

# **Vaccination against seasonal and pandemic influenza**

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
6-8 July 2011

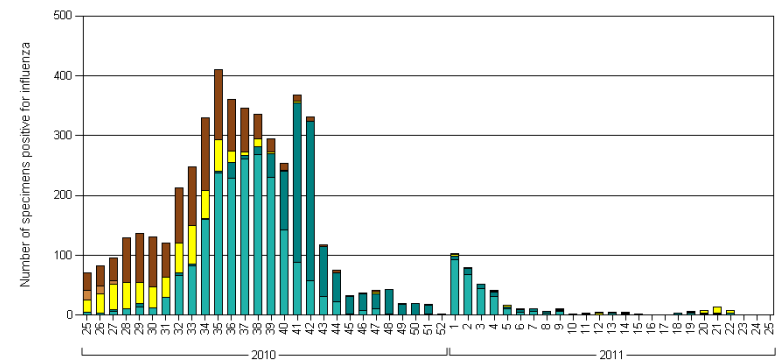
Alba Maria Ropero  
Comprehensive Family Immunization

# Outline

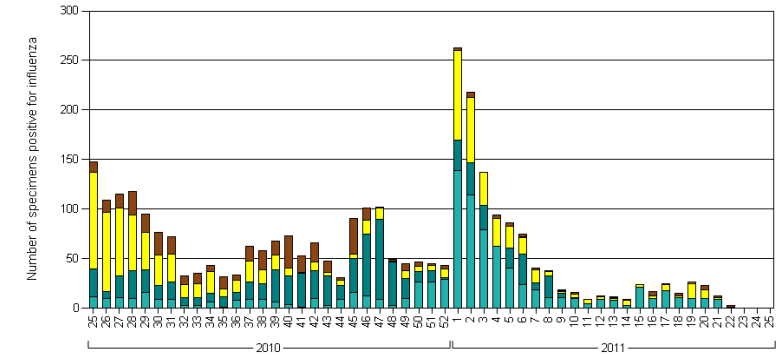
- Summary of epidemiological situation
- Introduction and use of seasonal influenza vaccine in the Americas
- Review of vaccination against pandemic influenza
- Conclusions and next steps
- Final considerations

# Summary Epidemiological Situation

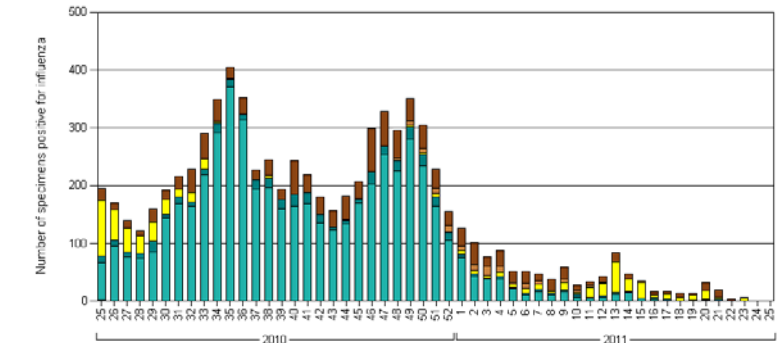
Temperate  
South America



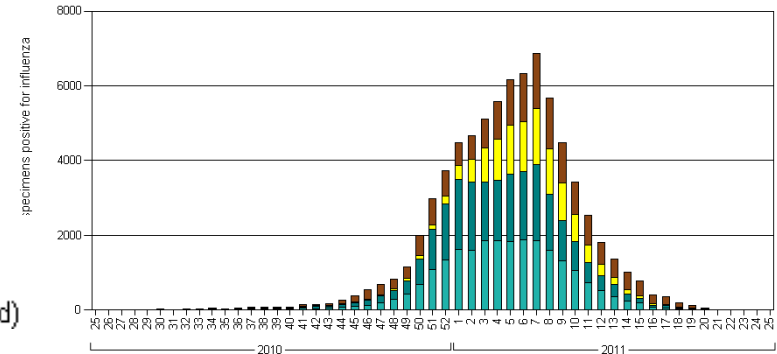
Tropical  
South America



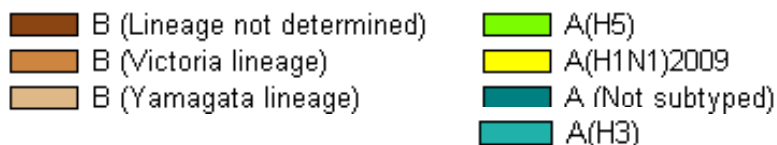
Central America  
and the Caribbean



North America



Source: FluNet



# **Introduction and use of seasonal influenza vaccine in the Americas**

# Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

## Resolution WHA.56 (2003)

Coverage of >50% of older adults by 2006

Coverage of >75% of older adults by 2010

## TAG 2004 and 2006

All countries should strengthen their surveillance systems in order to determine:

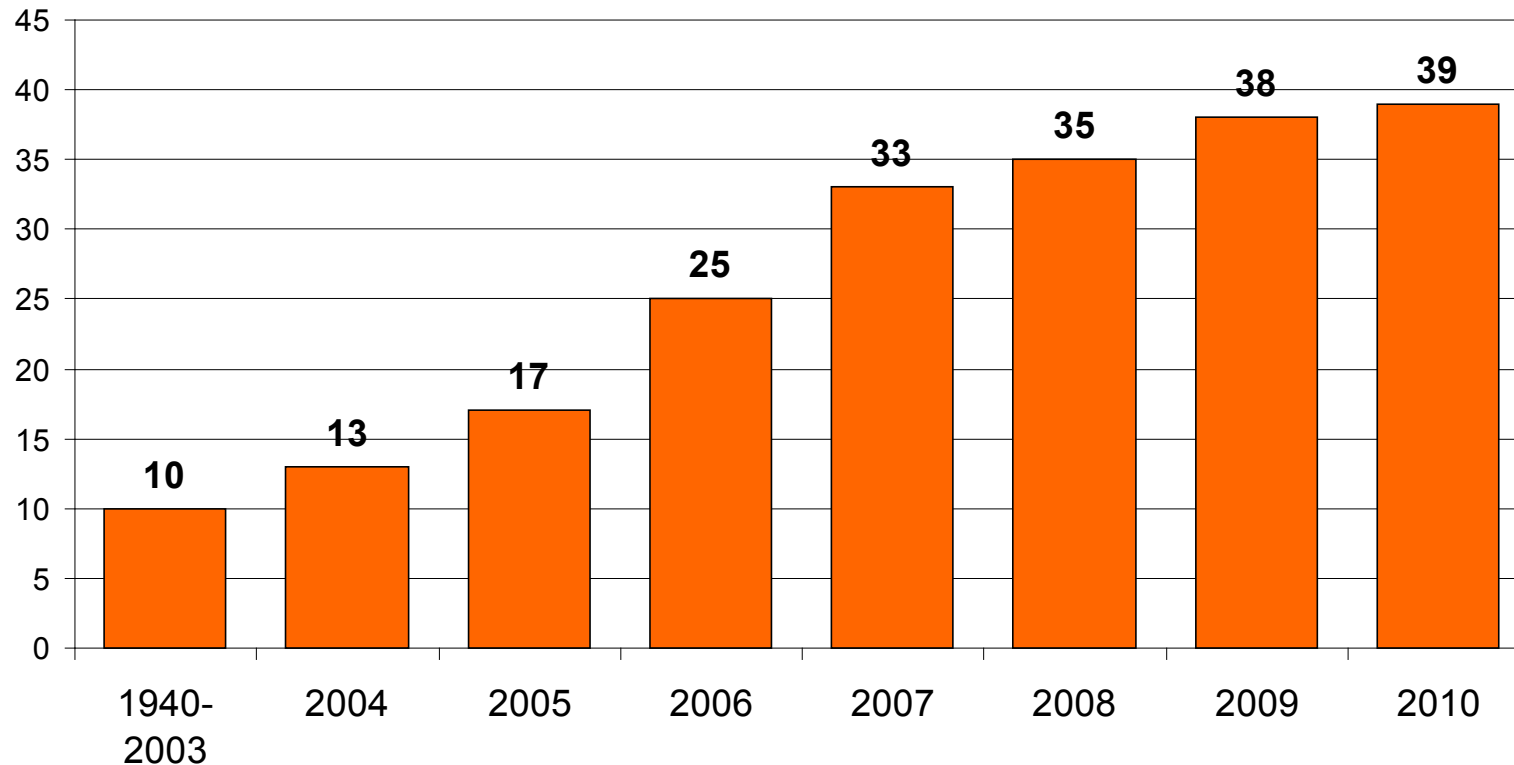
- influenza disease burden
- cost-effectiveness of influenza vaccine introduction
- best vaccination strategy to use, formulation and when (especially in tropical countries)

All countries should establish a seasonal influenza vaccination policy that seeks to vaccinate:

- individuals with chronic illness, the elderly and pregnant women
- children 6-23 months of age
- health workers

Countries using the vaccine should document experiences and lessons learned from targeting high-risk groups.

# Number of Countries and Territories in the Americas with Vaccination Policies for Seasonal Influenza



Out of 45  
countries and  
territories  
reporting in the  
Americas

*Pending  
introduction:*

*Dominica  
Guyana  
Haiti  
St Kitts  
St Maarten  
St Vincent*

Source: Country Reports to PAHO, MOH web pages, PAHO/WHO Surveys

Note: Data was not collected from the French Departments (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique)

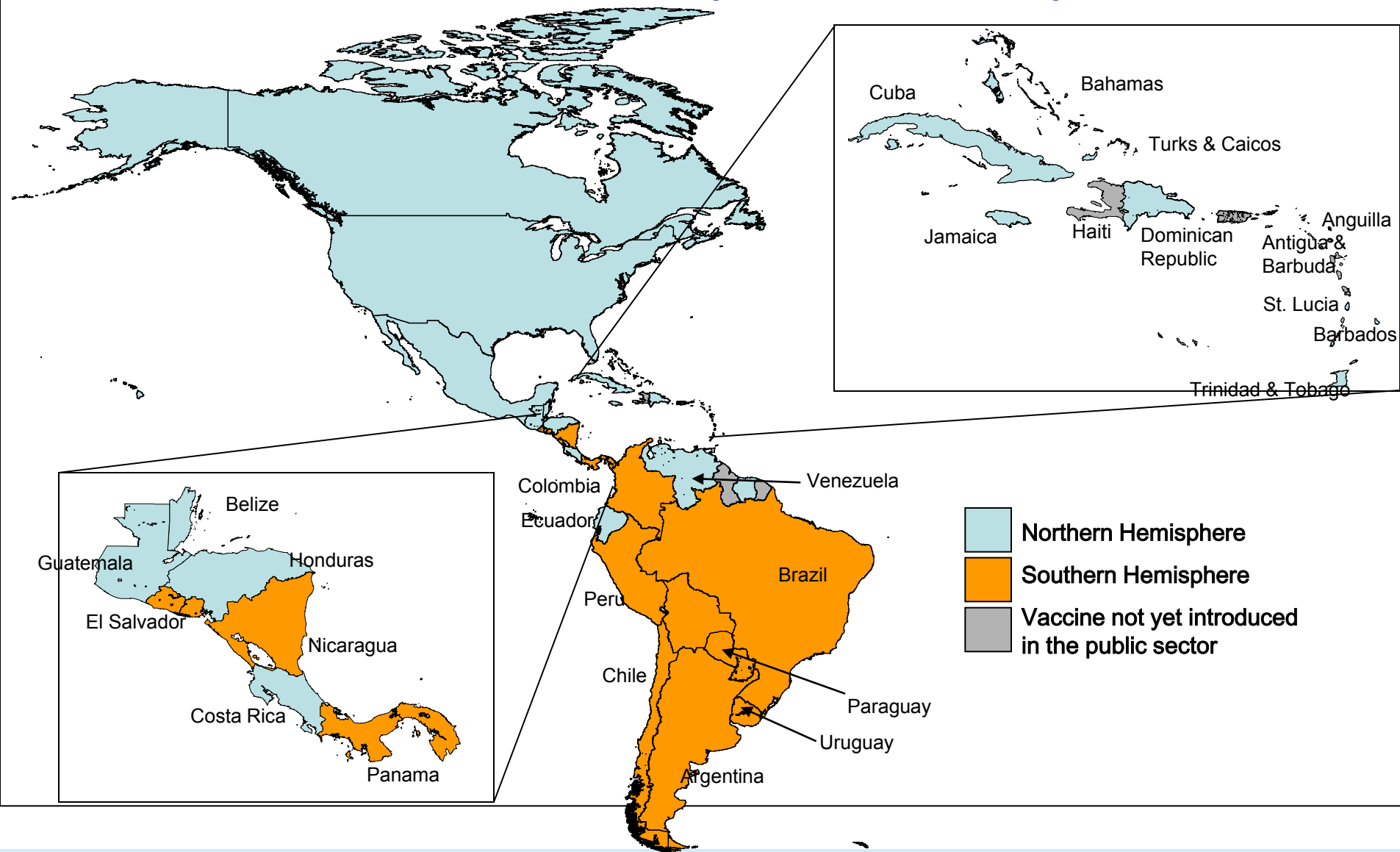
# Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in Countries and Territories

Number of countries with:	2004	2008	2010
- Public policies for influenza vaccination	13	35	39
- Vaccination of elderly	12	33	36
- Vaccination of health workers	3	32	34
- Vaccination of children	6	22	29
- Vaccination of persons with chronic diseases	9	24	26
- Vaccination of pregnant women	3	7	17

Source: Country Reports to PAHO, MOH web pages, PAHO/WHO Surveys

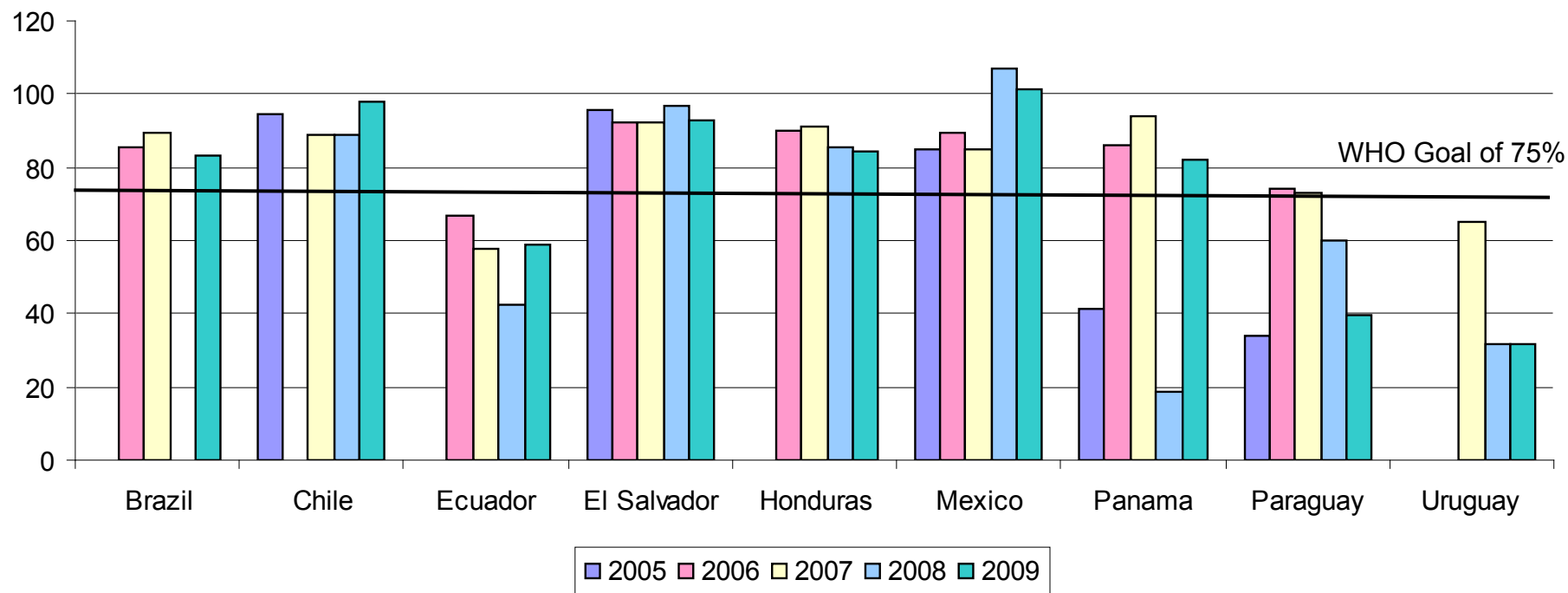
Note: Data was not collected from the French Departments (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique)

# Use of seasonal influenza vaccine in the Americas 2011 (UPDATE SUR)





# Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among the Elderly in Selected Countries



Source: Country and territory reports to PAHO

# Persistent Challenges

## Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

- Quality of information system
  - Coverage rates for all targeted populations groups are not routinely available – absence of reliable denominators
  - WHO/UNICEF joint reporting form does not capture vaccine coverage among pregnant women
- Low vaccine uptake
  - Pregnant women
  - Health care workers
- Two-dose schedule for children <9y vaccinated for first time
  - Challenges to complete schedules
  - Challenges to calculate vaccine coverage

# **Review of vaccination against Pandemic Influenza**

# PAHO Technical Cooperation

## Influenza Vaccination *During the Pandemic*

Immediate support of seasonal influenza vaccination  
for countries not yet using the vaccine

Technical cooperation in planning for pandemic vaccination campaigns  
(development of plans of action)

Support in pandemic vaccine acquisition

Monitoring vaccine use and surveillance of adverse events

Documenting and disseminating information in real time

# Recommendations for Progressive Vaccination Against Pandemic Influenza

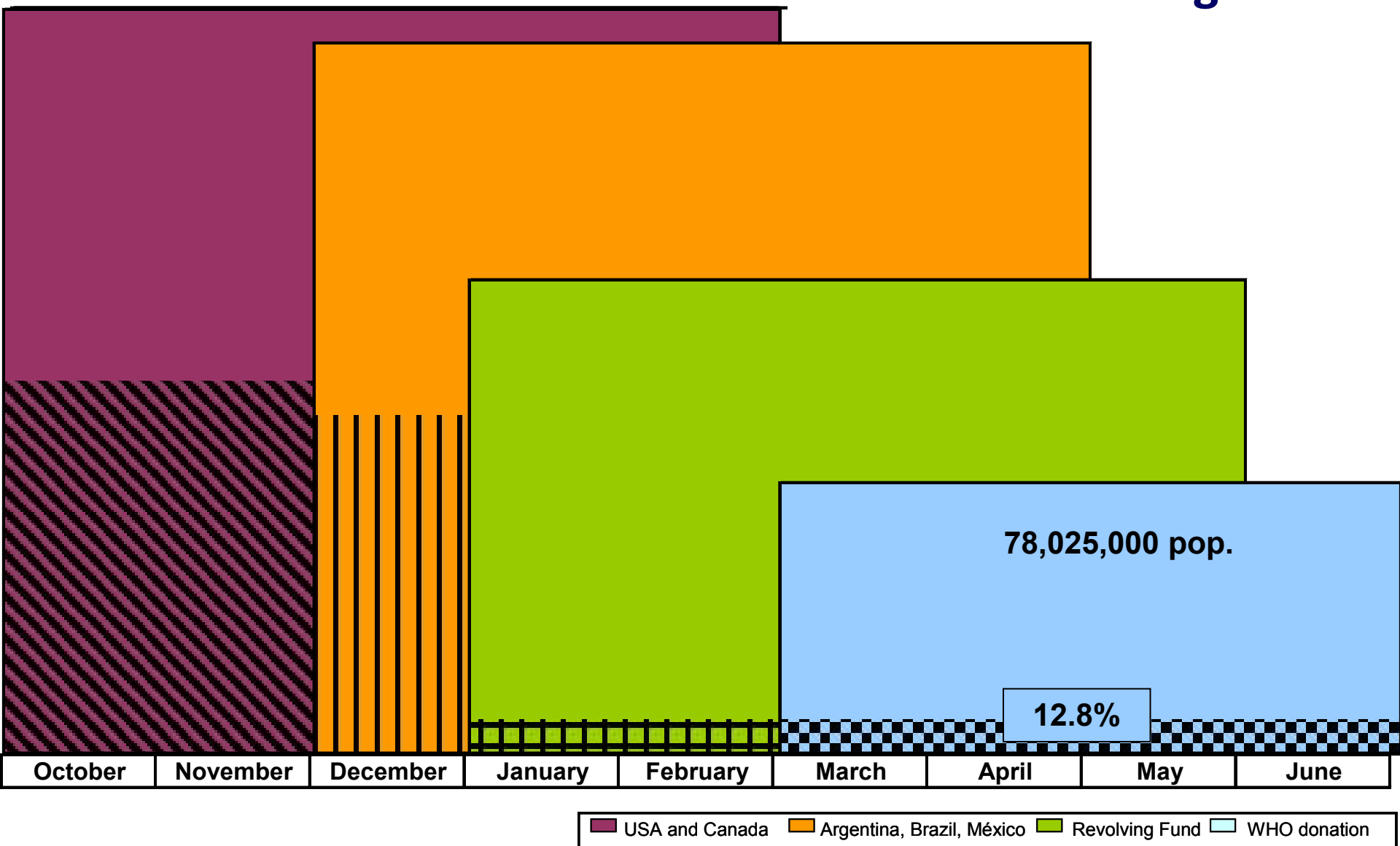
SAGE (WHO)  
7 July 2009

1. Health workers
2. Pregnant women
3. Population >6 m with history of chronic diseases
4. Healthy young adults (>15 and <49 y)
5. Healthy Children (<15 y)
6. Healthy adults (>49 & <65 y)
7. Adults >65 y

TAG (PAHO)  
24 August 2009

1. Health workers
2. Pregnant women
3. Population >6 m with history of chronic diseases
4. Healthy population:
  - \*6 m- 4 y
  - \*school-age (>5 & <18 y)
  - \*young adults (19-49 y)

# Differential Access to Pandemic Vaccine in the Region

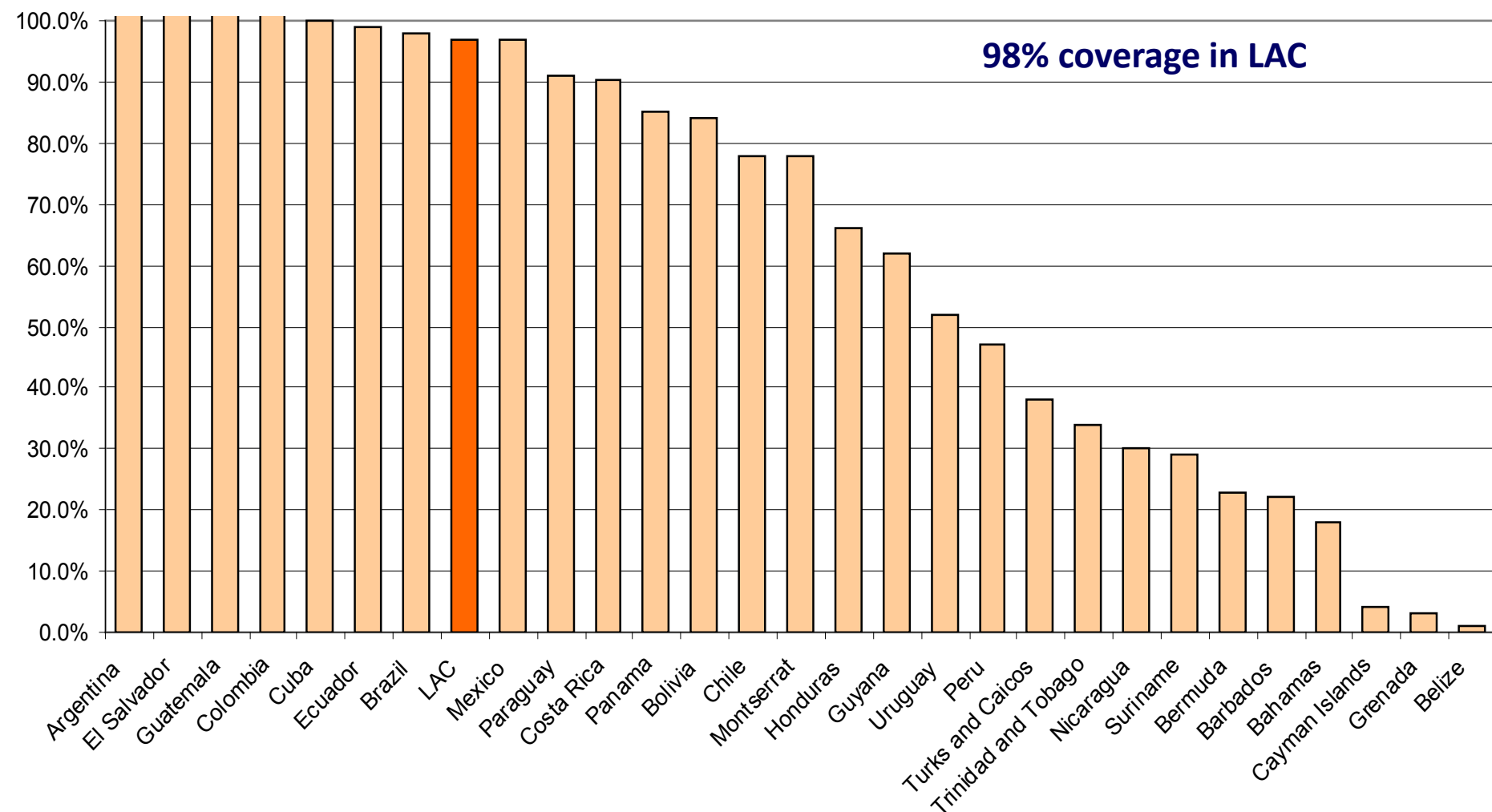


USA and Canada
  Argentina, Brazil, México
  Revolving Fund
  WHO donation

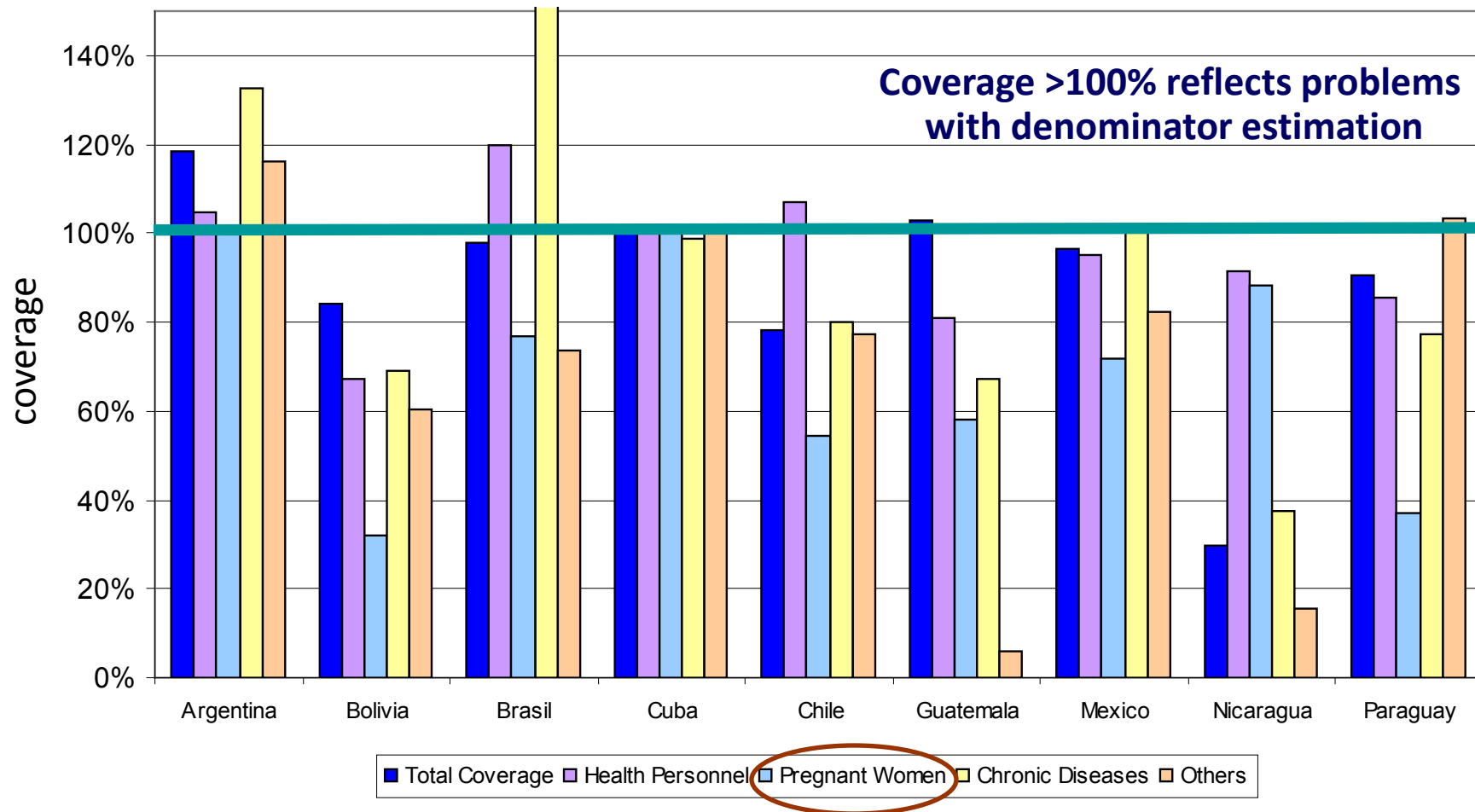
More than 224 million doses applied in the Region

- 144 million in LAC
- 81 million in USA

# H1N1 vaccine coverage in target groups, LAC



# H1N1 vaccine coverage by Risk Group in selected countries, 2010





# Influenza Vaccination Among Pregnant Women

- Pregnant women emerged as a group particularly vulnerable to complications from influenza
- Very low coverage of pandemic vaccine
- Pandemic appears to have led to changes in influenza vaccine policy regarding pregnant women
  - Before 2009, 7 countries/territories vaccinating pregnant women
  - In 2010, 17 countries/territories vaccinating pregnant women\*
- Vaccine coverage in this group not routinely reported
- Vaccination of this groups should be undertaken under the framework of Millennium Development Goals



Photo: pregnancy.rcsolesjr.org

# Surveillance of Adverse Events

	N	Notified cases per million doses
<b>Total ESAVI</b>	13,621	94.59
<b>Severe ESAVI</b>	846	5.88
Seizures	27	0.19
Anaphylaxis	72	0.50
GBS	101	0.70
Other neurological events	19	0.13
Pneumonia/ Bronchitis	8	0.06
Other severe events	619	4.30

\*As of December 2010. 144 million doses administered.

# Evaluation of Pandemic Vaccination Campaigns

- Consolidation of lessons learned
  - Support of countries evaluation of lessons learned
  - Regional consolidation of best practices identified during pandemic vaccination campaigns
- Evaluation of impact of pandemic vaccination through CDC's Decision 2009



Photo: Argentina's Ministry of Health: [http://www.msal.gov.ar/htm/site/Noticias\\_plantilla.asp?Id=1605](http://www.msal.gov.ar/htm/site/Noticias_plantilla.asp?Id=1605)

# Lessons Learned

- Vaccination campaigns must be included as part of National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plans
- It is important to pre-establish coordination mechanisms to facilitate more efficient operations and mobilization of resources
- Engagement of scientific/professional organizations and societies crucial to reach target groups
- Complexity of campaign strengthened national EPI teams & ESAVI National Committees, thus improving capacity planning and operation of the program
- Communication strategies also need to be developed for specific audiences and make use of more diverse media
- Information sharing platforms essential –experiences of other countries proved invaluable during campaigns

# Conclusions

- Since 2004, rapid uptake of seasonal influenza vaccine in the Americas
  - Experience served to prepare for the introduction of a pandemic vaccine
- More than 31 countries and territories carried out pandemic vaccination campaigns
  - Vaccination coverage generally high among high risk groups, except pregnant women
- H1N1 vaccination campaigns provided opportunity to strengthen adverse event surveillance
- Important for countries to continue to strengthen seasonal influenza vaccination for populations at risk, in addition to elderly and children
  - Pregnant women
  - Healthcare workers
  - Persons with chronic illness
- Urgent need to strengthen information systems for influenza vaccine coverage data, especially among vulnerable group (pregnant women)

# Next Steps

Strengthen information systems for influenza vaccine coverage data

Support countries in the estimation of influenza vaccine effectiveness and evidence-based decision making for expansion to new groups

Publication of successful experiences and lessons learned with pandemic influenza vaccine introduction

Finalization and publication of estimation of H1N1 vaccine impact “Decision 2009”

# Final Considerations

## RISK GROUPS

- Countries are considering expansion of seasonal influenza vaccine to new risk groups.
- ***For the consideration for the TAG:***
  - Reiterate / emphasize previous recommendations on risk groups
  - Given their increased risk for complications, stress recommendations for pregnant women

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Many countries lack accurate denominators for high risk populations and influenza vaccine coverage data.
- WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form (JRF) does not capture coverage among pregnant women.
- ***For the consideration for the TAG:***
  - Recommend that this information be routinely collected through JRF
  - Underscore the importance of the quality and completeness of influenza vaccination coverage data

**Thank you**  
**Gracias**  
**Obrigada**  
**Merci**