

# A NATIONWIDE ASSESSMENT OF LAWS GOVERNING CONSUMER ACCESS TO STATE IMMUNIZATION REGISTRIES

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# BACKGROUND

- Immunization information systems (IIS) or immunization registries are confidential online databases that store information on vaccine doses administered by providers in a given state or community
- Federally-funded, centralized vaccination registries
- Benefits include: providing patients and parents with accurate, accessible vaccine records and allowing patients to easily access their own vaccination records during emergency situations such as natural disasters when immunity from vaccine-preventable diseases is especially critical

# BACKGROUND

- All 50 states currently have IIS – but states greatly vary in the degree of access consumers have to the stored immunization records
- Some states allowing for direct consumer access via readily-accessible mobile apps, while others only allow providers and health officials to access the records directly

# OBJECTIVE

- The objective of this survey was to understand how laws and policies governing direct consumers access to IIS vary across states
- This presentation will describe the scope, methods, and results of a national cross-sectional survey of ISS-related laws and policies across all 50 states and will demonstrate how this data relates to state immunization rates

# METHODS

- Legal research was conducted by means of Lexis and Westlaw legal databases, state legislature websites, and state health department websites
- Queries utilized include variable search terms used to elicit laws and policies applicable to state IIS



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# RELEVANCE

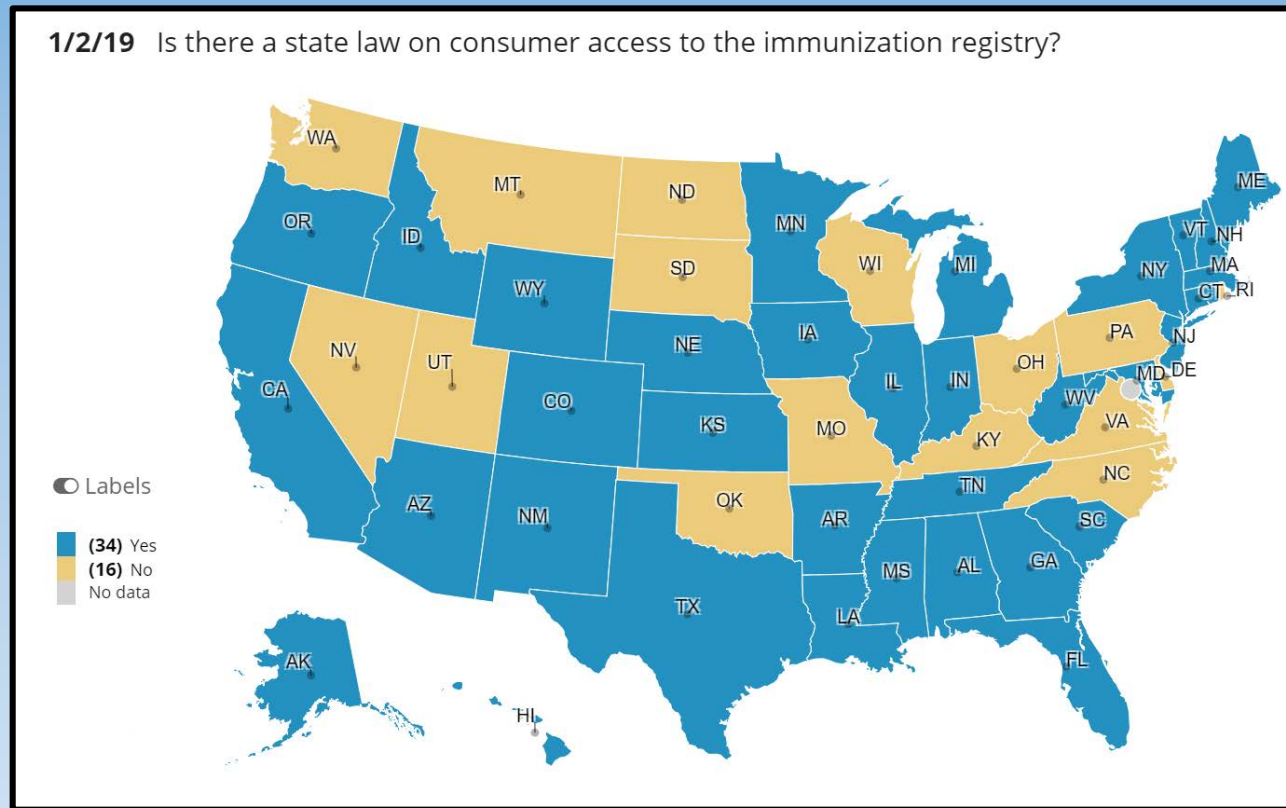
- The data included in this project has not been previously compiled in a systematic method as was done here and provides insight into a critical factor that impacts state immunization rates

# RESULTS

- 34 jurisdictions with some type of law (statute, regulation, or executive policy) addressing consumer access to state immunization registry data were identified
- Of the states that addressed this issue, 24 did so in statute, 9 states addressed this issue through regulations, and 4 states addressed this issue through executive branch policies

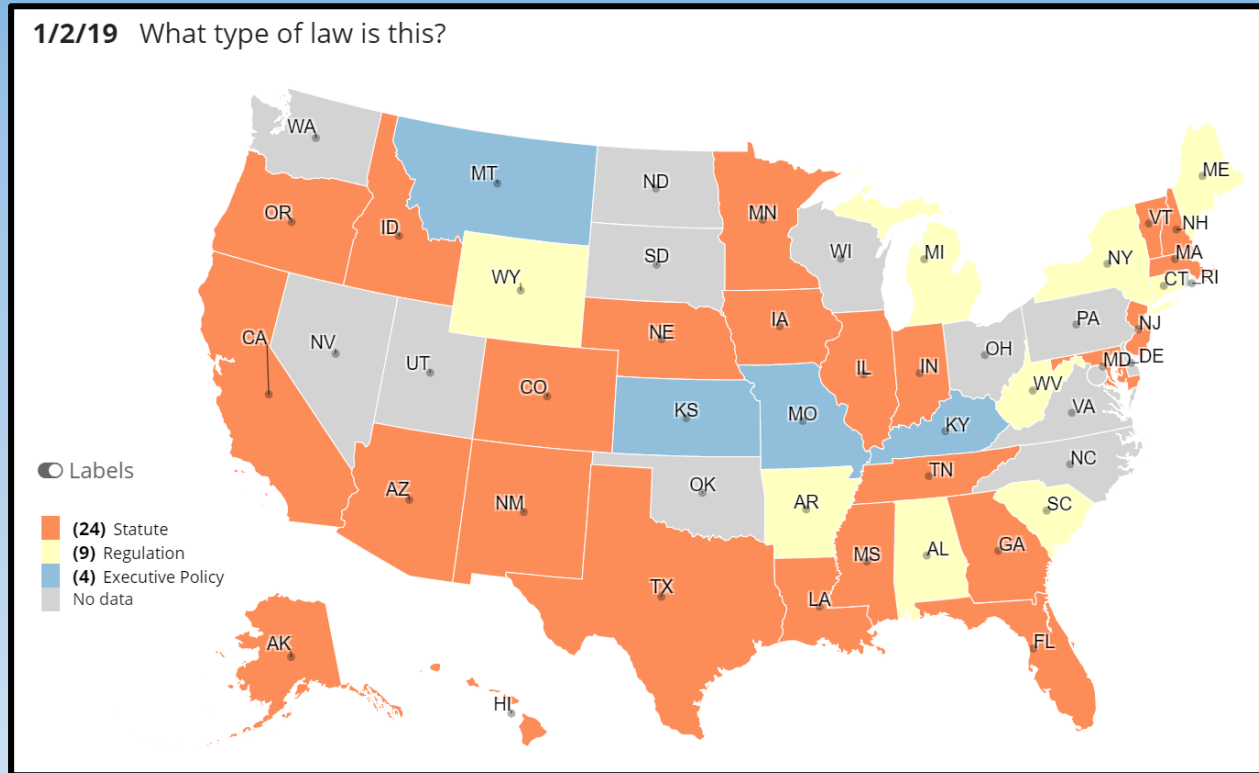


# States which have a law on consumer access to an immunization registry.

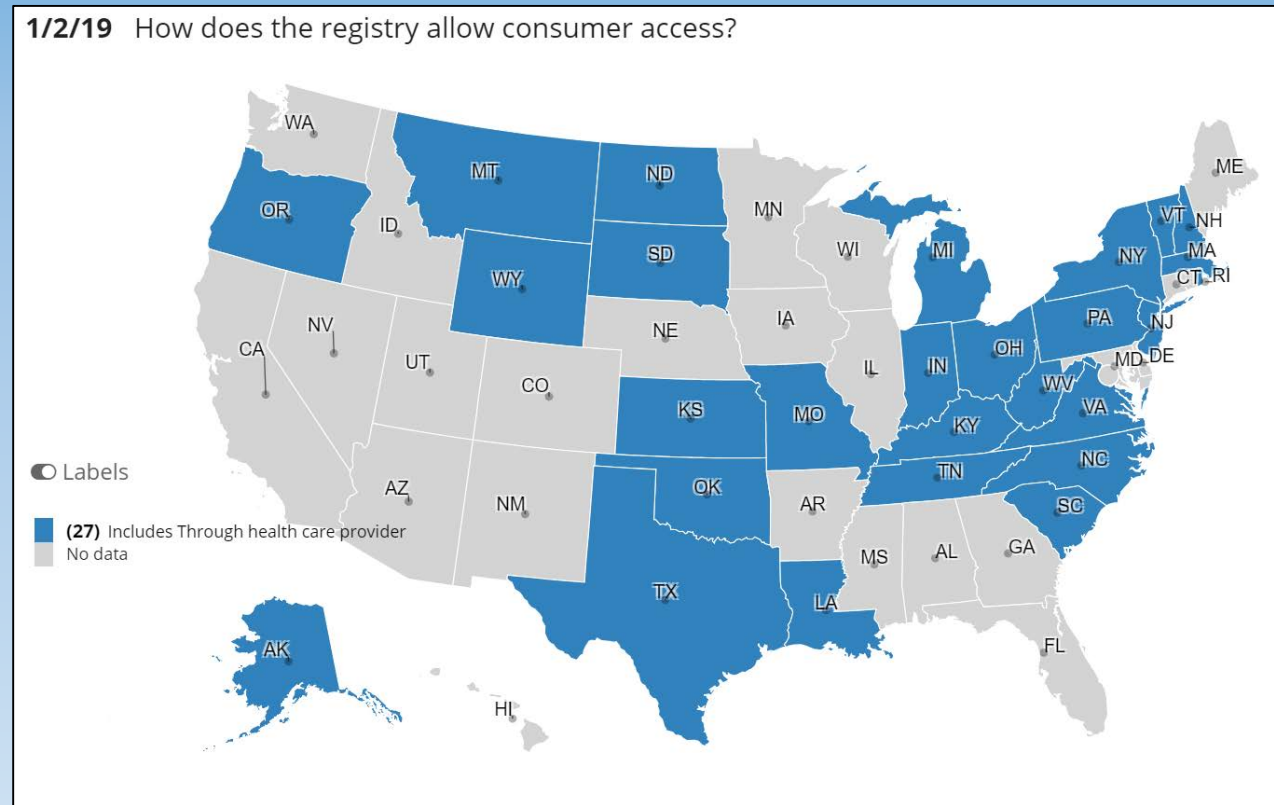


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# Type of state law describing immunization registry access.

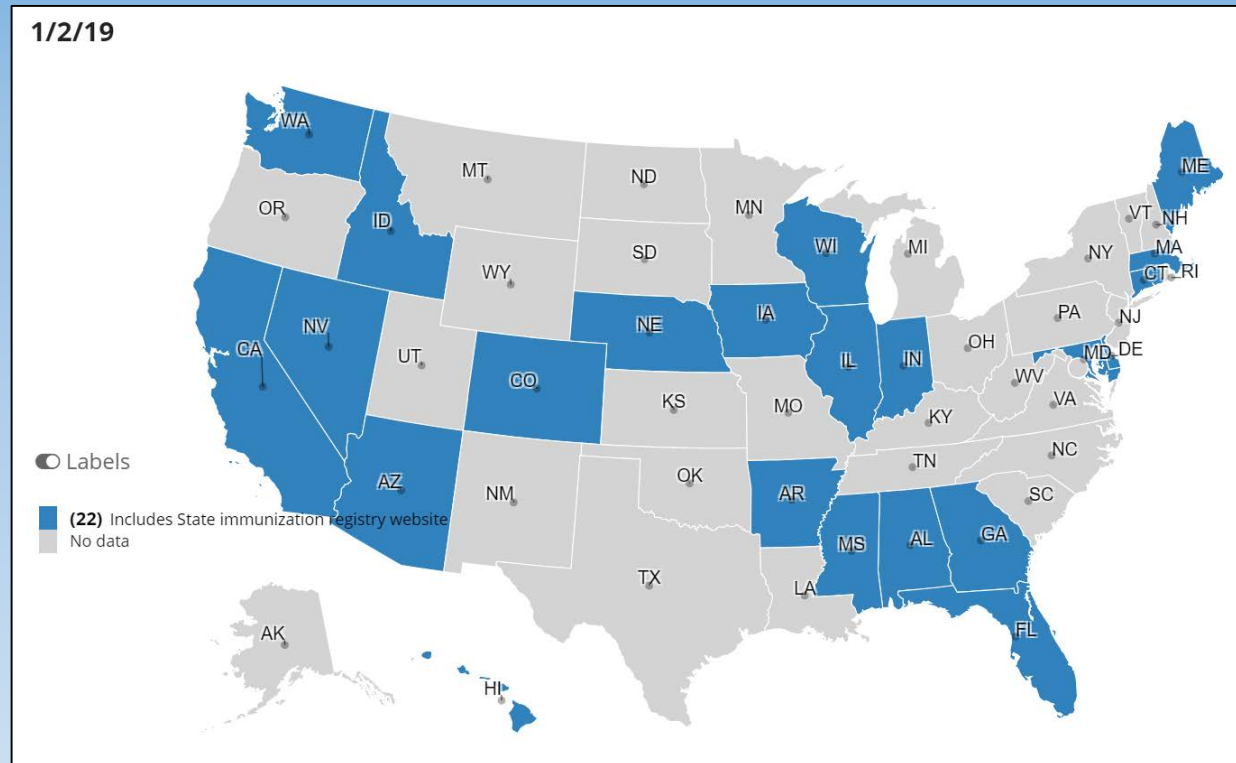


# *States which allow consumer access to the immunization registry via a healthcare provider.*



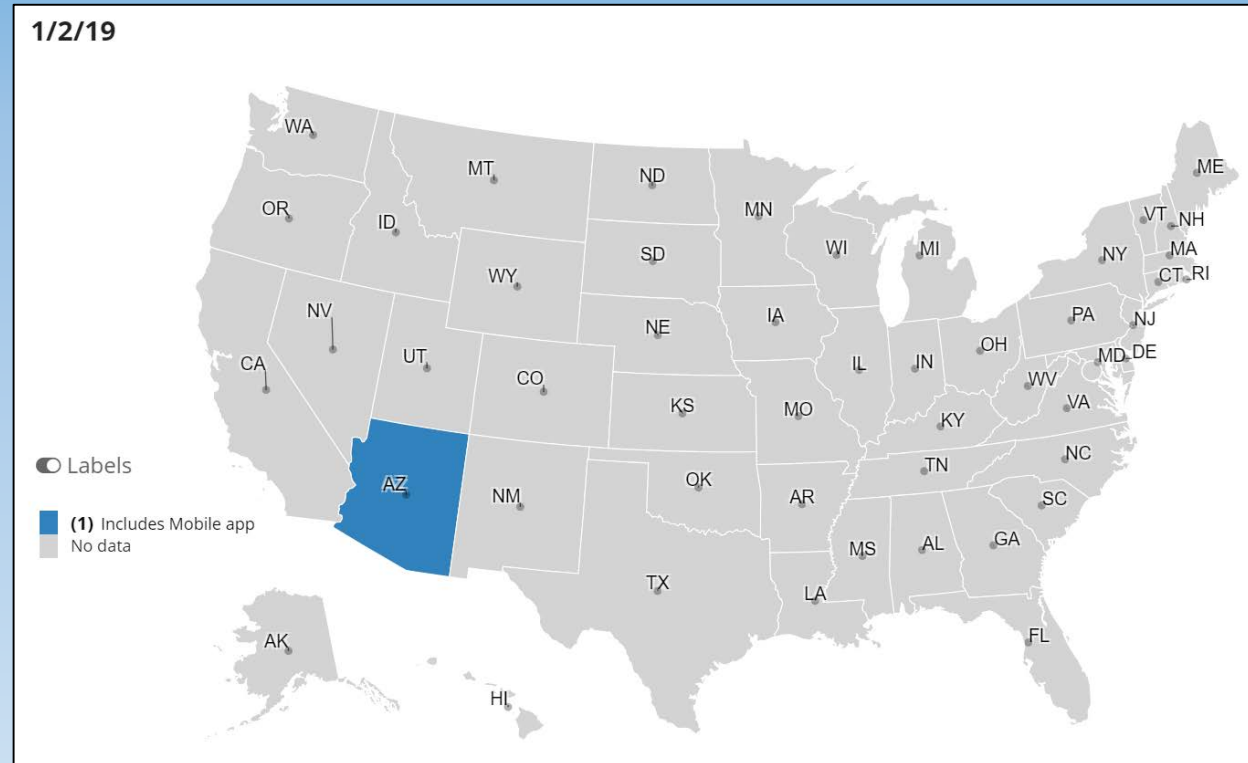
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# *States which allow consumer access to the immunization registry via a healthcare provider.*



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# *States which allow direct consumer access to the immunization registry via a mobile app.*



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# CONCLUSIONS

- There was a distinct lack of organization or standardization to laws related to immunization registries across the states
- Many states rely on state agencies such as the state health department to draft policy documents governing immunization registry access – many of these documents are not readily available on legal databases or online
- Many states lacked clear, accessible directions for consumers to gain indirect access through their respective healthcare providers or state health departments

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend adoption of standardized legislation allowed for direct consumer access to immunization registries in all states which have not done so to date
- We also recommend the adoption of legislation that permits and promotes the use of technological mediums, such as mobile applications, to facilitate direct consumer access

*THANK YOU.*

