

In Support of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine's Position Statement on an Immunization Platform for 16-Year-Olds

In April 2017, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) released a position statement supporting the establishment of an immunization platform for 16-year-olds in the United States “to ensure completion of all recommended vaccines.” SAHM notes that the visit has “the added value of providing an opportunity for developmentally appropriate adolescent health services.” Moreover, immunizing at 16 years of age “helps to ensure that the vaccines are covered by public or parental insurance.”¹

Adolescent immunization rates are unacceptably low: 44% for the second dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY), 49% for completion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series (males and females combined), and 49% for influenza vaccine.^{2,3}

We, the undersigned, strongly endorse SAHM's position statement and encourage health care providers to take action to firmly establish a 16-year-old vaccination visit in practice.

The full SAHM position statement is available at:

http://www.adolescenthealth.org/SAHM_Main/media/2017-Speaker-Handouts/Auslander-et-al-SAHM-16-year-old-Platform-J-Adolesc-Health-2017.pdf.

Signed:

Members of the Adolescent Immunization Initiative (AII)

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References

1. Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. Position statement: establishing an immunization platform for 16-year-olds in the United States. *J Adolesc Health*. 2017;60(4):475-476.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National, regional, state, and selected local area vaccination coverage among adolescents aged 13-17 years—United States, 2017. *MMWR*. 2018;67(33):909-917.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Flu vaccination coverage, United States, 2016-17 influenza season. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/coverage-1617estimates.htm>. Accessed July 16, 2018.

The Adolescent Immunization Initiative (AII) is a multidisciplinary group of experts in adolescent health and immunization whose mission is to collaborate with stakeholders to establish an immunization platform at 16 years of age. Such a platform is an opportunity to combine vaccination with other preventive services important to the overall well-being of the older adolescent.