

What Works

To Improve Adult Immunization

What They Did:

Over the past decade, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation Immunization Awards program has promoted quality improvement projects among family medicine residents.

The AAFP Foundation Immunization Awards Program recognizes family medicine residency programs that implement and report on quality improvement or community-based projects designed to increase immunization rates among their patients. The program started in 2005, with a childhood immunization focus, and subsequently expanded to include adult immunizations in 2011 and senior (65 years of age and older) immunizations in 2014. The program evolved from successfully promoting improvements in pediatric immunization rates to become champions of adult immunizations.

AAFP Foundation Immunization Awards are given annually in these categories:

- Best Practices for an existing program that exceeds national immunization standards
- Most Improved for an existing system that achieved greatly improved immunization rates
- System Implementation for a new system that improved immunization rates in medically underserved areas

The program collaborated with the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors to develop the first comprehensive immunization curriculum for Family Medicine residency programs.

As noted by one awardee of the program: "The residents are empowered that they can change a clinic process to improve patient outcomes. We all learned about our poor immunization rates and ways to improve them. This has led to more quality improvement projects happening regularly in our multiple clinics."

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AAFP Foundation Immunization Awards

Recognizing Family Medicine Residency Programs
that Improve Adult Immunization Rates



Results:

From 2005 to 2013, the program:

- Presented 87 competitive monetary awards, recognizing family medicine residency programs in 31 states
- Documented best practices implemented by these quality improvement projects
- Provided opportunities for family medicine residents to share their best practices with other physicians and healthcare providers at national forums

From 2009 – 2013, there have been 1,310 residents in programs that received the awards and 640,200 patients served in these residency programs.

These awards represent the best of family physicians to improve adult and child immunization rates. Two examples on how they improved adult immunization are described below.

The 2013 Best Practice for Adult Immunization was awarded to Brooklyn Hospital Center Family Medicine Residency Program, Brooklyn, NY, for their application of the methodology they had developed to identify and immunize children and adolescents—for which they had already won a Best Practice Award—to 300 adult patients. They improved their immunization rates by 46% for influenza, 20% for pneumococcal, 10% for Tdap booster, and 30% for zoster vaccines.

One of the 2013 Systems Implementation for Immunization was awarded to the Creighton University Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program, Omaha, NE, for its multi-pronged approach to overcome the many barriers in immunizing newly arrived refugees—adults and children—during their first year of resettlement when they have health care coverage provided by the federal government. The effort resulted in 46% and 52% improvement in influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, respectively, for the 1,767 adult refugees.



For more information:
<http://www.aafpfoundation.org/immunizationawards>

This "What Works" vignette is one in a series of examples collected by the Provider Workgroup of the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit. For more information or to nominate an example of "what works" to improve adult immunization, go to <http://www.izsummitpartners.org/>. This vignette does not constitute an endorsement from any of the organizations that participate in the Provider Workgroup or the NAIS

