

April is National Minority Health Month

Vaccines Prevent Millions of Infections, Save Billions in Costs

Adapted from *IAC Express, Issue 1108, March 11, 2014*

Childhood vaccines have the potential to prevent 42,000 early deaths and 20 million cases of disease among Americans born in a given year, according to a new CDC analysis.

[Economic Evaluation of the Routine Childhood Immunization Program in the United States, 2009](#), published online in *Pediatrics* on March 3, presented an analysis showing that childhood immunizations save thousands of lives and billions of dollars. Researchers conclude that from a societal perspective, the average savings per dollar spent on vaccination is at least \$10.

According to the study's authors, "the vaccines currently recommended for young children represent not only a major public health victory in terms of disease prevention, but also an excellent public health 'buy' in terms of dollars and cents."

Flu Vaccine Cuts Serious Illness in Children by 74%

Getting a flu vaccine reduces a child's risk of flu-related intensive care hospitalization by 74 %, according to a CDC study published recently in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

The study is the first to estimate vaccine effectiveness against flu admissions to pediatric intensive care units. It illustrates the important protection the flu vaccine can provide to children against serious flu outcomes. CDC recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older, and especially for children at high risk of serious flu-related complications.

"These study results underscore the importance of an annual flu vaccination, which can keep your child from ending up in the intensive care unit," said Dr. Alicia Fry, a medical officer in CDC's Influenza Division. "It is extremely important that all children – especially children at high risk of flu complications – are protected from what can be a life-threatening illness."

[Mar 27 CDC press release](#)

National Infant Immunization Week is April 26-May 3

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) will focus attention on the critical role vaccination plays in protecting infants and children from serious disease. Resources and promotional materials such as video PSAs, sample Tweets, and Facebook posts are available on the [NIIW website](#).

Prevention is Power: Taking Action for Health Equity

April is Minority Health Month. This year's theme, Prevention is Power, is a good match for immunization, one of the most cost-effective tools for preventing illness and death.

The MDCH Division of Immunization urges all health care providers to consider how they can bring this theme into focus at their facility. Immunization disparities exist for all age groups and for all immunizations as demonstrated below.

Children

Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) data show that the overall rate among children 19-35 months of age for the 4313314 series (4 DTaP; 3 Polio; 1 MMR; 3 Hib; 3 HepB; 1 Varicella; and 4 PCV) was 71.1%, compared to 64.8% among African Americans.

Adolescent

Disparities in immunization coverage exist among vaccines routinely recommended for adolescents (Tdap, meningococcal, and HPV vaccines). HPV vaccination coverage is significantly lower than coverage for Tdap and meningococcal vaccines. HPV series completion estimates are higher among those living at or above poverty level compared to those living below poverty level. Further, series completion rates are lower among African Americans and Hispanics as compared to whites.

Adult

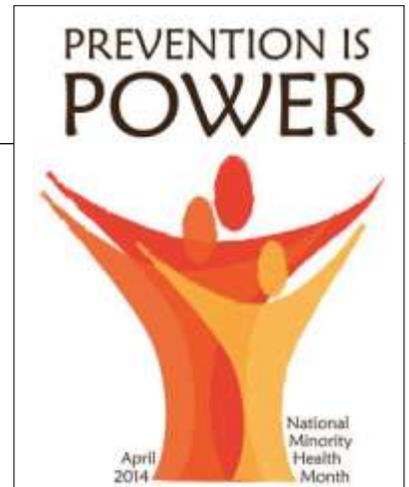
Based on the 2012 National Health Interview Survey, disparities increased for Tdap, herpes zoster and HPV vaccines. In general, non-Hispanic blacks, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic Asians have lower vaccination coverage than whites for all immunizations routinely recommended for adults.

Flu Vaccination

The 2012-2013 influenza immunization rates for the U.S. were highest among Hispanics, followed by whites and African Americans.

Continued next page

[Posted online 4/3/14](#)



Dates Announced for Michigan's Annual Fall Immunization Conferences

The MDCH Fall Regional Immunization Conferences offer an excellent opportunity for health care professionals to get updated on immunization. These conferences have been offered annually for 20 years, and consistently receive high ratings from attendees. Their primary goal is to update providers on immunization issues that affect people of all ages. They are intended for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, medical assistants, public health staff, physician assistants, medical and nursing students, and anyone interested in learning more about current immunization practice in Michigan.

This fall's schedule is: Oct. 7 (Marquette), Oct. 9 (Gaylord), Oct. 21 (Flint), Oct. 23 (Dearborn), Oct. 24 (Troy), Nov. 18 (Grand Rapids), Nov. 19 (Kalamazoo), and Nov. 21 (East Lansing).

We are still in the early planning stages for these conferences. As more details become available, they will be posted on our [conference website](#). Registration will begin September 4.

[A Save-the-Date flyer](#) is posted on the conference website.

Updated: Summaries of Recommendations for Child/Teen and Adult Immunization

IAC Express, Issue 1112: April 1, 2014

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) recently updated two of its most popular educational resources for healthcare professionals. Both the [Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization](#) and the [Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization](#) were revised based on updated ACIP recommendations.

IAC's [Handouts for Patients & Staff](#) web section offers healthcare professionals and the public more than 300 free handouts (many available in translation), which we encourage you to print out, copy, and distribute widely.

Pertussis Vaccine Linked to Fewer Hospitalizations

CIDRAP, 3/14/14

Even though a high proportion of breakthrough pertussis cases occur in people vaccinated for the disease, immunization does result in decreased morbidity, including hospitalizations, according to a recent study in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

The study revealed that ever-vaccinated patients had significantly lower risks of hospitalization and of severe disease than unvaccinated patients. They also had decreased odds of hospitalization and of developing pneumonia compared with those unvaccinated.

Furthermore, patients who were up to date with federal recommendations had a significantly shorter duration of coughing, a measure of disease severity.

An accompanying commentary concluded that "the current vaccines, even with the limitations, are still protective and reduce the severity of pertussis."

[Mar 14 Clin Infect Dis study abstract](#)

Prevention is Power: Taking Action for Health Equity

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Strategies to decrease disparities and increase immunization coverage levels:

- Ensure every patient (or parent) understands which vaccines are recommended based on their age, risk condition, occupation and/or lifestyle
- Strongly recommend vaccines to your patients; provider recommendation has been proven to be the number one reason why persons decide to get immunizations
- Assess every patient's immunization status at every visit
- Offer all needed vaccinations at every visit; if you don't carry a certain vaccine, refer your patient to another clinic or their local health department
- Distribute reminder/recall letters to get patients up-to-date
- Remind your patients that their family members and close contacts should also receive recommended vaccines
- Don't be afraid to remind your own family – even your extended family – that they, too, may need immunizations!

Immunization disparities exist. We challenge you to find and decrease disparities in your patient population. In doing so, you will improve your facility's overall immunization rate and thereby prevent disease.

For more information: [Immunization Disparity Resources](#)

Additional Michigan Institutions Join the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll

The MDCH Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) would like to recognize two hospitals that have recently been added to the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll. Congratulations to Three Rivers Hospital in St. Joseph and DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, for being accepted to the [Immunization Action Coalition's \(IAC\) Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll](#).

All seven Michigan hospitals enrolled in this program have birth dose coverage levels of 90% or greater and hepatitis B policies to protect all newborns.

If your facility meets the requirements, please complete an application to have your facility recognized for their efforts to protect Michigan babies.

[Apply for the Birth Dose Honor Roll](#)

Immunization Action Coalition Newsletters Available Now

The March issue of the Immunization Action Coalition's newsletter, [Needle Tips](#), has been released. This issue features HPV vaccination resources for providers and patients, meningococcal vaccination recommendations, and a checklist for assessing adult vaccinations.

The March 2014 issue of [Vaccinate Adults](#) has also been posted online. This issue presents the 2014 U.S. immunization schedule for adults. In addition, it includes an array of patient-friendly schedules for all adults and high-risk adults. It also features the "Ask the Experts" column from CDC medical officers Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH, and Iyabode Akinsanya-Beysolow, MD, MPH, and nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN.

We would like to encourage you to [subscribe to IAC's free publications](#) today.

Refusal to Consent to Vaccination Forms are Updated

MDCH has updated the Refusal to Consent forms. These forms were originally designed for provider office use by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Please note the form requests Patient ID number (ID#), which was on the original document, and is to be used to identify the EMR/EHR patient ID number used in many provider offices. This space on the form may also be used to indicate the date of birth (DOB) if a patient ID number is not used in a provider office. MDCH has revised these forms to include additional items as requested.

These are the direct links for these documents:

- [Refusal to Consent to Vaccination \(Children & Adolescents\)](#)
- [Refusal to Consent to Vaccination \(Adult\)](#)

The forms are posted on the MDCH website:

www.michigan.gov/immunize > Provider Information

Voices for Vaccines Provides a Platform for Parents

Voices for Vaccines blog, 3/5/14

[Voices for Vaccines](#) (VFV) is a parent-driven organization supported by scientists, doctors, and public health officials that provides parents clear, science-based information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable disease, as well as an opportunity to join the national discussion about the importance of on-time vaccination. One of VFV's primary goals is to counter the vaccine misinformation that is putting children at risk of contracting preventable diseases.

VFV gives parents an opportunity to share their experiences and viewpoints. Here are just a few of the stories that have been shared on the VFV blog:

- [Karen's Moms Who Vax](#) – looks at vaccine communication and how you can make a real difference
- [Leaving the Anti-Vaccine Movement](#) – find out why Megan Sandlin left the anti-vaccine movement
- [KC Kids Doc blog](#) – discusses why the DTaP is still our best bet in keeping children safe from pertussis

Everyone who appreciates vaccines is welcome to join [Voices for Vaccines](#). Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues!

New CDC Immunization Twitter account

CDC recently launched a new Twitter account dedicated to immunization information for health care providers: @CDCIZLearn. By following this account you can receive updates from CDC on immunization training, recommendations, and information across the lifespan. Follow the account at <https://twitter.com/CDCIZLearn>.

Michigan's Immunization Timely Tips (MITT)

To subscribe, send an email to cmarkzon@msms.org and enter the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Subscribers will receive the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT) newsletter, as well as other periodic immunization news. The current and past issues of MITT are posted at www.michigan.gov/immunize, under the Provider Information section. Questions? Contact Rosemary Franklin at franklin@michigan.gov.

Celebrities Delivering Misinformation

Vaccine Update for Healthcare Providers, March 2014, Vaccine Education Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

It's happened again — another celebrity sharing her reasons for not vaccinating her children and offering misinformation in the process. On March 13, when speaking with Lisa Kennedy on Fox show *The Independents*, Kristin Cavallari, reality television star and wife of the Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler, admitted that she is concerned enough about vaccines and autism that her son is not vaccinated. The next day she appeared on *Fox and Friends* where she tried to clarify her position and suggested that it should not matter to other parents, stating: "I understand both sides of it. I've read too many books about autism and there's some scary statistics out there. It's our personal choice, and, you know, if you're really concerned about your kid get them vaccinated."

So, what to do?

First, knowing about the story will allow you to be prepared. Second, addressing any specific concerns parents bring up with correct information will give you an opportunity to ease their fears:

Misinformation: ". . . if you're really concerned about your kid get them vaccinated." — Because vaccines are not 100 percent efficacious and because some members of our communities cannot get vaccines for medical reasons, it is not simply a case of each of us making our own decisions in isolation.

Misinformation: "Vaccines may be a cause of autism." — This theory has been tested in hundreds of thousands of children and has never been shown to be true. Arguably, vaccines are one of the things that we can most safely say is NOT a cause of autism.

Misinformation: "Vaccines contain more mercury than they used to." — The mercury-based chemical, thimerosal, has been removed from all routinely recommended childhood vaccines, except some multi-dose vials of influenza vaccine. In addition, studies have shown that the quantity of thimerosal historically contained in vaccines was not a cause of autism.

[Read the rest of the article, which includes a list of helpful resources.](#)

New York Times Publishes Editorial on the Seriousness of Measles by Dr. Paul Offit

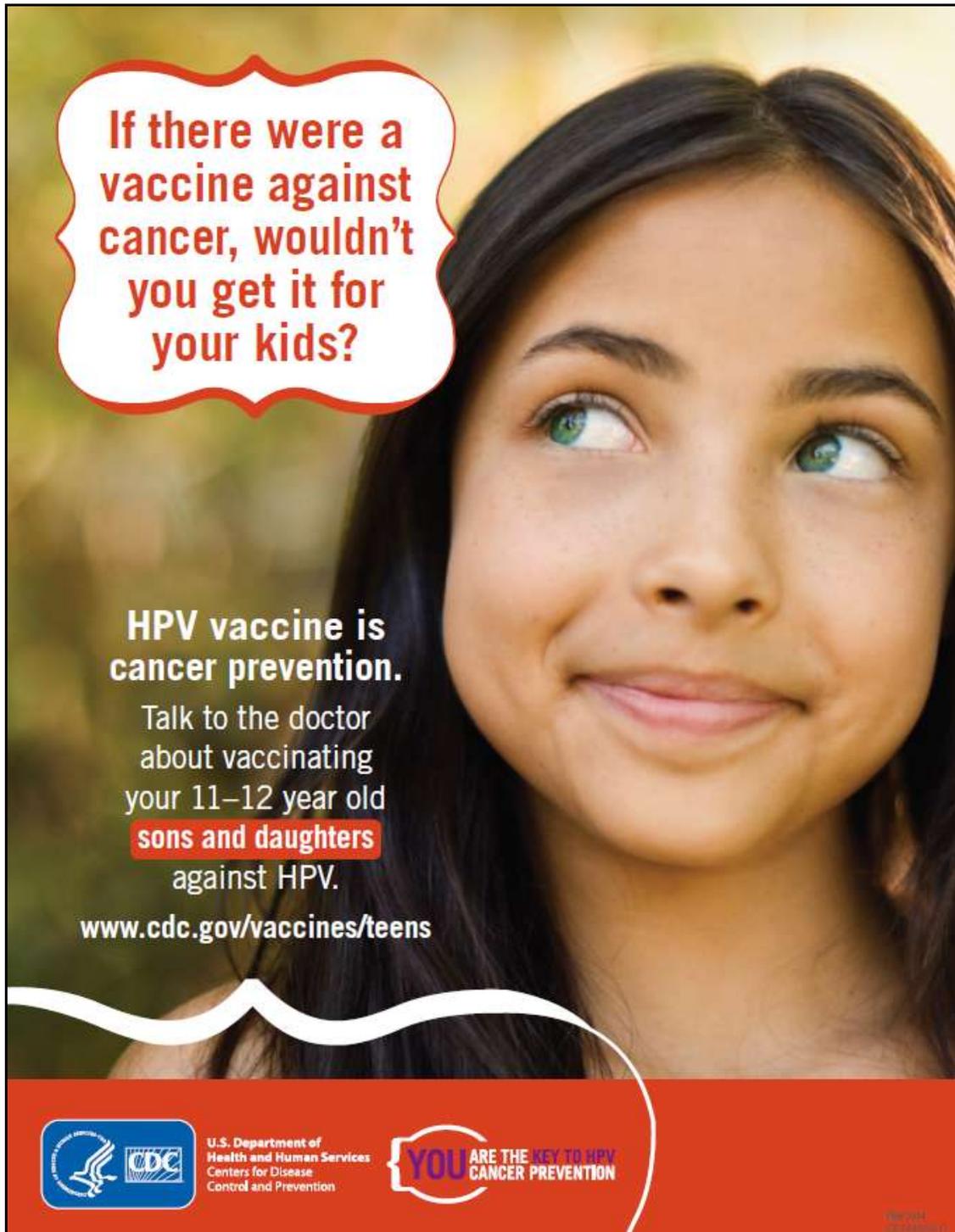
IAC Express, Issue 1112: April 1, 2014

On March 27, the *New York Times* published an editorial by Dr. Paul Offit, MD, director, Vaccine Education Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. [Remembering How to Fight Measles](#) stresses how serious and contagious measles is, and how parental vaccine refusal and loose exemption laws have contributed to this disease's reemergence in the U.S.

For More Information

- [Key Facts about Measles](#) (Updated 4/2/14)
- IAC's [Measles web section](#)

Thanks for all that you do to protect Michigan residents from vaccine preventable diseases.



This poster and many others are available online:

[CDC Print Materials for Preteens and Teens](#)

MDCH also has many online posters:

<http://www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines>; Click on [Adolescent Immunization Poster Gallery](#)