Family physicians know vaccines are the best way to help protect teens against serious infectious diseases. The fact remains that millions of teens remain under-protected. The Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule now features a specific 16-year-old immunization visit. This modification highlights the importance of scheduling 16-year-old adolescent patients for necessary vaccinations.

Here are recent statistics about four CDC-recommended vaccines for adolescents:

**Meningococcal vaccine**
- While 85% of children received the first dose (MenACWY) at the recommended ages of 11-12 years during 2016-17, only 44% received the second dose by age 17.

**Tdap vaccine**
- The majority of teens (88%) received the Tdap booster during 2016-17, but there is still room for improvement.
- In recent years, there have been 10,000-40,000 reported cases of pertussis.

**Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine**
- Nearly 66 percent of adolescents aged 13-17 receive the first dose of the HPV vaccination, but only 49% completed the vaccination series.
- In 2015 alone, more than 43,000 women and men developed an HPV-associated cancer.

**Flu vaccine**
- During the 2017-18 flu season, less than half of adolescents aged 13-17 were vaccinated against the flu.

In addition to these national statistics, state data is available at:
- MenACWY, HPV, and Tdap: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6733a1.htm#T3_down or www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/teenvaxview/data-reports/index.html
- Flu: www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvaxview/interactive-general-population.htm

We need your help to improve these statistics. Resources are available to educate your teen patients and their parents/guardians through Highlight on VACCINATIONS 4 TEENS, available at www.aafp.org/vaccinations4teens.

Thank you for your support of this important initiative.

*MenACWY = Quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine that helps protect against invasive disease caused by serogroups A, C, W, and Y; the CDC also recommends MenB (serogroup B meningococcal vaccine) for certain adolescents at increased risk, e.g., students on college campuses that have recently experienced meningococcal B outbreaks*

**References**