

Access to Vaccines Is Critical To Our Nation's Economic Security



The Cost to the Economy...

Improving adult vaccination rates is critical to our nation's health and economic prosperity: Every year, our country spends \$26.5 billion treating adults for diseases that could have easily been prevented through vaccination.¹

Vaccines don't just reduce the overall incidence of preventable diseases: In some cases, they all but eradicate them. In the U.S., smallpox, diphtheria and polio caused more than 50,000 deaths in the 20th century. In 2021, there were zero reported cases of these diseases in the U.S., showing the power of vaccines to save lives and reduce health care spending.²

...And to Our Families and Communities

Vaccine-preventable diseases drive unnecessary health spending, such as avoidable hospitalizations, expensive health interventions, and additional physician visits and medication costs. These illnesses can cause individuals to miss work and leave them unable to care for those who depend on them.

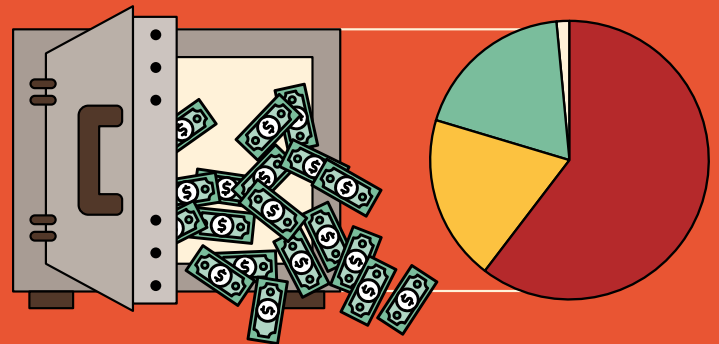
Missed days of work can have a negative impact on employers and local businesses and harm families who are trying to make ends meet. Widespread outbreaks in our communities can cause economy-wide disruptions.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4486398/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5402432>

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Cost the U.S. Billions Each Year

The U.S. spends about **\$26.5 BILLION** annually treating four major vaccine-preventable diseases among US adults (≥ 50 years).



Improving the Landscape for Vaccine Access

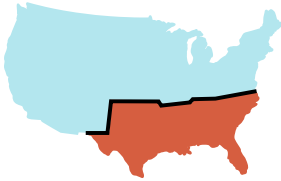
The United States has made great strides toward closing longstanding gaps in vaccination coverage. More than 65% of the U.S. population has access to vaccines through commercial insurance, and thanks to recent policy changes in Medicare and Medicaid, nearly all Americans can get recommended vaccines without cost sharing.³ This improved access will lead to higher vaccine uptake, result in fewer hospitalizations and doctor visits, prevent serious health complications and death, and bring savings to U.S. taxpayers and the health care system.

Yet this still leaves a large group of Americans—the uninsured—needlessly at risk of becoming sick or dying from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Access to vaccines, without cost-sharing, should be available to every American.

Ensuring All Adults Have Access to Vaccines

More than 25 million Americans—or about 8% of the population—are currently uninsured, limiting their access to protection from a range of respiratory illnesses as well as other potentially devastating vaccine-preventable conditions.⁴



ADULTS IN SOUTHERN STATES ARE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE UNINSURED.

We must improve vaccine access for uninsured adults. Congress should ensure that all Americans—regardless of insurance status—can receive the vaccines that they need.

Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective public health tools. Closing the gap in uninsured adults' vaccine coverage would save American families and our country money—and keep us healthy.

³ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-281.pdf>

⁴ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/2022-uninsurance-at-all-time-low>

About AVAC

The Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC) is a diverse group of health care providers, vaccine innovators, pharmacies, public health organizations and patient and consumer groups. AVAC's mission is to raise awareness, improve access and increase utilization of vaccines among adults. Near universal access to immunizations for children has been one of the greatest public health accomplishments of the 20th century. AVAC seeks to achieve the same level of success for adult immunization.

