The National Adult Vaccination Program (NAVP) is a multi-stakeholder industry-supported collaboration spearheaded by The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) to develop a cohesive strategic and policy approach to improve adult vaccination aligned with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. NAVP aims to identify and stimulate policy improvements to advance adult immunizations toward the goals set for Healthy People 2020.

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**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ADULT VACCINATION PROGRAM?**

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**WHAT IS THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA?**

Founded in 1945, GSA is the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. GSA’s principal mission—and that of its 5,400 members—is to advance the study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision makers, and the general public.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO IMPROVE ADULT VACCINATION IN THE UNITED STATES?**

Each year in the United States, approximately 50,000 adults, and an additional 500 children, die as a result of vaccine-preventable illnesses and their complications—a number that approaches the U.S. fatal casualties in the Vietnam War. Furthermore, the annual economic burden of influenza in adults accounts for $87.1 billion.3

**ADULT IMMUNIZATION RATES ARE FAR BELOW GOALS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Although public health professionals and health care providers recognize that immunizations provide both an effective approach to disease prevention as well as cost savings, current adult immunization rates fall well below the goals set for Healthy People 2020.4 Presently, rates of influenza, pneumococcal, and zoster vaccinations for adults range from 62.3% for influenza to only 20% for zoster.5,6 The Healthy People 2020 campaign aims to markedly improve adult immunization rates with goals of 90% for influenza and pneumococcal and 30% for zoster by 2020.4

**WHAT WORK WAS CONDUCTED AT THE 2013 NAVP SUMMIT?**

The 2013 NAVP Summit was a full-day meeting held in Washington, DC, on August 22, 2013. Leaders in adult immunization at the national, state, and local levels—in government and the private sector—convened to consider issues, challenges, and solutions from a strategic standpoint. The primary outcome is a roadmap for action to achieve Healthy People 2020 goals for adult immunization.
The proposed roadmap for action includes seven recommendations that represent the on-site work of the thought leaders participating in the 2013 NAVP Summit. This roadmap integrates other national efforts and is offered to the wide community of stakeholders who are committed to advancing adult immunizations. GSA and the NAVP hope stakeholders will use, augment, and adapt the elements in this roadmap to achieve breakthrough progress toward the Healthy People 2020 goals.

**RECOMMENDATION 1 / EXPAND FUNDING AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS.**
Funding and reimbursement emerged as key drivers that underpin many efforts to advance adult immunizations. Current health reforms that emphasize preventive care are opening opportunities to address funding, payment, and access to vaccines.

**RECOMMENDATION 2 / LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH REFORMS TO ADVANCE ADULT IMMUNIZATION.**
The current health care landscape has the unprecedented potential to advance adult immunizations and the related public health benefits through rapidly evolving systems, processes, and strategies that focus on prevention and efficiency.

**RECOMMENDATION 3 / COMPILE, CONDUCT, AND DISSEMINATE RESEARCH IN ADULT IMMUNIZATION.**
Scientific data provide the required foundation and impetus for necessary action by legislators, policy and decision makers, and health care providers.

**RECOMMENDATION 4 / CREATE A NATIONAL REGISTRY FOR ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS.**
A national immunization registry that is widely accessible by health care providers, pharmacies, health care practices, insurers, and patients would provide the necessary, consistent mechanism for documenting vaccines that have been administered to patients by various providers across venues of care.

**RECOMMENDATION 5 / IDENTIFY AND TRAIN PROVIDER AND LAY CHAMPIONS OF ADULT IMMUNIZATION.**
Champions are needed to mobilize the public and providers to connect knowledge of the benefits of vaccines to action and practice. Leadership must be bolstered and coordinated.

**RECOMMENDATION 6 / CHANGE POLICIES TO EXPAND IMMUNIZATION RATES, AUTHORIZED VACCINATORS, AND VENUES.**
Adult immunization rates could be improved by mandating immunization of health care workers and other subset populations of adults, expanding the types of health care providers authorized as vaccinators, and redefining in-network coverage of vaccinations administered at alternative care locations by different providers.

**RECOMMENDATION 7 / EXPAND QUALITY MEASURES FOR ADULT IMMUNIZATION.**
Quality measures are known to mobilize providers, practices, and systems and drive change. Opportunities exist for improvement and expansion of quality measures for adult immunization that could advance rates toward the Healthy People 2020 goals, improve health care, and reduce avoidable expenditures, morbidity, and mortality.
STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORK OF THE 2013 NAVP SUMMIT
Interprofessional colleagues assembling for the 2013 NAVP Summit included representatives from health care (i.e., nursing, medicine, pharmacy, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, social work, and psychology), professional organizations, government agencies, state immunization registries, state and local public health departments, along with leaders in education, quality, policy, payers, strategy, gerontology, and consumer advocacy.

WHERE CAN I FIND DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2013 NAVP SUMMIT?
The Comprehensive Report of the 2013 National Adult Vaccination Program Summit: Developing Champions and Building a Roadmap for Action to Reach the Healthy People 2020 Goals for Adult Vaccination is available for download through the NAVP website (navp.org).

REFERENCES


