Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC)

- Established in 2015 to strengthen and enhance access to and increase utilization of vaccines among adults.
- AVAC is made up of a diverse group of health care providers, vaccine innovators, public health organizations, and patient and consumer groups.

Estimated National Adult Vaccination Rates for Four Vaccines, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Rate (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flu</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal</td>
<td>70.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus</td>
<td>78.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GAO analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. | GAO-22-1065334

AVAC is fighting to make necessary policy changes to increase vaccination rates—saving lives and money.
Core Policy Goals to Improve Adult Vaccination Rates

1. Strengthening Vaccine Infrastructure
2. Creating Equity in Vaccine Access
3. Eliminating Financial Barriers
4. Promoting High Immunization Rates
3 out of 4 adults are missing one or more of four critical vaccines for flu, pneumococcal, shingles, and Td or Tdap.

http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss7003a1

37 million routine adolescent and adult vaccine doses were missed from January 2020 - July 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, White adults were almost twice as likely as Black and Hispanic adults to receive shingles vaccinations.

![Image showing vaccination rates](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7024a5.htm)

### Barriers to Adult Immunizations in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial</strong></td>
<td>Inability for individuals to pay due to co-pays / gaps in coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hesitancy</strong></td>
<td>Regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness among patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provider</strong></td>
<td>Financial barriers for health care providers to stock and administer vaccines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lack of awareness</strong></td>
<td>Regarding recommended vaccines and the risk/consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordination</strong></td>
<td>Lack of coordination among health care providers – many adults see multiple providers – and across the health care system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal/Policy</strong></td>
<td>Systematic at the federal and state levels restricting which providers can immunize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missed Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>For immunization assessment, counseling and recommendations by health care providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Lack of or underuse of immunization data systems that document vaccination histories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inflation Reduction Act - Key Vaccine provisions

Section 11401 (Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act)
• First dollar coverage (no copays or out of pocket expenses) of adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) under Medicare Part D; and,

Section 11405 (Helping Adults Protect Immunity Act)
• Access to ACIP-recommended adult vaccines in traditional Medicaid and in the Children's Health Insurance Program and an enhanced federal reimbursement for immunizing providers.
Starting **January 1, 2023**, adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will be available to people with Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D) at no cost to them.

- **Current Part D Vaccines:**
  - Shingles
  - Tetanus-Diphtheria-Whooping Cough

- **Recently Released**
  - Guidance to Part D Sponsors (9/26)
  - CMS Communications Fact Sheets/FAQ (10/5)

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**Implementation Section 11401
Medicare Part D No Cost Vaccines**

**Learn more:**
- Fact Sheet
- Implementation Timeline
Implementation Section 11401
Medicaid No Cost Vaccines

- The Medicaid program covers 1 in 5 Americans, including many with complex and costly needs for care.
- Coverage and co-pays differ by state, especially in non-expansion states (12) where vaccine coverage is optional benefit.
- Starting **October 1, 2023**, adults in Medicaid will be guaranteed coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccines at no cost.

https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-medicaid-setting-the-facts-straight/#:~:text=With%20low%20income,Medicaid%20is%20the%20nation%27s%20public%20health%20insurance%20program%20for%20people%20with%20low income%20and%20costly%20needs%20for%20care.
Eliminating cost-sharing for recommended vaccines under Medicare Part D could increase vaccination at the pharmacies by an estimated 91% for Black and Hispanic beneficiaries.

www.iqvia.com/locations/united-states/blogs/2021/09/medicare-d-cost-sharing-reduces-vaccine-uptake

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