Strategies and Practices for Identifying and Vaccinating Uninsured Adults

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The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

- The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

- Strategic priorities:
  - Improve Public Health Through Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Thought Leadership
  - Advocate for Resources and Policies that Improve the Public’s Health and Well-being
  - Develop Strong and Effective State and Territorial Health Officials
Background

• While there have been modest increases in vaccination rates among adults for some ACIP recommended vaccines, generally rates remain suboptimal.

• Many immunization programs have limited resources for adult immunizations and, in some cases, limited numbers of partnerships to vaccinate adults, including those that are uninsured.

• With support from a CDC cooperative agreement, ASTHO worked to identify promising practices among immunization programs that provide vaccines to uninsured adults using Section 317 and/or state funding.
The Purpose of the ASTHO Guide to Identifying and Vaccinating Uninsured Adults

• The ASTHO guide includes strategies, practices, and resources from selected state immunization programs and their partners that have implemented activities to improve access to vaccines for vulnerable adult populations.

• The guide includes information about:
  • The role the health agency and their partners play in providing vaccines to uninsured adults
  • Approaches to identifying uninsured adult populations within the community
  • Methods used to fund vaccine purchase and/or vaccine administration services
  • Recommendations for other health agencies that are considering starting or changing their adult immunization program
Methodology

• ASTHO contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) to conduct interviews and develop a report

• Key informant interviews were conducted by JSI between March and May 2016 with a select group of immunization program managers, adult immunization coordinators, and community partners

• The information collected provided information about current strategies and practices that improve vaccination services for uninsured populations
Key Informant Interview Questions

• States that participated in interviews responded to emails/newsletters sent by the Association of Immunization Managers or the National Adult Immunization Coordinators’ Partnership

• Questions included:
  • How does your agency provide vaccination services to uninsured adults?
  • Who are the community partners that assist in your efforts to provide vaccines to uninsured adults?
  • How does your agency identify uninsured adult populations within the community?
  • How does your agency monitor vaccination rates among uninsured adults?
  • How does your agency fund programs that provide services to uninsured adults?
  • What are the challenges and successes your agency has had in providing vaccinations for uninsured adults?
State and Local Health Agencies Interviewed

- Georgia
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New York City
- North Carolina
- Oregon

- Philadelphia
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
Key Chapters in the Report

• Background
• Key informant interview methodology
• Summary of strategies and practices identified by health departments and their partners
• State or City Stories and Lessons Learned
• Resources and links
### Theme 1: Identifying and Reaching Uninsured Adults

**Clinical and Non-Clinical Partners**

- Use partners that provide care for uninsured adults already.
- Use VFC providers that have an existing infrastructure that can be adapted for adult vaccine programs.
- Engage advisory committees, coalitions, and tribal councils.
- Survey providers and partners to drive planning.

**Outreach**

- Develop and disseminate communication tools to promote vaccines for uninsured adults.
- Put vaccine in people’s path at health fairs, faith-based organizations, homeless shelters, food pantries, and adult education programs, as well as corrections facilities.
- Award mini-grants to support community-level vaccination efforts.
- Conduct community surveys to estimate vaccine needs for uninsured.
- Use Section 317 funding to vaccinate high-risk adults during emergency preparedness exercises.
## Theme 2: Tools and Activities to Incorporate Adult Immunization into State Immunization Programs

| **State IIS** | Use the IIS for ordering, accountability, and to assess adult vaccination status. |
| **Provider Enrollment** | Develop adult provider enrollment forms or online enrollment capability. |
| **Education for Providers and Partners** | Provide ongoing education to providers using site visits and training materials. Develop dedicated websites for adult vaccination programs with agreements, forms, and promotional materials. |
| **Staff Dedicated to the Adult Vaccine Program** | Dedicate staff to oversee provider outreach, training, and Section 317-program accountability. |
### Theme 3: Clinical Practices to Facilitate Successful Incorporation of Adult Vaccination Services

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<tr>
<th><strong>Integrate Immunization Assessment and Screening into Clinic Flow</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Hold special immunization clinics for the uninsured.</td>
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<td>Use pre-visit planning to identify adults due for vaccines and</td>
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<tr>
<td>determine their eligibility for 317-funded vaccines and/or</td>
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<td>vaccine manufacturer patient assistance programs (PAP) vaccines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop screening forms to determine eligibility for 317-funded</td>
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<td>vaccines.</td>
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<td>Make adult immunization assessment an explicit part of a staff</td>
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<td>job description.</td>
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<td>Incorporate standing orders into clinic flow.</td>
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<th><strong>Adult Immunization Champions</strong></th>
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<td>Identify immunization champions</td>
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<td>to provide orientation and train</td>
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<td>ing for clinic staff.</td>
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## Theme 4: Maximizing Limited Resources

| Ensure Compliance with Section 317 Requirements | Use a pilot period to assess organizations’ capabilities and capacity to comply with Section 317 requirements. Conduct site visits to ensure proper handling and storage of Section 317-funded vaccines, and ensure optimal use of available vaccines and minimize vaccine waste through close collaboration with partners. |
| State Funding For Adult Vaccines | Promote state legislation to assess health plans for the cost of vaccines for adults to allow for universal adult vaccination. |
| Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) | Integrate PAPs into routine clinic operations. |
| Generate Revenue from Billing Insurers | Generate revenue from billing insurers to sustain public health programs for vaccinating uninsured adults. |
Dissemination

• The guide was finalized in September 2016
• ASTHO shared this resource with state and territorial health agencies
• The guide can be found on-line at: http://www.astho.org/Programs/Immunization