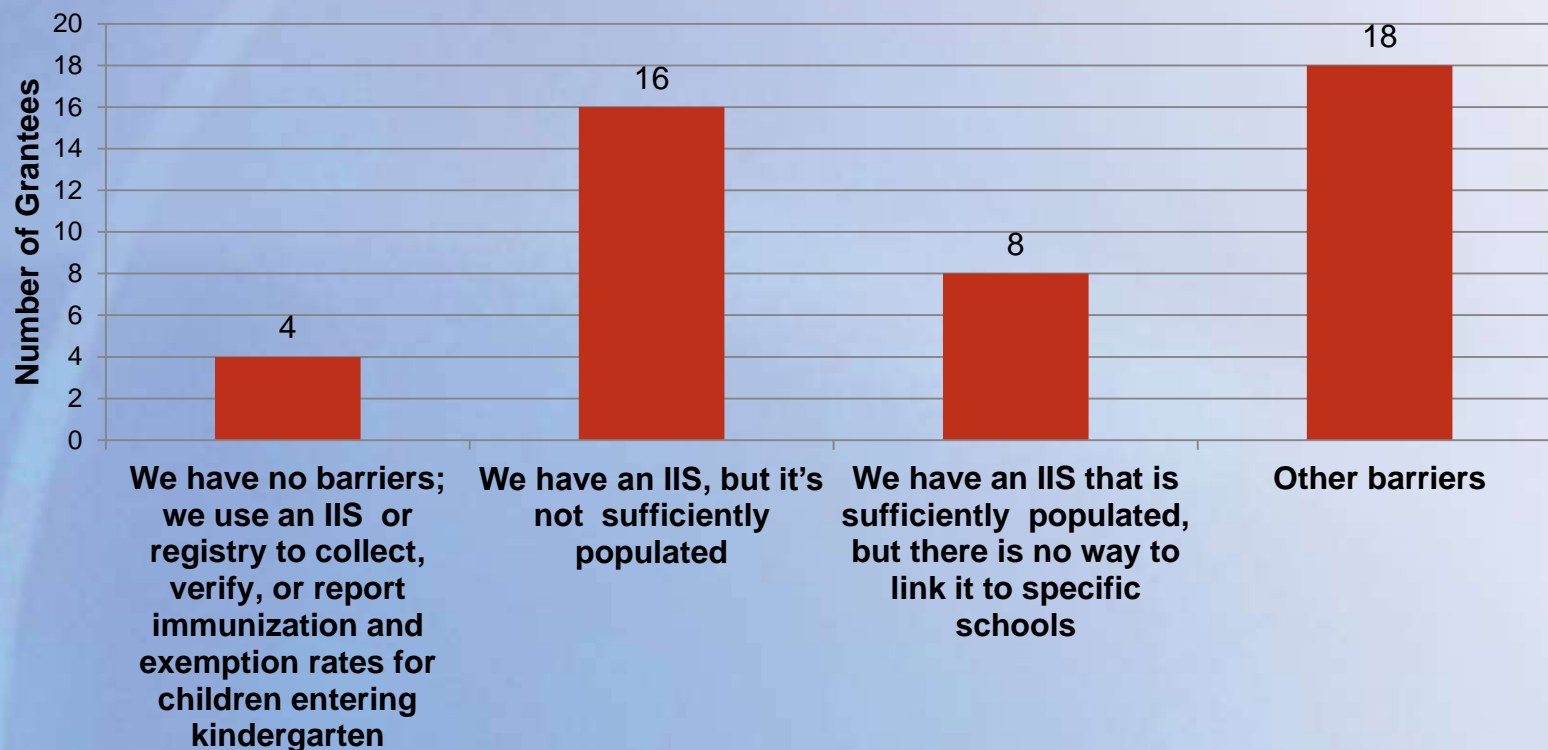
## Types of Data Transferred

For the **33** grantees without an intermediary:



## Barriers to Using Immunization Information Systems

What are the barriers to using an IIS or registry to collect, verify, or report immunization and exemption rates for children entering kindergarten?



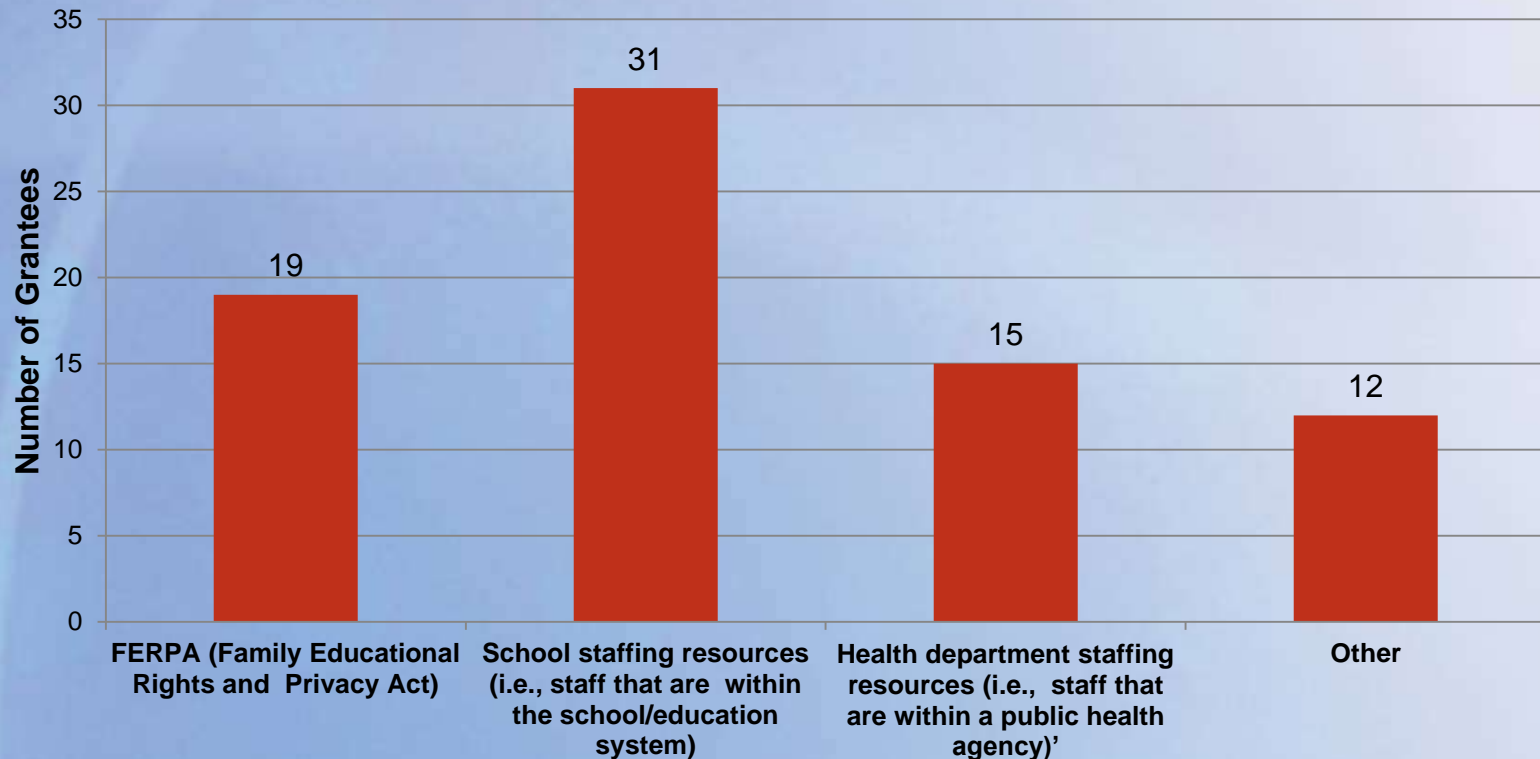
\* A total of 46 grantees responded to this question. 8 of the grantees reporting one of the barriers listed above also described "Other" major barriers they've encountered.

## Other Barriers to Using Immunization Information Systems

- Other commonly reported barriers to using registries or immunizations information systems:
  - FERPA has been interpreted in some states so that immunization data in the educational record cannot be shared outside the educational system, e.g., to an IIS.
  - Schools may have limited (read-only) to IIS.
  - Technical issues with data exchange between providers' electronic medical record systems and/or school immunization tracking systems and the registry/IIS.
  - Absence of exemption information in registry/IIS

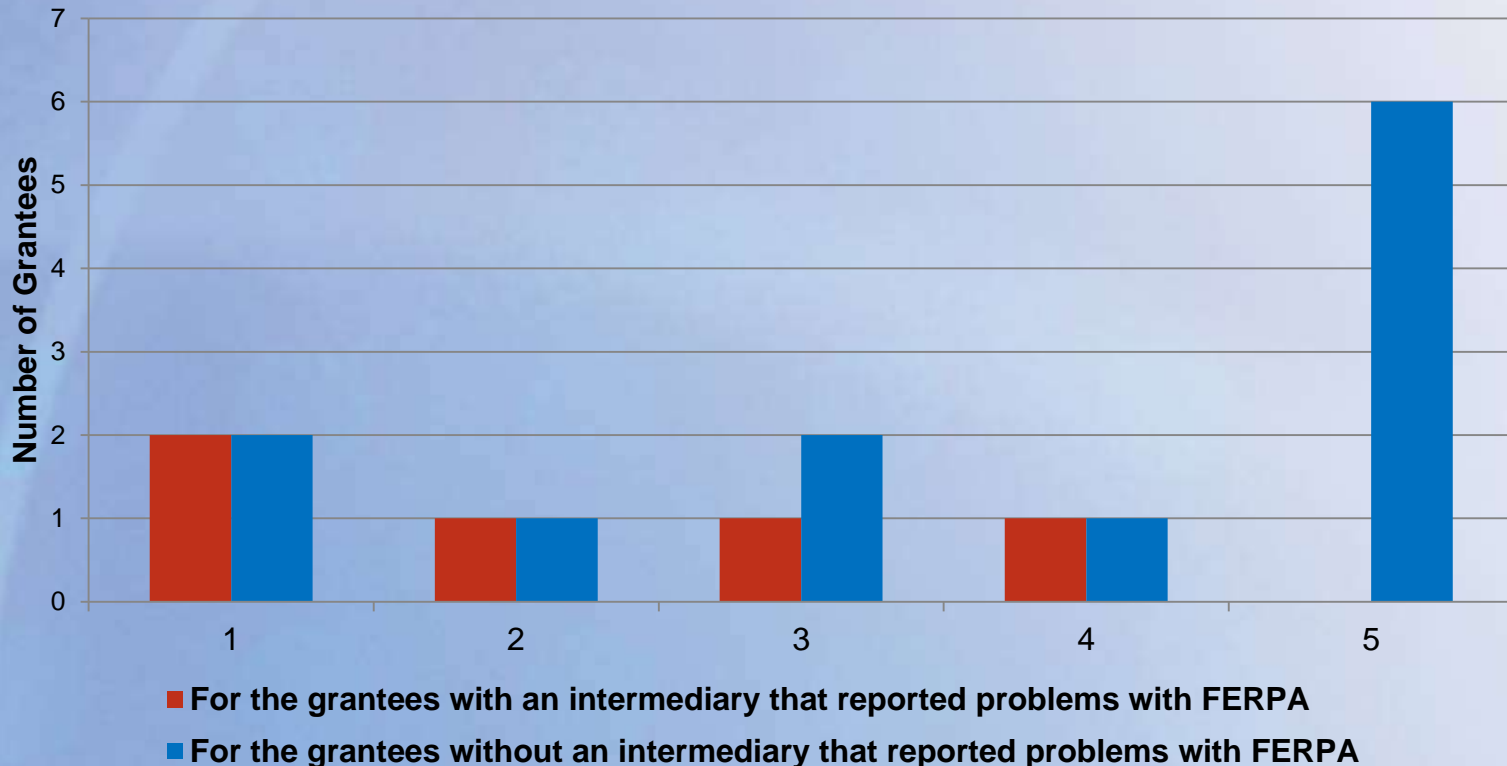
## Main Difficulties

Thinking about the data that are collected from the school, what are the main difficulties or problems you're aware of that impact your program's ability to collect immunization and exemption data for children entering kindergarten?  
(Select all that apply)



## Difficulties with FERPA

You noted that FERPA is a difficulty or problem in getting immunization records from a child's school to an intermediary. Please rate how much difficulty you have experienced related to FERPA on a 1 [Very little difficulty] to 5 [Extremely severe difficulty] rating scale:



\*A total of 17 grantees responded to this question.

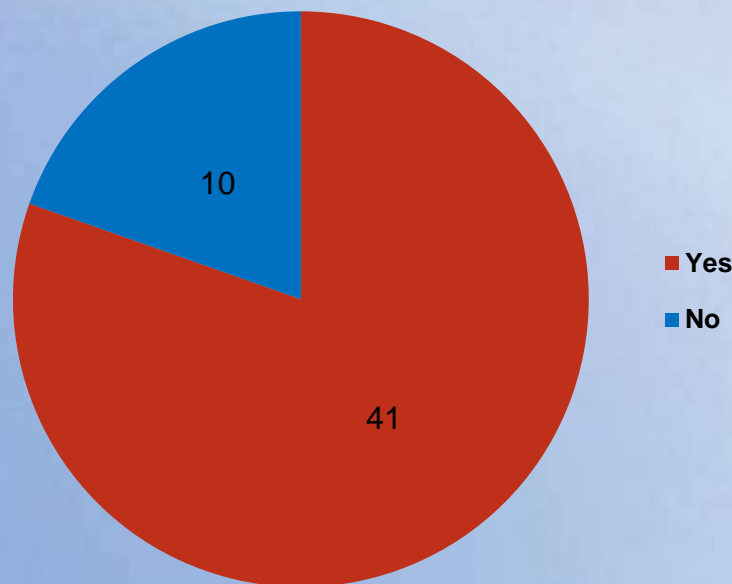
## Sources of Data

- Most grantees submit data from a variety of sources including:
  - Registry
  - Provider
  - Shot card (parent-held record) signed by provider
  - Shot card (parent-held record) *not* signed by provider
- A minority of grantees submit data only from one source:
  - Registry (3 grantees)
  - Provider (4 grantees)
  - Shot card (parent-held record) signed by provider (2 grantees)
  - Shot card (parent-held record) *not* signed by provider (1 grantee)

## Vaccination Status of Exempt Children

- ❖ Q: Do you collect vaccination status for children who have exemption status? (The child may have received most vaccines or may have received all recommended vaccines, but the parent chose to check exemption instead of tracking down the vaccination records.)

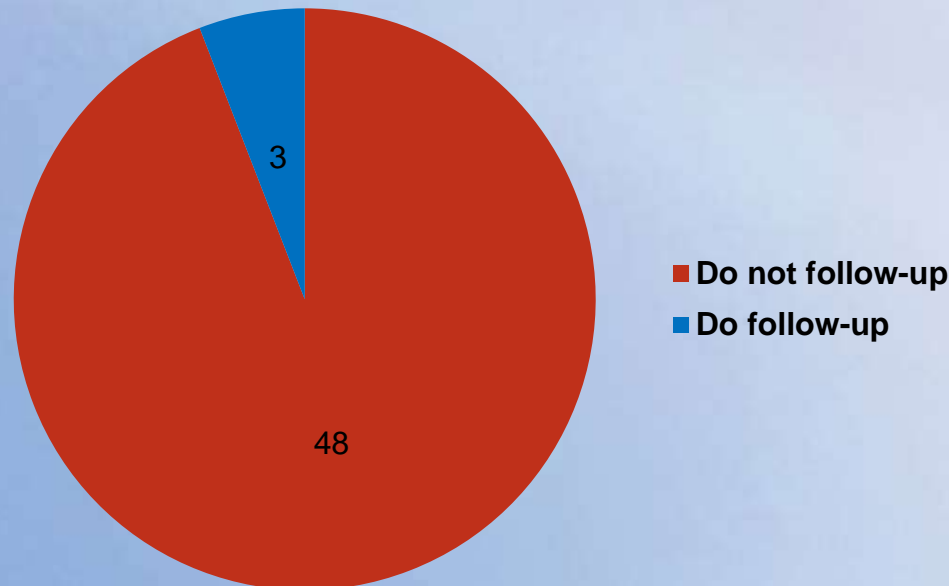
A:



## Follow up with unimmunized children

- ❖ Q: Does your program follow up with unimmunized children? [Probe: Direct contact with parents to encourage compliance? Referral to Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers? Allay concerns regarding vaccine safety?]

A:



## Summary and Conclusion

- Immunization grantees use a variety of means to collect school immunization data.
- The data which are collected are (predominantly) those which are required for state school entry requirements.
- Grantees have varying degrees of control over what data they collect and the methods which they may use.

## Next Steps

- RTI is analyzing qualitative survey data
- RTI will prepare a report presenting the quantitative and qualitative results of this survey by the end of December 2010
- RTI will be conducting follow-up study with up to 10 grantees to obtain a more detailed understanding of data collection approaches

# Acknowledgements

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  - The immunization program managers and their staff who responded to the survey.