US Vaccination Coverage Remained Low in 2010

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February 4, 2012 — Adult vaccination coverage remains low in the United States, with little improvement in rates from 2009 to 2010, researchers at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in an article published in the February 3 issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Walter W. Williams, MD, from the Immunization Services Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, and colleagues analyzed data from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey, an annual household survey by the National Center for Health Statistics and the US Census Bureau that has been conducted since 1957.

The current report covers pneumococcal, hepatitis A and B, herpes zoster (shingles), human papillomavirus (HPV), and tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccines. A previous report covered influenza vaccinations.

"Substantial improvement in adult vaccination is needed to reduce the health consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases among adults," the researchers write. Adult vaccination coverage remains far below the recommendations of *Healthy People 2020*, the government program that issues science-based health goals in 10-year cycles.

Only limited increases in coverage for 3 types of vaccines occurred during the year, according to the researchers. Vaccination coverage rose 1.6 percentage points to 8.2% coverage for Tdap for adults 19 to 64 years old, 4.4 percentage points to 14.4% coverage in adults aged 60 years and older for herpes zoster vaccine for shingles, and 3.6 percentage points to 20.7% coverage for 1 or more doses of HPV vaccination in women aged 19 to 26 years.

For high-risk adults aged 19 to 64 years, pneumococcal vaccination coverage amounted to18.5%, and for adults 65 and older coverage came to 59.7%. People are considered at high risk if they have been diagnosed with diabetes, emphysema, heart disease, cancer, or some other disorders.

Although Tdap vaccinations increased, the percentage of adults receiving any tetanus toxoid-containing vaccination remained unchanged, at 64.0% for ages 19 to 49 years, 63.4% for ages 50 to 64 years, and 53.4% for adults aged 65 years and older.

The researchers characterized coverage of hepatitis A vaccine in 2010 as "similar" to that seen in 2009. Coverage amounted to 10.7% for adults aged 19 to 49 years in 2010 compared with 9.8% in 2009. However, for adults who had travelled since 1995 to countries other than the United States, Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, hepatitis A vaccine coverage was higher, at 16.6%, in 2010 compared with in 2009, when it was 7.5%.

Hepatitis B coverage stood at 42.0% for high-risk adults aged 19 to 49 years, which is essentially unchanged from 2009. People with assisted blood glucose monitoring through instruments used in different people without appropriate infection control are at risk for hepatitis B. Diabetes will be included in risk factors for hepatitis B in future assessments, the researchers note.

Healthy People 2020 goals for vaccination coverage are:

- pneumococcal: 90% of those older than 65 years, 60% of those aged 18 to 64 years;
- herpes zoster: 30%; and
- hepatitis A and B: 90%.

The authors have disclosed no relevant financial relationships.

Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2012;61;66-72. Full text

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