

National AHEC Organization HPV Immunization Project: Raising HPV Immunization Rates Through Provider Education

The National AHEC Organization (NAO) is a membership organization for AHEC's across the country. The AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations.

The AHEC program helps bring the resources of academic medicine to address local community health needs. The strength of the AHEC Network is its ability to creatively adapt national initiatives to help address local and regional healthcare issues. Today, 52 AHEC programs with more than 248 centers operate in almost every state to improve health for underserved and under-represented populations.

The National AHEC Organization (NAO) received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a project to provide education to health professionals regarding the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Through this cooperative agreement, NAO will strengthen HPV vaccination recommendations, resulting in a decrease in missed opportunities to vaccinate adolescents.

NAO Activities

Objective 1: Provide clinician outreach and training

- Provide funding to one AHEC State Entity in each of the 50 states to facilitate continuing education opportunities for primary care providers, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and physician assistants. State Entities will utilize the CDC's "You Are the Key" presentation materials.

Objective 2: Disseminate educational materials

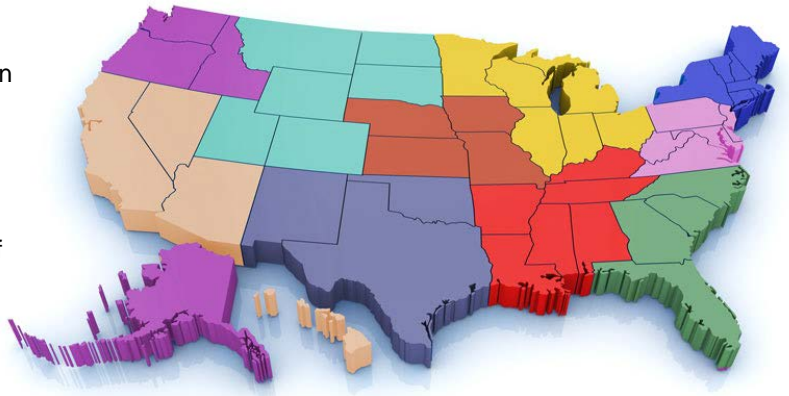
- Create an HPV Resource Guide and HPV Environmental Scan protocol for distribution internally and sharing with partners.
- Develop state profile sheets to explain the burden of HPV and disseminate internally as well as with partners.
- Distribute CDC and other evidence-based educational materials to health professionals through their connections with State Entities.

Objective 3: Increase and form strong partnerships

- Develop national-level partnerships with other CDC-funded projects, as well as national associations including: American Cancer Society; National Rural Health Association; and the American Academy of Family Physicians, among others.
- Increase partnerships with health profession schools to integrate training into curriculum and provide training to high-level health professions students.

Objective 4: Push prioritization of HPV vaccination efforts

- Meet with national level officials, insurers and clinical groups to increase discussion of HPV vaccination efforts.



NAO HPV Project Regions

Learn more:

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Selected AHEC entities across the country will work to increase awareness as well as train health professionals about the HPV vaccine. Each State Entity will tailor their approach to clinician training based on needs in their states.

Activities planned to date include:

- Grand Rounds presentations
- Educational presentations at local, regional and state health profession conferences
- Webinars and online learning modules
- Dissemination of CDC “You are the Key” materials to AHEC preceptors, educating health professional students in rural and underserved communities

Participating States (as of 6/22/16)			
Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Colorado
Connecticut	Delaware	Florida	Georgia
Idaho	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa
Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine
Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota
Mississippi	Missouri	Nebraska	Nevada
New Hampshire	New Jersey	North Carolina	New Mexico
Ohio	Oregon	Pennsylvania	South Carolina
South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas	Utah
Vermont	Virginia	Washington	Wisconsin
Wyoming			

Anticipated Results

- The creation of state and national HPV needs assessment and inventory resource books
- Increase awareness among clinicians of available HPV vaccine information, resources and tools
- Increase in clinician education and awareness and partnerships that strengthen and leverage efforts to increase HPV vaccination rates
- Decrease in missed opportunities of parents who report their child’s provider did not recommend HPV vaccination and, most importantly, increase HPV vaccination rates.