



# Adult Immunization Update

Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Immunization, March 2011

## BACKGROUND

In 2007 the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) collaborated with primary care providers, health insurance providers, and the [Ocean State Adult Immunization Coalition \(OSAIC\)](#) to establish an Adult Immunization Program. The program aims to increase adult vaccination coverage rates by reducing barriers to vaccination. Public and private insurers provide funding through the program for the purchase and distribution of vaccine to healthcare providers for insured adults. Providers receive vaccine for free and bill insurers for vaccine administration costs. The program offers influenza, pneumococcal, and Tdap vaccines. Federal funds are used to purchase vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults through special adult immunization initiatives (see page two).

Rhode Island is the first state to centralize the distribution of adult vaccines and to implement universal adult vaccination policies. The program has been recognized for its innovation and has received:

- ✓ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Immunization Excellence Award in 2008.
- ✓ The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)'s 2008 Vision Award.
- ✓ The Association of Immunization Managers Bull's-Eye Award for Innovation and Excellence in Immunization.
- ✓ Acknowledgement in 2010 American Lung Association's report [Missed Opportunities: Influenza and Pneumonia Vaccination in Older Adults](#)

## ADULT IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

### ROUTINE VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Influenza vaccine: 1 dose annually for all adults
- Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccine: a single dose for all adults followed by a Td booster every 10 years
- Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine: 2 doses for adults who lack evidence of immunity
- HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccine: 3 doses for women 26 years of age or younger (Gardasil can be given to men age 26 years or younger to prevent genital warts)
- Zoster (shingles) vaccine: 1 dose for adults 60 years of age and older
- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine: 1 or 2 doses (depending on age) for adults who lack evidence of immunity
- Pneumococcal vaccine: 1 dose for adults 65 years and older

### VACCINES RECOMMENDED FOR HIGH-RISK ADULTS:

- Pneumococcal vaccine: 1 or 2 doses for adults 19 to 64 years of age
- Meningococcal vaccine: 1 or more doses for adults 19 years and older
- Hepatitis B vaccine: 3 doses for adults 19 years and older
- Hepatitis A vaccine: 2 doses for adults 19 years and older

## ADULT VACCINATION COVERAGE RATES

### INFLUENZA VACCINE

In February 2010, the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) expanded recommendations for annual influenza vaccination to include everyone 6 months of age and older. Certain people are at higher risk for influenza complications, including those 65 years of age and older, infants younger than 6 months of age, pregnant women, and people of any age with chronic medical conditions. Healthcare workers, close contacts and caretakers of people with chronic illnesses, and infants are considered vaccination priorities because of how readily they can transmit the illness. The [Healthy People 2020](#) goal for influenza coverage in priority groups is 90%. Figure 1 shows influenza vaccination trends among adults 65 years of age and older and Figure 2 shows the influenza vaccination coverage rate for all adults 18 years of age and older during the 2009-2010 influenza season. Coverage among pregnant women in Rhode Island increased from 30% in 2005 to 66.8% during the 2009-2010 influenza season (Figure 3). Despite progress, influenza coverage rates remain well below [Healthy People 2020](#) goals.

Figure 1. Influenza Vaccination in Past 12 Months  
Adults 65 Years of Age and Older: 2001-2009

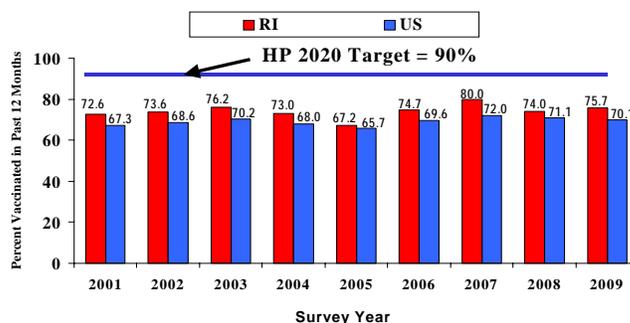
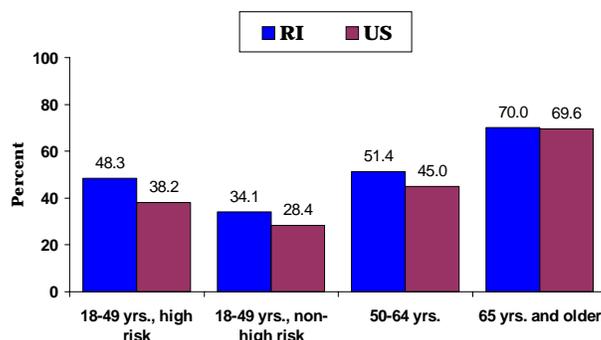
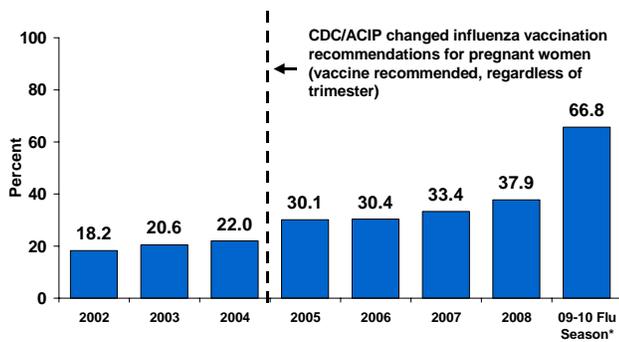


Figure 2. Seasonal Influenza Vaccination  
Adults, Rhode Island vs. US: 2009-2010



**Figure 3. Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Pregnant Women, Rhode Island: 2002-2010**

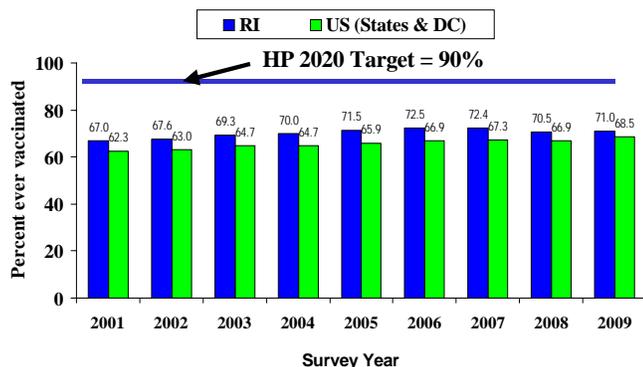


Source: Rhode Island Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), 2002-2010

### PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE

The ACIP recommends 1-2 doses of pneumococcal vaccine for adults 19 through 64 years of age if they smoke or have certain chronic medical conditions and 1 dose for people 65 years of age and older if they have never been vaccinated against the illness. The [Healthy People 2020](#) objective for coverage of adults 65 years of age and older is 90%. Figure 4, below, compares Rhode Island and US trends.

**Figure 4. Pneumococcal Vaccination in Lifetime Adults 65 Years of Age or Older: 2001-2009**



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2001-2009, CDC

### SPECIAL ADULT IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVES

To reduce barriers and increase access to adult vaccines, HEALTH partners with OSAIC to support several special adult immunization initiatives. They include:

#### TDAP COCOONING PROJECT

Aims to prevent transmission of pertussis to infants too young to be vaccinated against the illness. This is done through the establishment of a Tdap vaccination program in birthing hospitals for postpartum women. A vaccination/referral system for family members and caretakers of these infants is being developed.

#### UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED HCW INITIATIVE

Provides an immunization referral system for uninsured and underinsured individuals who are required to be vaccinated as a condition of employment as healthcare workers.

#### HEPATITIS VACCINE FOR HIGH-RISK ADULTS INITIATIVE

Provides access to hepatitis B vaccine for adults at high-risk

for the disease. This vaccine is provided at clinics for sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, the Adult Correctional Institution (ACI), substance abuse treatment facilities, and AIDS Project RI, among other locations.

#### PERINATAL HEPATITIS B AND C PREVENTION PROGRAM

Identifies pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B and C infections and helps prevent transmission of the virus to their infants and family members. The program offers comprehensive case management services, including educational home visits, referrals for medical management, and screenings, tests, and immunizations of household contacts and partners of women with hepatitis B. The program also offers tracking and follow-up of infants and outreach to pediatric providers to ensure infants receive appropriate and timely HBV immunoprophylaxis.

#### HUMAN PAPILOMA VIRUS (HPV) VACCINE INITIATIVE

Provides seed HPV vaccine to providers for uninsured individuals who are eligible for vaccine patient assistance programs.

### IMPROVING ADULT IMMUNIZATION RATES

#### WHAT IS HEALTH DOING?

1. **Partners** with OSAIC to identify and develop programs to address vaccination disparities and unmet vaccination needs among adults.
2. **Supports** free immunization clinics for uninsured adults without primary care providers.
3. **Collaborates** with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to streamline billing and reimbursement systems.
4. **Recruits** new vaccine providers (pharmacies and specialists, for example) to expand vaccine accessibility.
5. **Partners** with Rhode Island colleges and universities to improve influenza uptake among students and faculty.
6. **Amending** college immunization regulations to reflect new ACIP standards for Tdap and meningococcal vaccines.
7. **Partners** with OSAIC to increase influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers.
8. **Educates** the public and providers about vaccination.
9. **Expanding** quality assurance activities to monitor and educate adult vaccine providers on vaccine management.
10. **Planning enhancements** to KIDSNET's to build an adult immunization registry.
11. **Provides** vaccine and schedule updates through HEALTH's *Provider Briefing*.

#### WHAT SHOULD HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS DO?

1. **Follow** the CDC's [Adult Immunization Schedule](#) in assessing vaccination status and vaccinate according to age and the health risks patients face.
2. **Make** it standard practice to review patients' immunization histories and offer vaccines during medical encounters, such as cancer screenings and prenatal visits.
3. **Implement** standing orders for vaccinations in hospital, clinic, and practice settings.
4. **Implement** electronic medical records systems.
5. **Reduce** transmission of disease and set an example by complying with immunization recommendations. This includes being vaccinated against the flu annually.
6. **Consult** Rhode Island's [Immunization Resource Manual](#).