

Vaccines for Adults: Leveraging Changing Vaccine Use to Expand Adult Vaccine Access in New York State

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Background

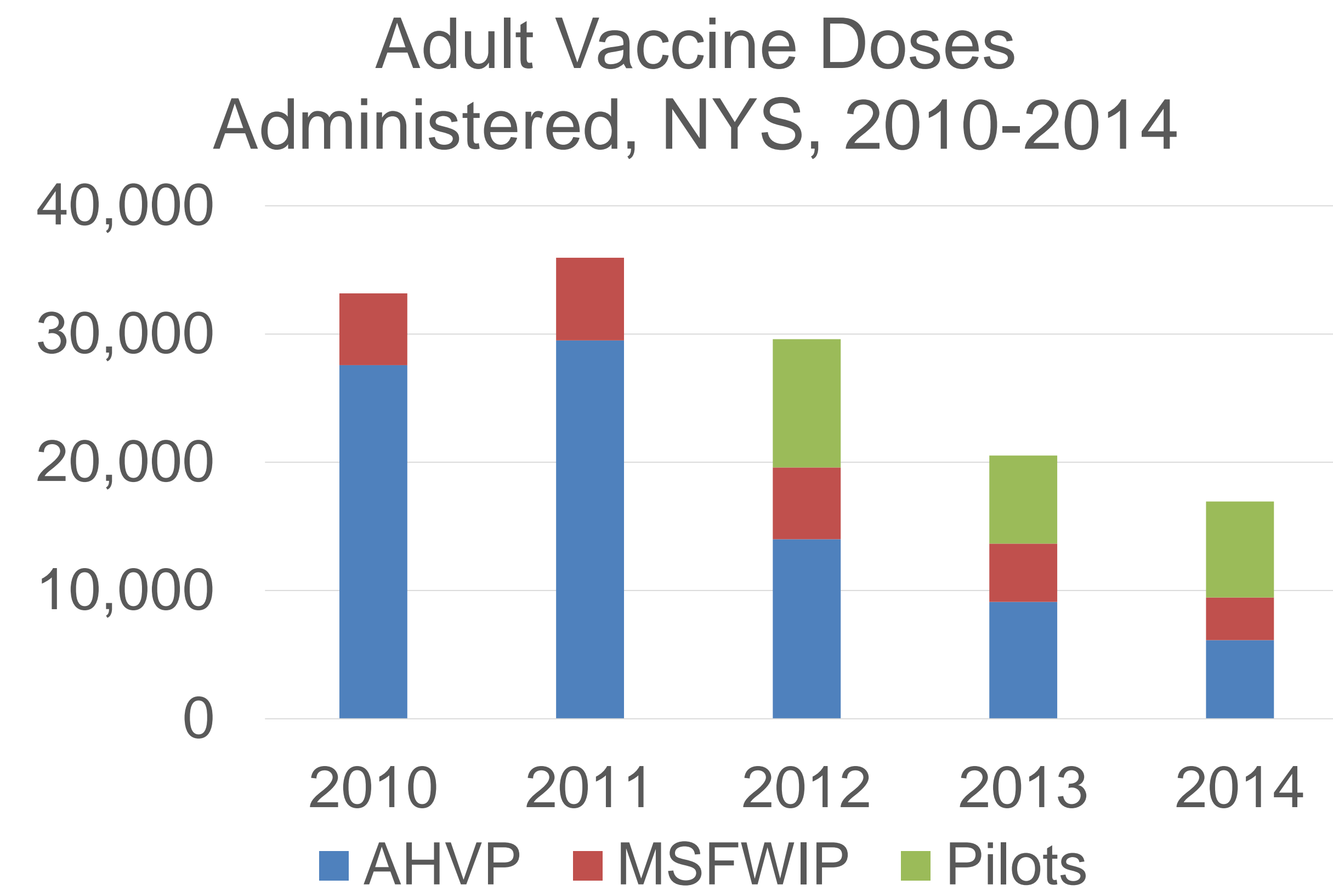
Since 1995, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has administered two Section 317-funded vaccine programs for high-risk uninsured and underinsured adults: the Adult Hepatitis Vaccination Program (AHVP) and the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Immunization Program (MSFWIP). Prior to 2015, NYSDOH state vaccine funds were primarily used for underinsured children outside of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Following implementation of the Affordable Care Act, usage of vaccine for underinsured children and for high-risk adults progressively declined in NYS.

The NYSDOH conducted three pilots of adult vaccine expansion:

- 2012: 10,000 doses of hepatitis A/B to the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)
- 2013: 6870 doses of hepatitis B, HPV, MMR, PPSV23, Tdap and Td to local health departments (LHDs) and DOCCS
- 2014: 7480 doses of HPV, Tdap and zoster to LHDs, FQHCs, sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinics, and tribal health centers

The pilots demonstrated ongoing demand for publicly funded vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults in NYS.



Project Description

In August 2015, the NYSDOH launched the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program, using a mix of Section 317 and state-funded vaccines. All AHVP and MSFWIP-enrolled sites were automatically enrolled in the VFA.

As a condition of participation, all VFA sites were required to account for all VFA doses in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), replacing previous paper-based reporting.

Vaccines offered through the NYS VFA:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A/B
- HPV
- MMR
- PCV13
- PPSV23
- Tdap
- Td
- Influenza

Varicella and zoster vaccines were not initially offered pending determination of adequate freezer storage.

Setting

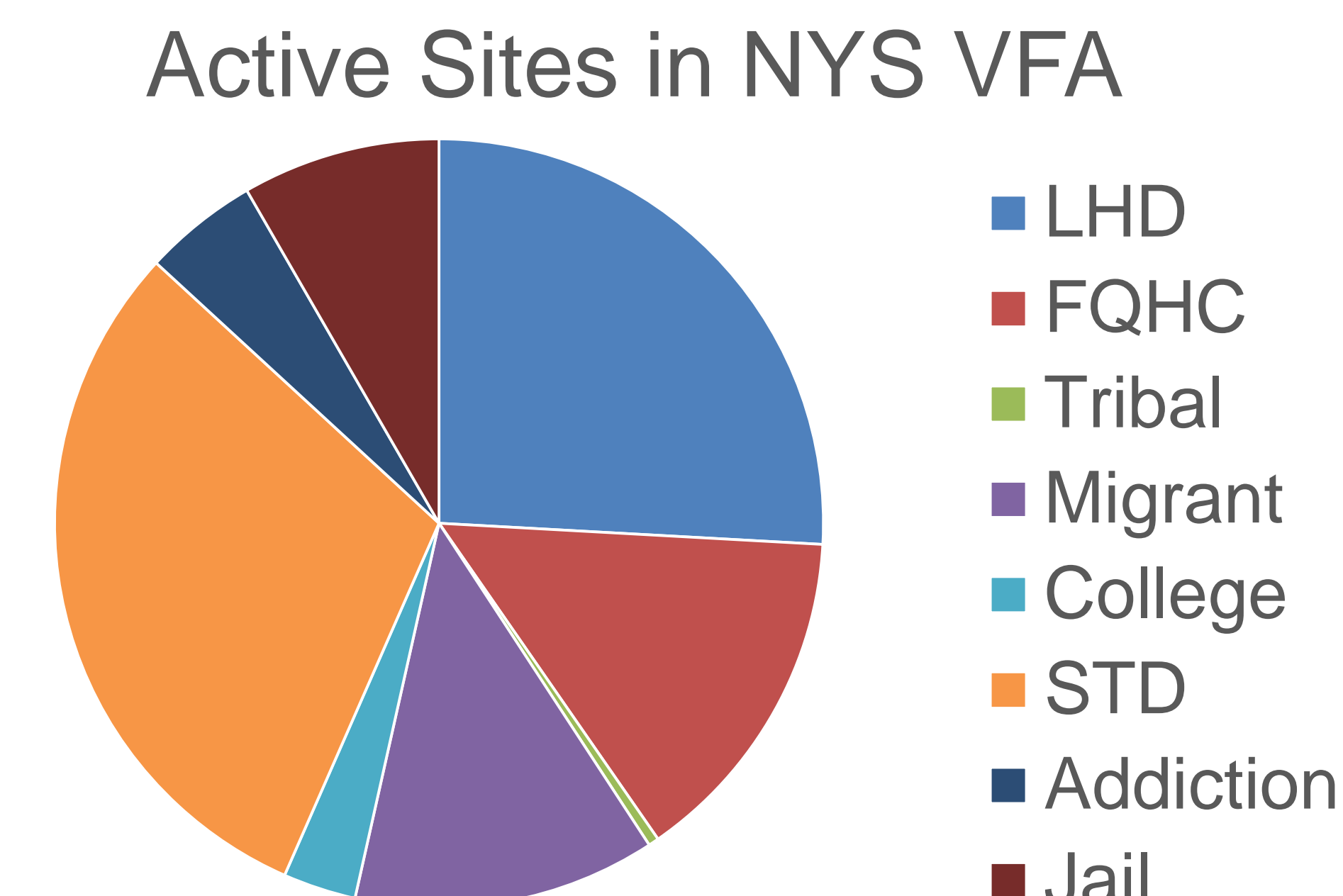
Eligible sites included LHDs, FQHCs, tribal health centers, migrant health clinics, college health clinics, STD clinics, methadone and addiction treatment centers, and county jails in NYS outside of New York City.

Population

Uninsured and underinsured adults seeking care at any enrolled site.

Results

- By April 2016, 227 NYS sites were active in the VFA.
- 10,580 doses of vaccine were ordered through the VFA between August 1, 2015 and April 6, 2016.
- 48 LHDs (84%) had more than 1 active adult PIN prior to launch of the VFA (median: 3 adult PINS).
- Additional VFA implementation guidance was developed for LHDs with more than 1 adult PIN.



Lessons Learned

- Changes in vaccine use present an opportunity to reprogram funds to expand vaccines available for uninsured and underinsured adults.
- Transition from paper-based to NYSIIS reporting reduced staff workload and improved accountability for adult vaccines.
- LHDs play a critical role as a safety net to uninsured, underinsured and high-risk adult populations; clear communication with and guidance for LHDs was critical for transition from the AHVP and MSFWIP to the VFA.
- Although hepatitis A and B vaccine use among traditional high-risk uninsured and underinsured adults has declined since 2011, Section 317 vaccine funding as declined as well.
- It is critical to strike a balance between expanding adult programs to meet public health needs and staying within funding limitations.
- The NYSDOH continues to monitor VFA orders and doses administered and will consider expansion to additional sites in the future should funding allow.
- The NYS VFA will begin offering varicella and zoster vaccines to enrolled sites with adequate freezer storage capabilities in late 2016.