



## Recent Vaccine Policy Coverage Changes Abby Bownas Manager

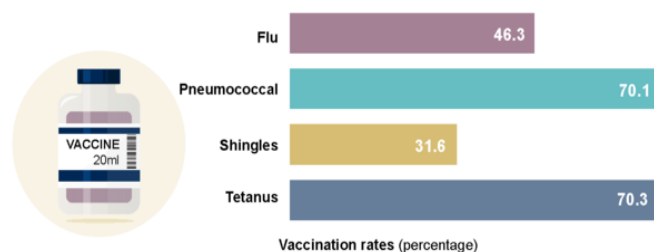
1

1

### 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



Source: GAO analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. | GAO-22-105334

AVAC is fighting to make necessary policy changes to increase vaccination rates — saving lives and money.

2



3

## 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

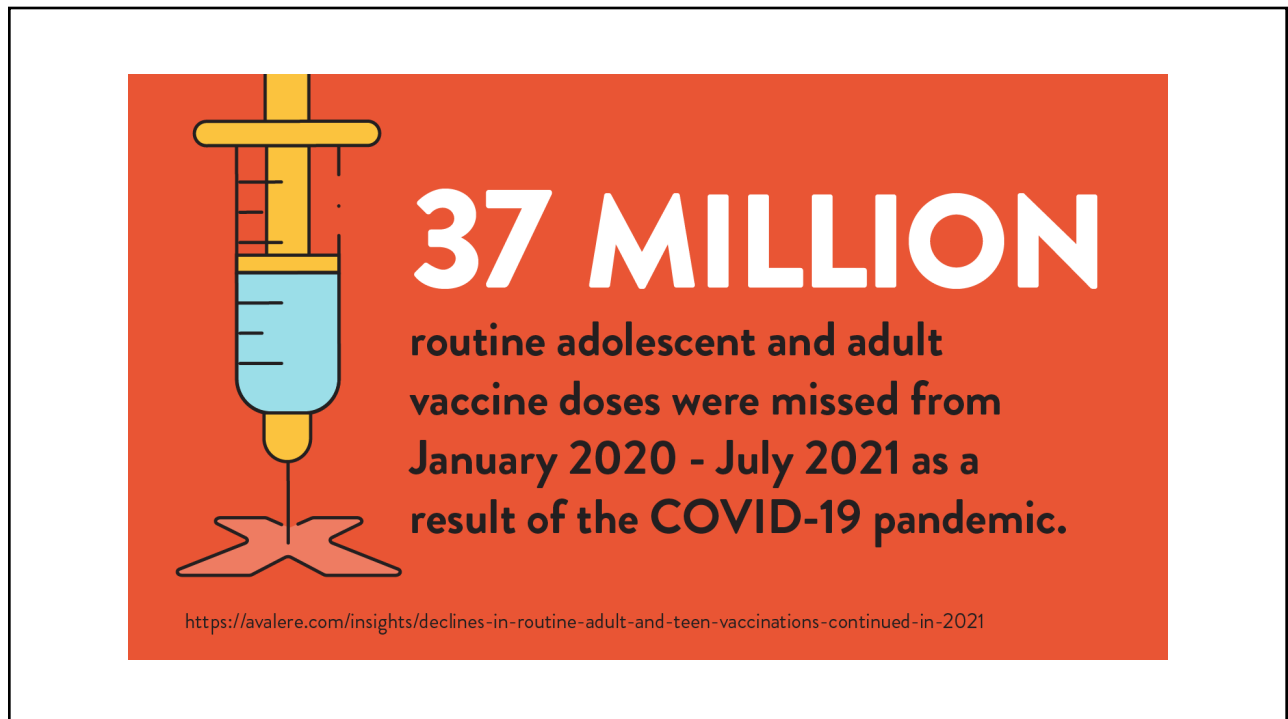


**AVAC**  
ADULT VACCINE  
ACCESS COALITION

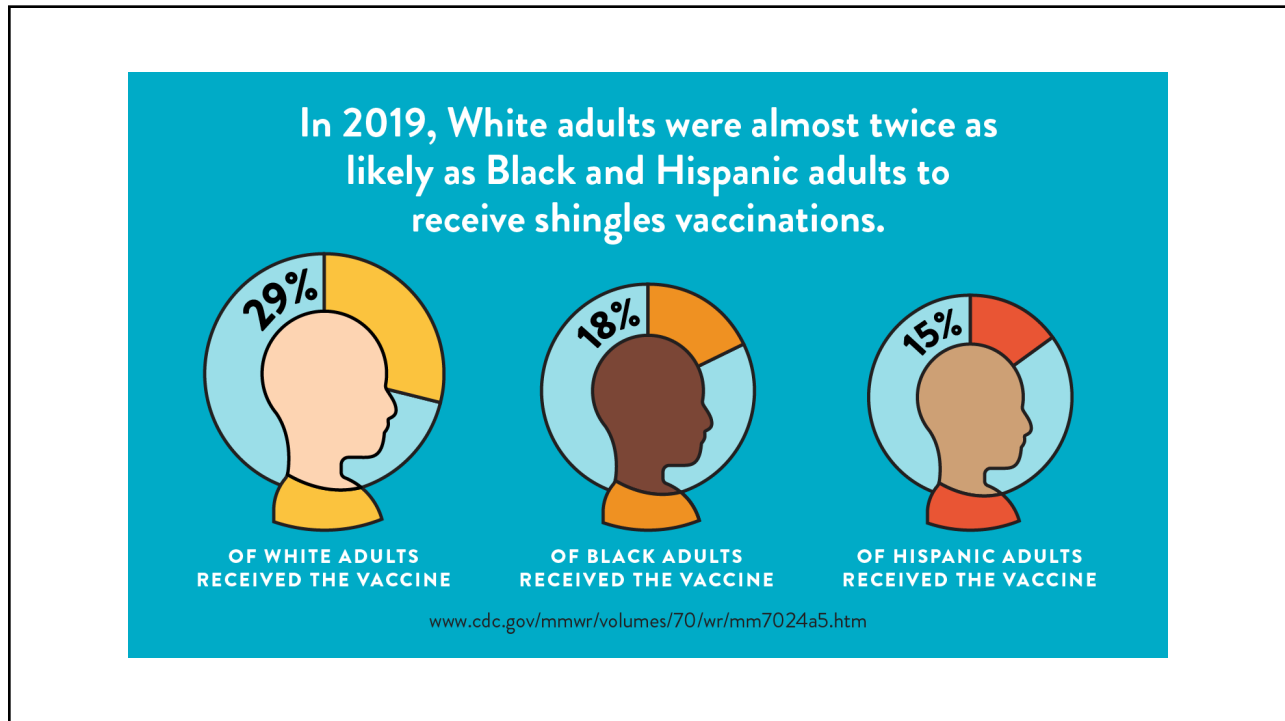
4



5



6



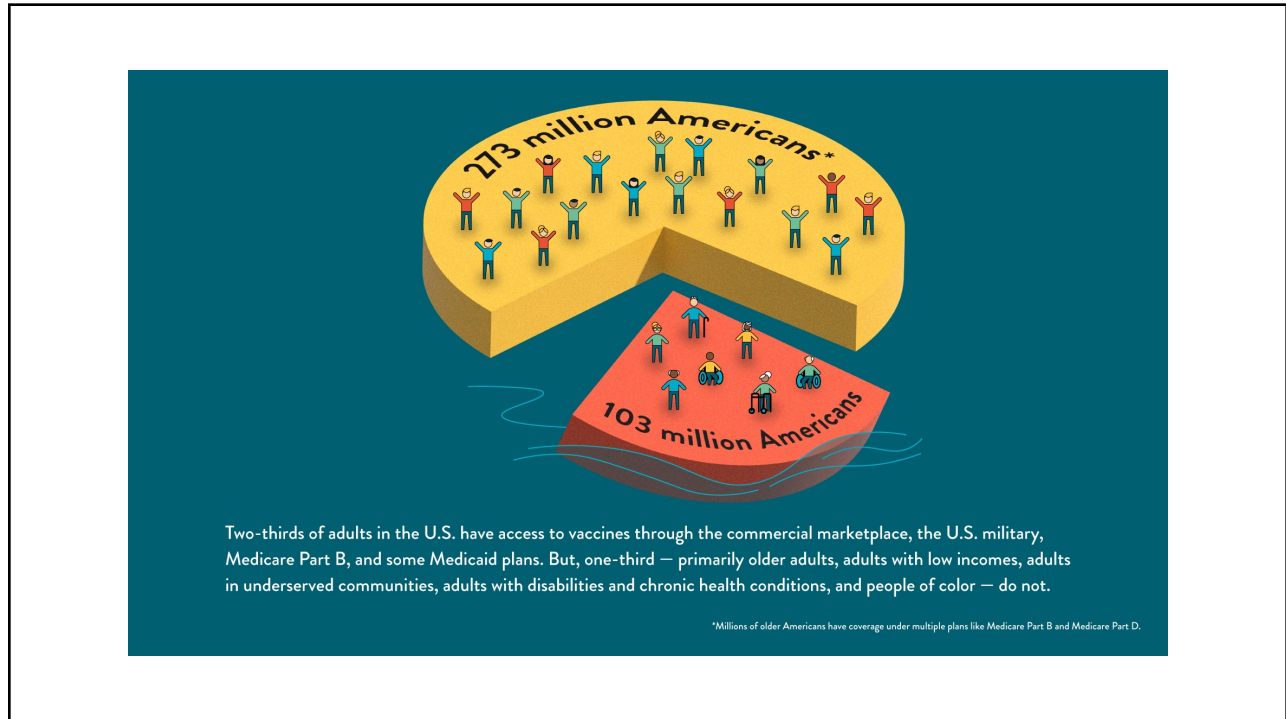
7

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

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

<https://www.hhs.gov/vaccines/vaccines-national-strategic-plan/index.html>

8



9

## 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.


10

Cost  
Sharing  
and  
Vaccines



AVAC  
ADULT VACCINE  
ACCESS COALITION

With the new Inflation Reduction Law,  
now Medicare Part D beneficiaries won't face  
high out-of-pocket costs for their vaccines.




MARKET	VACCINES	OUT-OF-POCKET
Commercial	All CDC-Recommended	<del>\$0</del>
Medicaid Expansion	All CDC-Recommended	<del>\$0</del>
Traditional Medicaid	Determined by state	<del>\$ 50 - \$3.40</del>
Medicare Part B	Pneumococcal, influenza, hepatitis B	<del>\$0</del>
<b>Medicare Part D</b>	<b>All other CDC recommended vaccines, shingles, Tdap, future vaccines</b>	<del>\$0 - \$160</del>

Source: Alexandra Stewart, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2013.11.050>  
Mannett, <https://www.manett.com/Insights/White-Papers/2018/Medicare-Part-D-Cost-Sharing-Trends-for-Adult-Vacc>

11

## Implementation Section 11401 Medicare Part D No Cost Vaccines

- 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)



Learn more:

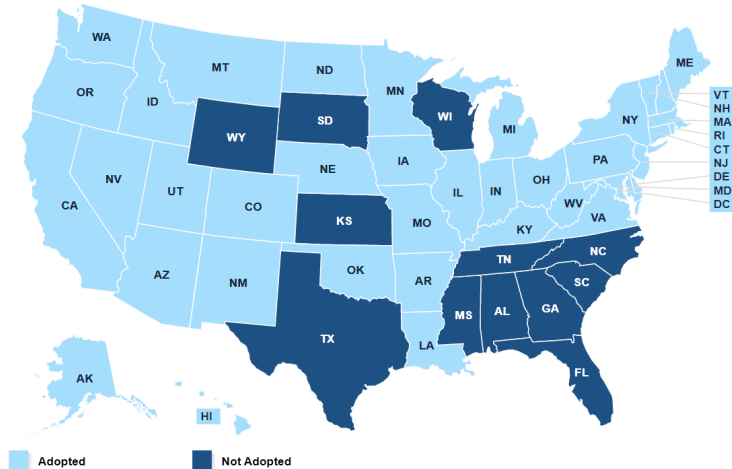
[Fact Sheet  
https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/inflation-reduction-act-lowers-health-care-costs-millions-americans](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/inflation-reduction-act-lowers-health-care-costs-millions-americans)

[Implementation Timeline  
https://www.cms.gov/files/document/10522-inflation-reduction-act-timeline.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/10522-inflation-reduction-act-timeline.pdf)

12

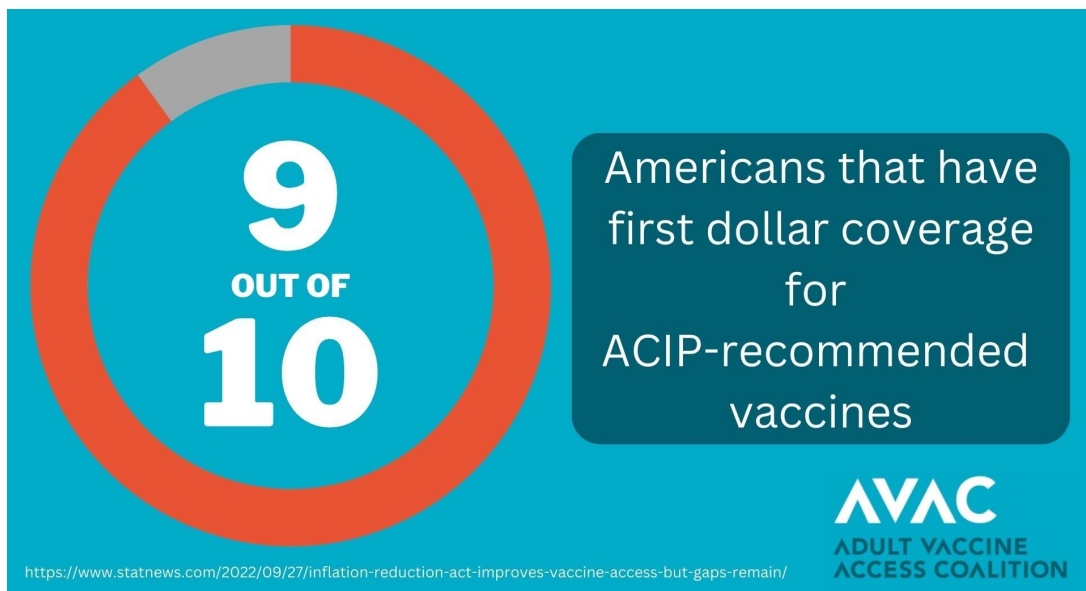
## Implementation Section 11401 Medicaid No Cost Vaccines

- 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's%20public%20health%20insurance%20program%20for%20people,and%20costly%20needs%20for%20care.>

13



14

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](http://www.iqvia.com/locations/united-states/blogs/2021/09/medicare-d-cost-sharing-reduces-vaccine-uptake)

15

[www.adultvaccinesnow.org](http://www.adultvaccinesnow.org)  
**@AVACNow**  
**Abby Bownas**  
[abownas@nvgllc.com](mailto:abownas@nvgllc.com)

**Keeping Vaccinations Up to Date:**  
COVID-19 vaccines save lives—  
so do adult vaccines for flu,  
shingles, Tdap and more.

Immunizations are a highly cost-effective form of preventive medicine that saves our health system money and protects the health of Americans. Over the last decade, advancements in technology, policy and infrastructure have strengthened the immunization landscape.

Vaccines have always been considered one of the greatest public health achievements, but especially amid the pandemic, where there is overlap between populations that are vulnerable to COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable disease.

Despite the demonstrated benefits, vaccine-preventable diseases (or their complications) account for 50,000 to 90,000 adult deaths in the U.S. each year.<sup>1</sup> Adult immunization coverage lags behind federal targets for most commonly recommended vaccines. In fact, 75% of adults are missing one or more critical vaccines for flu, pneumococcal, shingles, and Tdap.<sup>2</sup>

Adults still suffer from substantial morbidity and mortality and incur significant health care costs because of vaccine-preventable diseases. The United States spends \$26.5 billion annually treating four vaccine-preventable diseases in adults over the age of 50.<sup>3</sup> In addition to the economic consequences, gaps in vaccinations leave older adults and persons with chronic conditions, such as heart and lung disease and diabetes, vulnerable to the devastating effects of routine as well as emerging infectious disease outbreaks.<sup>4</sup>

Millions of adults suffer from vaccine-preventable diseases, causing them to miss work, leaving some unable to care for those who depend on them. Adults aged 50 and over are particularly susceptible to many vaccine-preventable diseases and account for a disproportionate number of the deaths and illnesses associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. Additionally, disparities exist in vaccination status. In 2019, white adults were almost twice as likely to receive shingles vaccinations than Black and Hispanic adults.<sup>5</sup>

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

**AVAC ADULT VACCINE ACCESS COALITION**

16