

Adult Immunization . . . We've got to do better!

Following is a snapshot of 2010 U.S. adult vaccination coverage for five routinely recommended vaccines:

- Among adults age 19–64 years for whom Tdap status specifically could be assessed, Tdap vaccination coverage was 8.2%.¹
- Among adults age 60 years and older, zoster (shingles) vaccination coverage was 14.4%.¹
- Among women age 19–26 years, reported receipt of 1 or more doses of HPV vaccine was 20.7%.¹
- Among adults age 18 years and older, influenza vaccination coverage during the 2010–11 influenza season was 40.5%.²
- Among adults age 65 years and older, pneumococcal vaccination coverage was 59.7% overall, with notable racial and ethnic disparities. Non-Hispanic whites of this age group had higher vaccination coverage (63.5%) compared with Hispanics (39%), non-Hispanic blacks (46.2%), and non-Hispanic Asians (48.2%).¹
- Annually, vaccine-preventable diseases claim the lives of approximately 50,000 U.S. adults. Obviously, healthcare providers need to substantially improve adult vaccination to reduce the serious consequences of disease.
- Successful vaccination programs need to
 - educate potential vaccine recipients
 - develop publicity to promote vaccination
 - increase access to vaccination services in medical offices and complementary settings such as workplaces and pharmacies
 - use reminder-recall systems
 - implement standing orders programs for vaccination
 - assess practice-level vaccination rates and provide feedback to staff members.

For more information on adult vaccination rates please visit www.immunize.org. For information on local immunization clinics, visit the Public Health Nurses webpage at www.edisonnj.org or call them directly at 732-248-7285.

1 CDC. [Adult Vaccination Coverage—United States, 2010](#). *MMWR* 2012;61;66–71.

2 CDC. [Final state-level influenza vaccination coverage estimates for the 2010–11 season—United States](#), National Immunization Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, August 2010 through May 2011.