

## Background

Underimmunization of children, adolescents, and adults constitutes a series of failed opportunities to protect the health of communities through vaccination. While underimmunization has many causes, the problem of underinsurance for vaccines is receiving increasing attention because it is policy-remediable. Underinsurance occurs when private insurance plans—the principal source of health insurance for the majority of American children and adults—do not include benefits for all of the vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Objective

The CDC is interested in learning more about policies regarding preventive care benefits and immunization coverage within health insurance plans. This study will help the CDC estimate coverage for vaccines so that they can help public health departments with planning and budget requests.

## Methods/Study Design

Research methods are targeted to goals of the study and include telephone surveys with of a sample of health insurance carriers. Confidential interviews will be conducted with the personnel knowledgeable on polices related to preventive care and immunization coverage.

The study will include a survey of health insurance carriers in each of the 50 states in order to determine their prevailing coverage policies and the related plan enrollment for the following childhood, adolescent, and adult vaccines:

- inactivated influenza (for children, adolescents, adults)
- live attenuated influenza (children, adolescents, adults)
- combined tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (adolescents, adults)
- meningococcal conjugate (adolescents, adults)
- pneumococcal conjugate (adolescents, adults)
- human papillomavirus (adolescents, adults)
- rotavirus (children)
- hepatitis A (children)
- herpes zoster (adults)

Results of studies will be presented to CDC officials and other stakeholders, and disseminated at national meetings and through publications in peer-reviewed journals.

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Questions regarding this study should be directed to:

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