Call to Action: Strategies to Improve Adult Immunization in the US

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Abstract

Vaccination substantially reduces morbidity and mortality related to preventable diseases. However, the overall uptake of adult vaccines in the US is low and declining for certain vaccines and populations. Each year, the US spends billions of dollars treating adults for diseases that could have been prevented through vaccination.

To help address this public health concern, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) convened a diverse group of stakeholders to share insights and discuss solutions to improve the uptake of all recommended adult vaccines in the US. The resulting Call to Action identifies barriers and promising, actionable strategies to address challenges and improve adult vaccination rates through cross-sector partnerships.

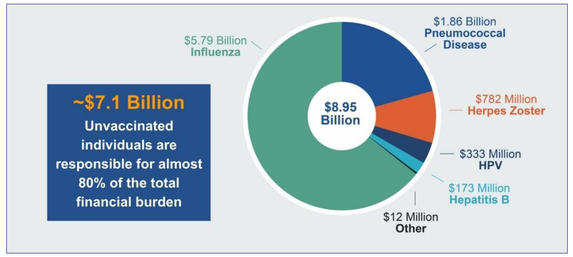
Supporting Organizations

AANP · ACPM · ASCO American Society of Clinical Oncology · American Heart Association · ACOG The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists · AAFP · AIRA · AIM Association of Immunization Managers · AARP · APHA · APIC · CDC · National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit · Immunize.org · National Medical Association · Alliance · American Lung Association · APHA American Public Health Association · National Association of Community Health Centers · National Alliance for Hispanic Health · AVAC Adult Vaccine Access Coalition · rise to immunize AMGA Foundation · astho · Fred Hutch Cancer Center · Good Health Wins

State of US Adult Immunization

Vaccination is a proven, highly effective public health strategy that dramatically reduces disease burden and death. For example, influenza (flu) vaccination reduces the risk of illness by 40-60% in seasons when vaccine strains are well-matched to strains in circulation.[1] Benefits of flu vaccination are most pronounced in adults age 50 years and older, who account for the majority of flu-related hospitalizations (approximately 70%) and deaths (more than 90%).[2]

Vaccine-preventable diseases have significant economic and societal costs. Vaccine coverage translates into significant cost savings for both individuals and society, with the net economic benefits of vaccination estimated at $69 billion in the US.[3] Unvaccinated individuals are responsible for almost 80% of the financial burden related to vaccine-preventable diseases,[4] underscoring the need to improve overall adult vaccination rates.



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Recommendations for Improving US Adult Vaccination Rates

Healthcare System Strategies

- Improve and enhance IIS
- Ensure awareness and understanding of adult vaccine recommendations among all healthcare professionals
- Link performance to vaccination
- Leverage technology
- Utilize combination vaccines and new technology platforms

Healthcare Professional (HCP) Strategies

- Simplify vaccine recommendations
- Emphasize the importance of HCP endorsement and strong recommendations
- Broaden specialist outreach
- Address disparities
- Expand clinical support for vaccination

Patient Strategies

- Develop messaging/ messengers to address common post-pandemic concerns
- Customize messaging
- Vaccinate people where they are
- Implement advanced marketing tactics
- Mobilize the community to address vaccine awareness, affordability, and access

Legislative and Public Policy Initiatives

- Advocate for funding
- Endorse legislative and public policy initiatives
- Reduce or eliminate financial barriers to vaccination

Improving adult immunization rates in the US requires a multi-faceted strategy involving health system improvements, public health initiatives, and community outreach. Through coordinated efforts, we can improve adult immunization coverage and reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases, leading to overall improvements in public health.

Resources to Help Increase US Adult Immunization Rates

Download shareable graphics and videos at: www.nfid.org/adult-vaccine-resources

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