

Access to the HPV Vaccine for Low Income Women and Adolescents

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National Health Law Program (NHeLP)

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- NHeLP believes that health is a human right



Cancer and HPV in the U.S.

- 11,150 cervical cancer cases will be diagnosed, 3670 women will die
 - Hispanic women: 2x rate of white women
 - Los Angeles: rate is 3x of white women
 - African American women: 1.5x rate of white women
- 30 known types of HPV are sexually transmitted
 - HPV 16 & 18 associated with 70% of all cervical cancer
- 4000 cases of anal cancer per year, 620 people will die
 - HPV 16 & 18 associated with 80 - 90% of all anal cancers

Source: American Cancer Society



HPV Vaccine Approval Process

- FDA approval
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
 - 15-member panel organized by FDA
 - Makes Recommendations
 - Who: Females
 - What age: 11-12, also age 13-26
 - How often: once
 - Dosage: 3-shot regimen within 6 months

Impact of ACIP recommendation

- Often considered standard of care
- Private insurance usually covers
- Medicaid must cover children
- SCHIP must cover
- Vaccines for Children Program (VCP) must cover
- NOTE: requirements for school entry are decided by each state

Women and Economic Insecurity

- 2/3 of poor adults are women
 - 25% Hispanic women
 - 24.1% African American women
 - 22.5% Native American women
 - 12.4% Asian Pacific Islander American women
 - 9% white women
- Low income women half the rate of employer based insurance (38%) than higher income women (79%)
- Women account for 70% of Medicaid enrollees over age 15; 7.3 million women age 15-44

Insurance coverage

Age 19 - 26

- 13.3 million young adults (19 - 29) are uninsured
 - 32% are Hispanic
 - 15% are African American
 - 46% are White
- Young adults of color are disproportionately uninsured
 - 34% of African Americans age 19 - 29
 - 52% of Hispanics age 19-29
 - 23% of Whites age 19-29
- 41% of young adults (19-29) below FPL

Public Insurance Programs: Medicaid

- Not all poor women and children qualify for Medicaid
 - 37% of women age 15-44 below FPL are on Medicaid
- Medicaid
 - State-federal program
 - Entitlement
 - Eligibility (with exceptions)
 - Child to age 18, parent of dependent child, aged, blind, disabled
 - Income - tied to FPL (\$16,600 for family of 3)
 - Satisfactory immigration status & proof of citizenship (DRA)
 - Mandatory coverage of family planning services and supplies

Medicaid Family Planning Waivers

- 26 states have expanded family planning services
- Broader eligibility - age and income
- 90/10 federal match
- No beneficiary cost-sharing
- Some STI testing and treatment
 - Testing at 90/10 match
 - Treatment at standard Medicaid match
- Coverage of HPV vaccine at state option
 - Some states are covering HPV
 - NHeLP 50 state survey - stay tuned

Public Insurance Programs: SCHIP

- State-federal block grant
- Children to age 18
- Fetuses (pregnant women) at state option
- Some parents at state option
- Income requirements - above Medicaid
- Satisfactory immigration status

Coverage of HPV vaccine

Age 9 - 18

- Medicaid - mandatory
- SCHIP - mandatory
- Vaccines for Children Program (VCP)
 - Federally funded; administered by states
 - Eligibility: Up to age 18
 - Medicaid eligible
 - Uninsured
 - American Indian or Native Alaskan
 - Underinsured: only at FQHC or Rural Health Clinic
- CDC 317 grants to states, cities, territories
- Private insurance
- State-based universal vaccine programs

Coverage of HPV vaccine

Age 19 - 26

- Medicaid
 - Some 19 - 20 year olds
 - If independently eligible
 - Parent, disabled
- SCHIP
 - If independently eligible
 - Some parents
- VCP
 - Not eligible
- CDC 317 grants

Coverage of HPV vaccine

Age 19 - 26

- Private insurance
 - Some to age 24 if full-time student
 - Independently insured
- Title X clinics
- Public health clinics
- College insurance and health clinics
- Merck patient assistance program

Barriers to Access

\$360.00

Barriers to Access

- Medicaid
 - Narrow eligibility
 - Cumbersome applications
 - Immigration status
 - Proof of citizenship - DRA
 - Age
- Title X
 - Cost
- Private insurance
 - Age
 - Cost
 - Access limited at private physician offices

Strategies for Change

- Universal Coverage and Access
- Family Planning Waiver Expansions
- Raise age limits for Medicaid, SCHIP and private insurance
- Title X funding increase
- Increase CDC 317 funds for adult immunizations
- Merck expansion of patient assistance program to Title X clinics