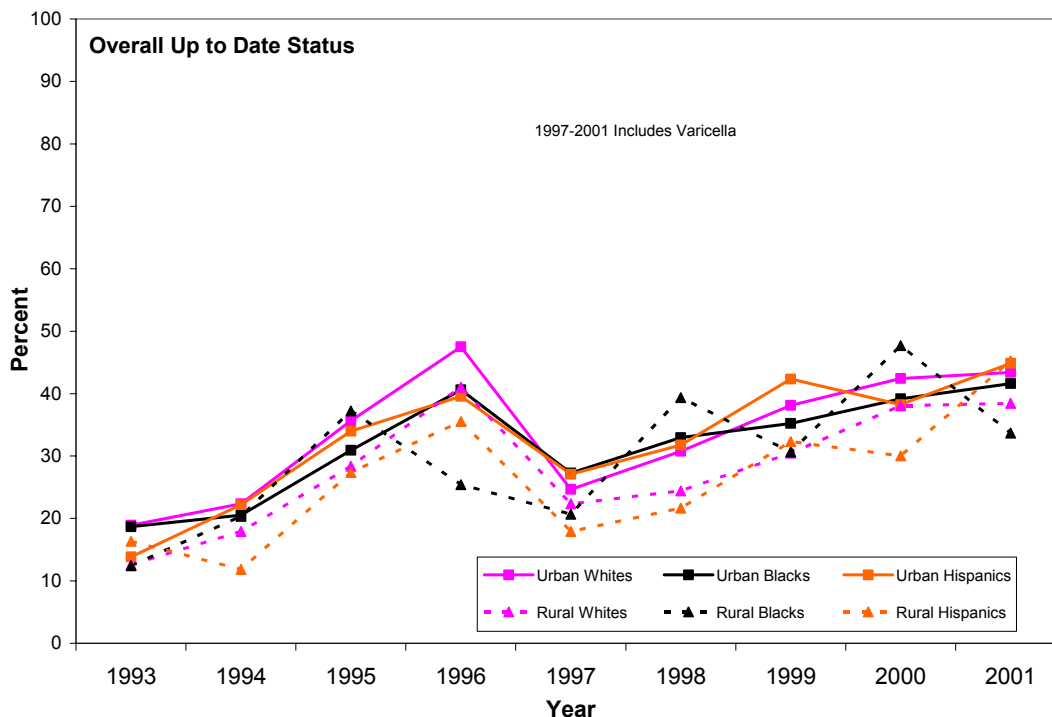


Rural Minority Children's Access to and Timeliness of Immunizations: 1993-2001

The immunization of children against common preventable diseases has been of interest to public health since the first vaccination campaign against polio in the 1960s. Childhood immunizations are accepted as a marker for the quality of health care that children receive and all states now have childhood immunization laws that affect children entering school. The research reported here examined whether rural children aged 3 months – 71 months are keeping up with urban children in the receipt of needed vaccinations.

Findings

- Children living in rural areas were less likely to receive newly recommended vaccines within the first 2 years after introduction of the recommendation.
- There were no significant race-based differences in the percentages of children up to date with their immunizations.
- By 2001, lack of health insurance was the strongest predictor for children not receiving their immunizations in a timely manner.



Percent of children up to date with their Overall immunizations by year, residence area, and race. Population includes all children regardless of whether they had a shot record.

The analysis used 1993-2001 data from the National Health Interview Survey, a nationally representative face-to-face survey. A full copy of the report can be obtained from the SC Rural Health Research Center.