Federal Adult Vaccine Policy Landscape

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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, patient and consumer groups.

Estimated Adult Vaccination Rates for Four Vaccines, 2020

- Flu: 46.3%
- Pneumococcal: 70.1%
- Shingles: 31.6%
- Tetanus: 70.3%

Source: GAO analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. | GAO-22-100334

AVAC is fighting to make necessary policy changes to increase vaccination rates — saving lives and money.
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.mm7003a1
Multiple Barriers to Adult Immunizations

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


Policy Goals to Improve Adult Vaccination Rates

1. Strengthening Vaccine Infrastructure
2. Eliminating Financial Barriers
3. Creating Equity in Vaccine Access
4. Promoting High Immunization Rates
Strengthening Vaccine Infrastructure

A strong immunization infrastructure increases and sustains vaccination rates.

**What are the components of the immunization infrastructure?**
- State and local immunization programs
- Outreach, education and provider support
- Immunization information systems (IIS)
- Vaccine storage, handling, administration and safety
- Surveillance and outbreak response
- Vaccines for uninsured children and adults
- Quality measures
- Disaster response

**Who benefits from a strong immunization infrastructure?**
- You and your family
  - Seniors
  - Adults
  - Adolescents
  - Children
- Health care system
  - Doctors
  - Nurses
  - Pharmacists
  - Worksite wellness
  - Community health
  - Long-term care
  - Insurers
- Public health
  - State and local immunization program managers
  - Epidemiologists
  - Pandemic officials

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**President's FY24 Budget Proposal**

**Opportunities to Strengthen Immunization Infrastructure**

**CDC**
- Immunization Infrastructure $989 (+317m)
- Flu $251m (+20m)
- Hep B $44.5m (+11.5m)
- NEW Vaccine for Adults proposal $12B (mandatory funding)

**CMS**
- Part D Vaccines
- Medicaid Vaccines
- Medicaid Coverage of Vaccine Counseling
- Nursing Home Education
- Pandemic Preparedness Vaccine Authority
Eliminating Financial Barriers in Medicare & Medicaid

**IRA Sec 11401**
Eliminates copays/out of pocket expenses for ACIP-recommended vaccines under Medicare Part D

**IRA Sec 11405**
Requires coverage for ACIP recommended adult vaccines in traditional Medicaid and CHIP programs.

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**Equity in Vaccine Access**

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

Beccera says government must reach more people where they are to surmount vaccine inequities.

MORE THAN 75% of the U.S. population received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in less than a year.

37 MILLION routine adolescent and adult vaccine doses were missed from January 2020 to July 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Promoting High Immunization Rates

- Adoption of Quality Measures
  - Adult Immunization Status Measure
  - Prenatal Immunization Composite
- Supporting Vaccinators
  - Improved reimbursement for Vaccine, Counseling, Administration
- Provider and Patient Education

“Encouraging adults to adhere to a recommended vaccine schedule has the potential to improve quality of life for millions and reduce the tremendous burden our communities and healthcare providers shoulder with respect to treating vaccine-preventable illnesses.”

- THE VALUE AND IMPERATIVE OF QUALITY MEASURES FOR ADULT VACCINES

Looking Forward

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<th>Creating Equity in Immunization</th>
<th>Promoting High Immunization Rates</th>
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<td>FY24 Appropriations</td>
<td>Medicaid IRA Implementation</td>
<td>Catching Up on Missed Vaccines</td>
<td>Enhanced Reimbursement policies for vaccinations, counseling, and administration</td>
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<td>Vaccines for Uninsured Adults</td>
<td>Education and Outreach</td>
<td>Adoption of AIS and Prenatal Status Measure</td>
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<td>Support for FQHCs &amp; Continuation of PREP Act Flexibilities</td>
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www.adultvaccinesnow.org

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https://adultvaccinesnow.org/contact/

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