


# Abby Bownas & Katie Pischke

## Adult Vaccine Access Coalition

### Recent Updates

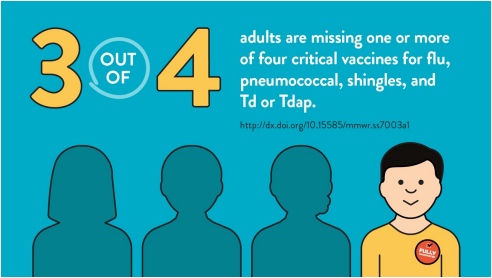
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AVAC consists of seventy federal organizational leaders in health and public health who are committed to raising awareness of the importance of adult immunization with the goal of addressing barriers to this effective preventive service.

Our mission is informed by scientific and empirical evidence that shows immunization improves health and protects lives against a variety of debilitating and potentially deadly conditions, saving costs to the healthcare system and to society as a whole.



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## Core Areas of Work

1. **Build.** AVAC is committed to **improving vaccine infrastructure**, including the immunization workforce, and reporting of vaccinations to immunization information systems (IIS) to track vaccination status and improve vaccine equity, outcomes and care.
2. **Access.** AVAC aims to **promote vaccine equity and confidence** to eliminate gaps in coverage and to recover and improve adult immunization rates among at-risk populations by supporting policies that reduce financial barriers for patients, reduce administrative hurdles for providers, reduce barriers to vaccine access in underserved communities, and eliminate missed immunization opportunities.
3. **Measure.** AVAC supports the **development and adoption of federal benchmarks and quality measures**, and the implementation of immunization best practices, to encourage reporting, improve equitable access to vaccines and increase adult immunization rates.



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## 2022 Policy Goals

1. **Support federal funding for the immunization programs** (recovery, vaccine purchase, vaccine ordering, administration, patient assessment and counseling services, infrastructure, workforce, equity, education, and confidence, especially at-risk populations).
2. **Explicitly and consistently address and-increase access for all adults.**
3. **Improve beneficiary access and alleviate financial barriers** through first dollar coverage of vaccines in Medicare and Medicaid.
4. **Reduce provider barriers** to offering immunizations through access to educational tools and resources, the ability to bill for all recommended vaccines, adequate and timely reimbursement for vaccine, vaccine administration, and counseling, encourage vaccine co-administration and widespread adoption of NVAC adult standards of care.
5. **Strengthen and increase access to immunization information systems across the life course** to improve reporting, interoperability, and real time use of data to inform ACIP recommended vaccine activities, including COVID-19.
6. **Advocate for the implementation of immunization best practices;** adoption of quality measures, including adult composite and maternal composite measures; and to move federal benchmarks in HP2030 (AIS and IIS measures) from developmental to core measures.

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### Support Federal Funding for Immunization Programs

The FY22 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2417) was signed into law on March 15. The final bill did not include a COVID-19 emergency supplemental.

FY22 Final:

<b>NCIRD</b>	<b>\$868,155,000</b>
Immunization	\$640,797,000
Influenza	\$211,358,000
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>	<b>\$41,000,000.</b>

AVAC FY22 Program Asks:

- \$1.13 b for CDC NCIRD (+\$400m).
- \$241 m for Influenza Planning and Response at CDC's NCIRD (+\$40m).
- \$134 m for CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (+\$94.5m).
- \$10 m for the NVP ODP (+5m)

Additional Report language:

Improving Immunization Information Systems Infrastructure and Data.- The agreement directs CDC to provide an update to the Committees within 180 days of enactment of this Act on compliance with interoperability standards.

AVAC will once again support immunization programming and report language for FY23. A sign on letter is circulating.



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### Improve beneficiary access and alleviate financial barriers through first dollar coverage of vaccines in Medicare and Medicaid

- **Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act (H.R. 1978/S. 912)**
- **Helping Adults Protect Immunity Act (S. 581/HR2170)**

The economic recovery package which includes both vaccine priorities. has been on hold since December. Renewed discussions are underway...

- **Sec. 139402.** Coverage of adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices under Medicare part D.
- **Sec. 139405.** Improving access to adult vaccines under Medicaid and CHIP.

Learn More:

<https://adultvaccinesnow.org/reducing-financial-barriers/>



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## Strengthen and increase access to immunization information systems across the life course

### Immunization Infrastructure Modernization Act (HR550)

- Immunization Data modernization and expansion
- Passed the House December 2021!

### Senate PREVENT Pandemics Act (S. 3799)

- Public Health Data Modernization
- Address Misinformation
- Revitalize the Public Health Workforce

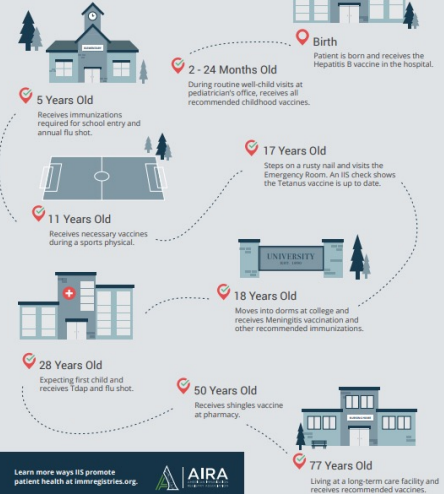
### House CURES 2.0 (HR1600)

- Acceleration of vaccine discovery, development, delivery
- Section 104 – Vaccine and Immunization Programs (awareness, IIS)

### How IIS Support a Patient's Journey

Immunization Information Systems (IIS) gather and consolidate scattered immunization records to support a patient and their healthcare providers, through planned and unexpected events. Healthcare providers are able to reference and update a patient's immunization record in the IIS, to ensure the individual is fully immunized and to prevent the patient from becoming over- or under-vaccinated. IIS equip the whole care team with the information they need to confidently deliver the best care possible.

Take a look at a patient's journey to see the critical role that IIS play throughout a lifetime of care. The IIS is checked at each milestone below.



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## MACPAC Report to Congress

- March report to Congress includes chapter on vaccine access for adults in Medicaid (CH 2)
- <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chapter-2-Vaccine-Access-for-Adults-Enrolled-in-Medicaid.pdf>
- **The chapter highlights several policy considerations:**
  - Congress should make ACIP-recommended vaccines a mandatory benefit for all adults enrolled in Medicaid
  - CMS should implement regulations for vaccine payment
  - CMS should encourage the use of pharmacies and other providers in providing adult vaccinations
  - HHS should provide technical assistance to improve vaccine outreach and education to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries
  - Congress should require HHS to issue federal guidance to improve immunization information systems (IIS) and allocate funding to support these efforts
- Next: The Commission will continue evaluating these options and additional findings with recommendations to Congress in June 2022.

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