

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ADULT VACCINATIONS

SUBMITTED BY: Student Nurses at Penn (SNAP) at the University of Pennsylvania

AUTHORS: Michelle Nigro, Chantalle Dupont, Julia Ann Kennedy, Jessica Korducki, Lindsay Krott

WHEREAS “Vaccines are among the most cost-effective clinical preventive services and are a core component of any preventive services package” (Healthy People 2020, 2018, par. 6)

WHEREAS “The prevalence of vaccine-preventable illnesses among older persons is especially high. Vaccinations are recommended throughout a person’s lifetime to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases and their sequelae. However, adult vaccination coverage remains low for most routinely recommended vaccines” (Williams, Lu & O’Halloran, et al., 2017, p. 4).

WHEREAS “Yet, adult vaccination rates included as objectives in Healthy People 2020 range from 24% to 66% coverage” (Gellin, Shen, & Fish et al., 2016, p. 1079); and

WHEREAS “Among adults 65 years and older: Over one-third did not report pneumococcal or Td vaccination; Approximately 4 out of 5 did not report Tdap vaccination; Nearly two-thirds did not report a herpes zoster vaccination; Among adults younger than 65 years with indications for pneumococcal vaccination, approximately 3 out of 4 did not report ever having been vaccinated” (Hung, Williams & Lu, et al., 2018, par. 2).

WHEREAS “Low vaccination rates in adults leave them vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases and their complications. This has been seen in recent epidemics, such as the 2015 measles outbreak, when adults accounted for more than half of all cases.” (Gellin, Shen, & Fish et al., 2016, p. 1079)

WHEREAS “Unvaccinated adults contract and spread vaccine-preventable diseases to others, including children who are too young to be immunized and those who cannot be immunized for medical reasons, such as compromised immune systems” (Gellin, Shen, & Fish et al., 2016, p. 1079).; and

WHEREAS “Despite progress, approximately 42,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases”(Healthy People 2020, 2018, par. 7).

WHEREAS according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 2,906,840 Registered Nurses in the United States (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018, par. 2).

WHEREAS 84.6% of adults in the United States have had contact with a healthcare professional in the 2016. (CDC, 2017, par.1)

WHEREAS “Increases in vaccination coverage are needed to reduce the occurrence of vaccine-preventable diseases among adults. Awareness of the need for vaccines for adults is low among the general population, and adult patients largely rely on health care provider recommendations for vaccination” (Williams, Lu, & O’Hallaron, et al., 2015, p. 95); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that SNAP recognize the critical role that adult vaccination plays in promoting health within Pennsylvania communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SNAP advocate for increasing adult vaccination rates in the State of Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SNAP publish an article in Imprint regarding the role of nurses in promoting vaccinations and communication techniques nursing students can use when discussing vaccinations with the adult population; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SNAP send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and all others deemed appropriate by the SNAP Board of Directors.