Immunizations & the 115th Congress
April 13, 2017
Adult immunization rates remain low despite interest from many

- AVAC began in 2015. AVAC is a multi-stakeholder organization on adult immunization issues.

- AVAC brings together a number of organizations under one umbrella working collectively to bring necessary federal policy changes to increase adult vaccination rates.

*Adult Vaccination Rates Are Low*

*Adult vaccination rates remain low in the US and far below Healthy People 2020 targets*
We are a diverse group of...

- Health Care Providers
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine Innovators
- Public Health
- Patient, Consumer, and Minority Health Groups
- Registry
Changing the adult immunization policy landscape

1. Build

2. Measure

3. Access
Protecting Vaccine Access in Any Systematic Changes to Health Reform

- Essential Health Benefits
- Prevention and Public Health Fund
- Medicaid Reform
- Activities
  - Meetings
  - Materials
  - Communications

Health and Economic Benefits of Adult Immunizations

As recently as the mid-20th century, conditions such as polio, measles, rubella and diphtheria were still common, striking thousands ill and taking the lives of hundreds more.

The development of safe and effective vaccines has revolutionized medicine and turned once prevalent conditions into mostly a distant memory. Continued access to immunizations for children, adolescents and adults is essential to preserving the progress we've made against vaccine-preventable conditions and strengthening our ability to address emerging health threats in the vaccine research pipeline such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), norovirus, Ebola and Zika.

Every year, more than 50,000 adults die from vaccine-preventable diseases and thousands more suffer serious health problems. At-risk populations, including seniors and people with chronic illness, are at greater risk of complications and death.

The Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC) urges Congress to protect coverage of cost-effective and life-saving vaccines and provide adequate funding for essential immunization infrastructure.
**Eliminating Financial Barriers**

- Educating on discrepancy between B & D
- Expand first dollar coverage of vaccines to Medicare Part D
- Enhance provider billing for Part D vaccines
- Improve vaccine information and education for beneficiaries.

**Activities:**
- Meetings
- Regulatory
- Shingles bill
Prioritizing Funding for Immunization-Related Activities at HHS

• For FY 18 is working in support of
  – Immunization Program at CDC ($650m)
  – The National Vaccine Program Office at HHS ($6.4m)

• Activities:
  – Meetings
  – Support letters
  – Funding requests
  – Report language
Getting out the Message

- Website: [www.adultvaccinesnow.org](http://www.adultvaccinesnow.org)
- Twitter: @AVACNow
- Story Form: [http://www.adultvaccinesnow.org/vaccine-story/](http://www.adultvaccinesnow.org/vaccine-story/)
Every year approximately 50,000 adults die from vaccine preventable diseases in the United States.

Let’s change that.

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