

Immunizations for Adolescents

Immunization Care for Adolescents in Rural Northern California

- Communities with unvaccinated or under-vaccinated populations are at increased risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Health insurance reforms under the Affordable Care Act require health plans to cover recommended immunizations without co-pays.
- As of January 2016, parents may no longer obtain a personal belief exemption for 10 school-required vaccinations, unless students have a medical exemption or are home schooled.

How Health Centers Provide the Necessary Care

Clinical Interventions

- Utilize all encounters with an adolescent to screen and, when indicated, immunize.
- Make immunization services readily available, including during non-traditional times such as weekends, evenings and lunch-hours.
- Offer immunizations as “walk-in” services with minimal or no wait time.
- Utilize provider reminders: computer-generated lists are used to notify providers of adolescents to be seen in clinic whose vaccines are past due.
- Use parent reminders when immunizations are due soon and recall notices when they are past due such as telephone calls, postcards or letters.
- Exchange immunization records for adolescents through the California Immunization Registry (CAIR). This promotes care coordination and improved access to an adolescent’s immunization history.
- When adolescents come in for a Tdap for entry to 7th grade, remind them that they are also due for the Meningococcal vaccine.

Community Interventions

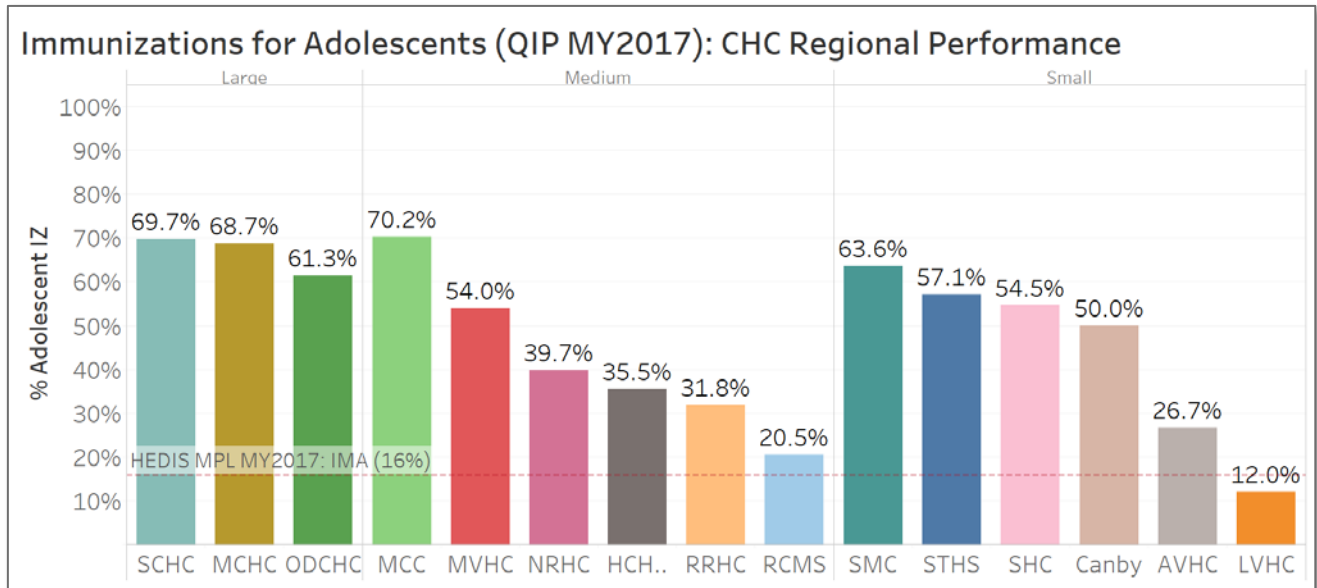
- At community health fairs offer education on adolescent immunizations and recommended schedules.

Immunizations for Adolescents

Rural Northern California Health Center Data

Key Points

- It can be challenging to bring adolescents in for vaccinations. Some health centers use sports physicals as an opportunity to vaccinate adolescents.



Quality Measure Definitions (QIP)

The percentage of adolescents **13 years of age** who had one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, one tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap), **and** two doses of the human papillomavirus (HPV) by their 13th birthday.

- Adolescents ages 10-13 years old need to have one dose of Tdap vaccine
- Adolescents ages 11-13 years old need to have one dose of Meningococcal vaccine
- Adolescents ages 11-12 years old need to have two doses of HPV vaccine

National Quality Goals and Benchmarks

HEDIS 25th (MPL) for Measurement Year 2017: HEDIS is a national data set, which measures the performance of health plans on quality of care. The Minimum Performance Level (MPL), or 25th percentile, for the Immunizations for Adolescents measure is 15.87%.