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# **Adult Immunization Program**

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**Samuel Ortiz Severiano**

# Importance of Adult Immunizations

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Immunizations are proven to significantly reduce the risk of transmission for vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD).

- Immunizations provide protection for:
  - The patient
  - The patient's loved ones
  - The patient's community
- Certain populations are particularly high-risk for VPDs
  - Adults 65+
  - Immunocompromised
  - Pregnant women
  - First responders, healthcare providers, etc.



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# Topics



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- Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Bridge Program
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee Polio Project
- College Student Project
- National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC): Standards for Adult Immunization Practices



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# **Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program**

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# Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program

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**May 2003–Present**  
**20 Years of Service**

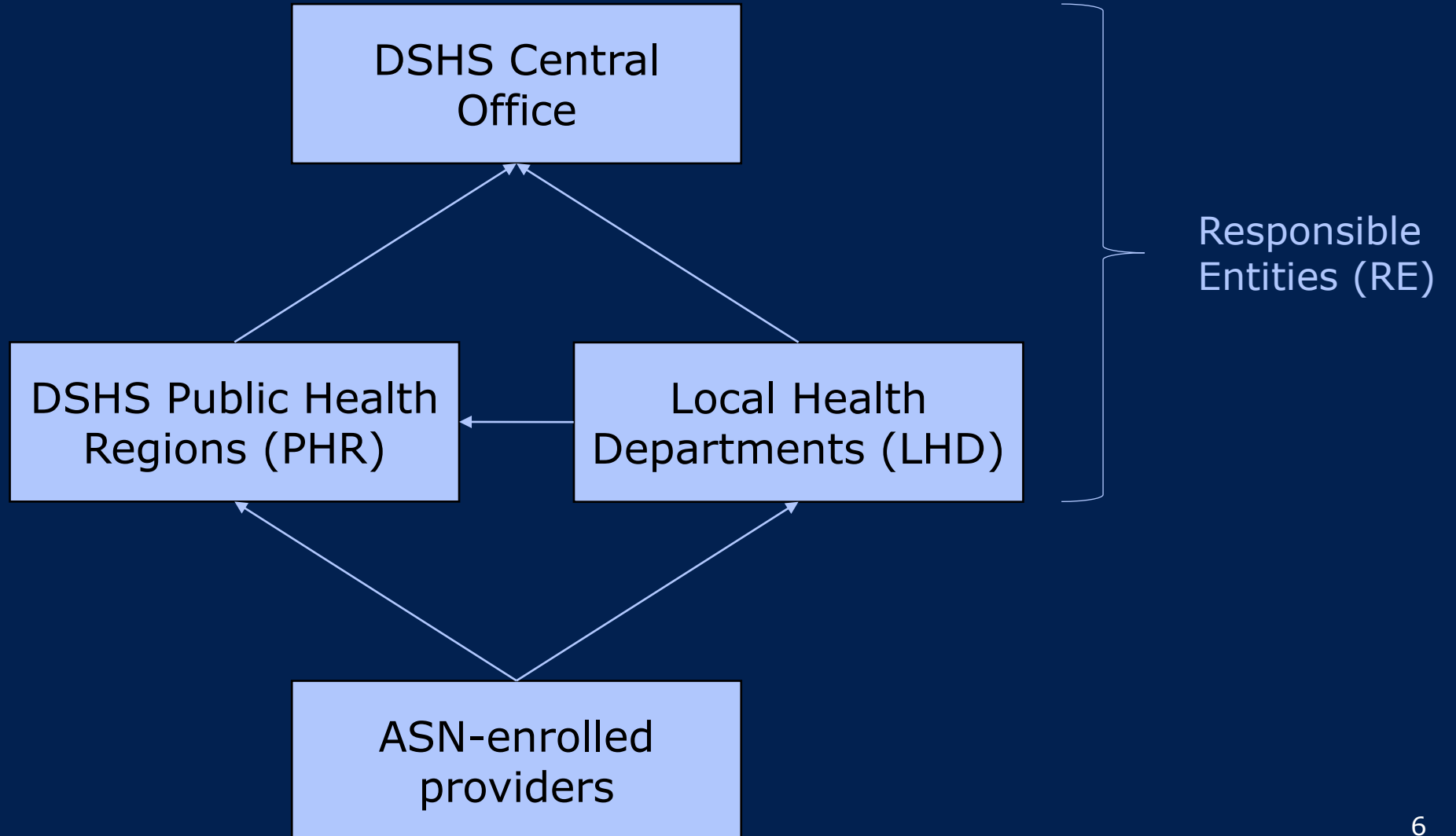
- Initial inception: Hepatitis B initiative served uninsured and underinsured adults
- Current: Increase access to vaccination services in Texas for uninsured adults by supplying adult vaccines at no cost to a network of 623 providers
- The ASN Program is one of the major factors in improving adult vaccination rates in Texas today



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# TVFC/ASN Program Structure



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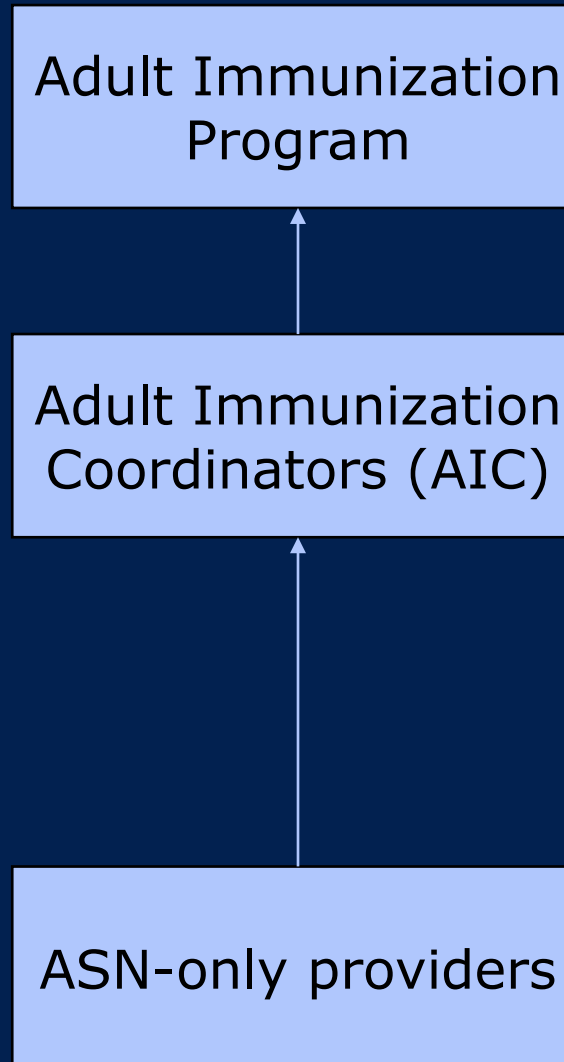
# ASN-only Program Structure



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Responsible  
Entities (RE)

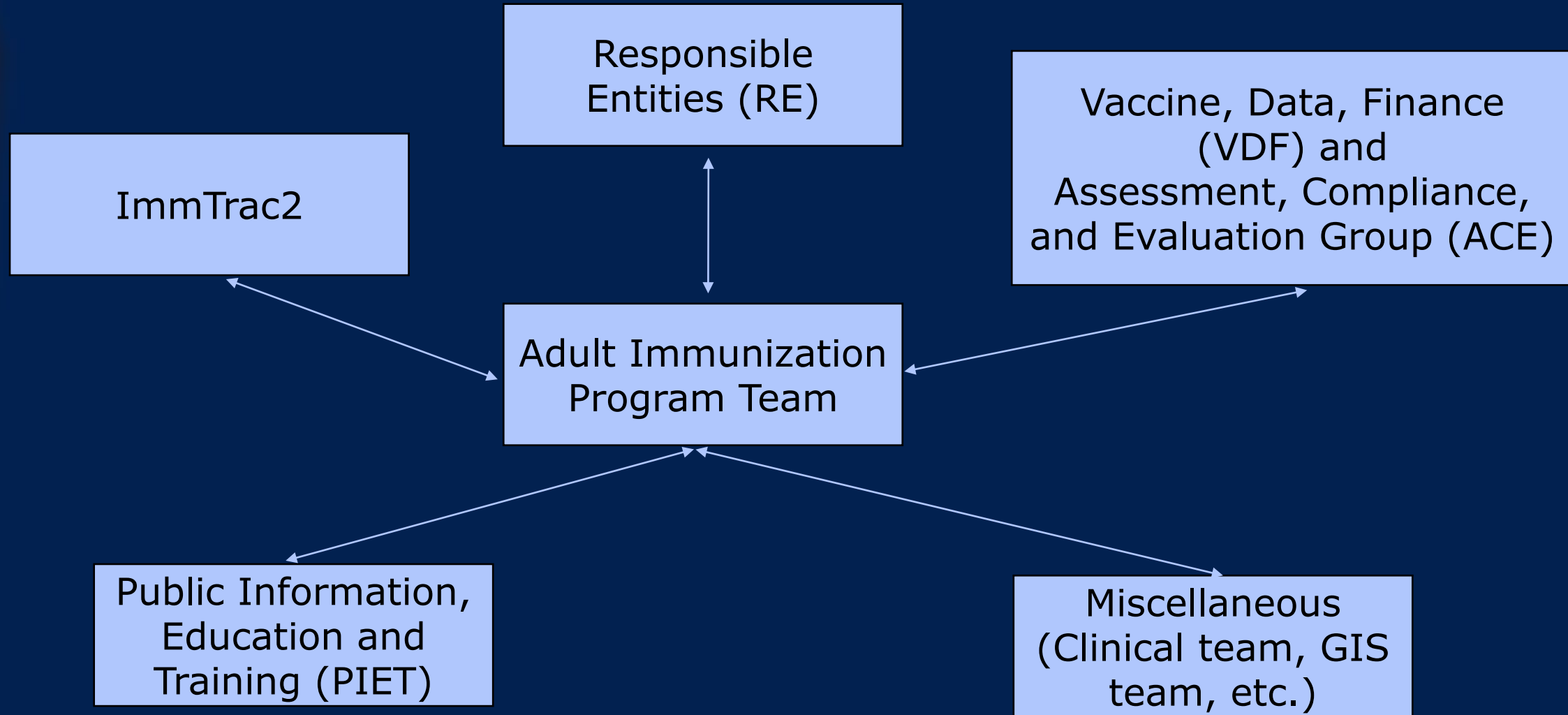
# ASN-only Program Structure



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# ASN Program Structure

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REs are responsible for:

- Onboarding new providers
- Monitoring and approving ASN vaccine orders
- Providing guidance to ensure providers adhere to the ASN program policy
- Working directly with providers to execute state projects or initiatives
  - e.g., ASN provider recruitment, Adult Influenza Vaccination Initiative (AIVI), CDC COVID-19 Bridge Program, Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee Polio Project



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# ASN Program Structure

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REs are responsible for:

- Performing site visits on ASN-only providers and taking corrective action as necessary for compliance
- Emphasizing the following points with providers:
  - NVAC Standards for Adult Immunization Practice for improving vaccine coverage and vaccine documentation
  - Assessing patient eligibility at each ASN visit
  - Strategies for mitigating vaccine waste



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# ASN Program Structure

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- The Adult Immunization Program holds meetings with the AICs on the third Friday of every month
- Meeting topics include improving adult immunization coverage and documentation rates:
  - ASN program and adult project updates
  - Expanding on the Adult Standards for Immunization Practice, along with strategies to implement them in clinical settings
  - Specific regional barriers to carrying out ASN program activities, and strategies to overcome them
  - Progress on ASN site visits and emphasizing essential points for site reviewers to bring up with providers



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# ASN Program Eligibility

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- The following facilities are eligible to enroll in the program:
  - DSHS Public Health Regions (PHR)
  - Local Health Departments (LHD)
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
  - Rural Health Clinics (RHC)
  - Federally Recognized Indian Tribes
  - HIV/STD clinics\*
  - Behavioral Health Clinics\*
- Only uninsured adults aged 19 and older are eligible to receive ASN vaccines
  - 19-year-olds in the middle of a vaccine series under TVFC may continue the series under ASN regardless of insurance status



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\* Facility types cannot be advertised.

# ASN Program Formulary

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The ASN Program supplies the following ACIP-recommended vaccines:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A-Hepatitis B combination
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- MCV4
- Tetanus-diphtheria (Td)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)
- COVID-19



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# Uninsured Adults 18-64 Years of Age



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Uninsured Adults 18-64 Years of Age in Texas			
PHR	Population	Uninsured	% Uninsured
1	515,805	128,797	25.0%
2/3	5,328,513	1,178,906	22.1%
4/5N	839,143	210,899	25.1%
6/5S	4,684,885	1,174,673	25.1%
7	2,332,802	440,981	18.9%
8	1,826,996	417,392	22.9%
9/10	871,321	243,340	27.9%
11	1,279,413	471,120	36.8%
<b>Texas</b>	<b>17,678,878</b>	<b>4,266,108</b>	<b>24.1%</b>

\*Source: 2021 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program, US Census Bureau

# Adult Immunization Coverage Levels 2018-2021 Texas BRFSS



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Vaccine	Coverage Level (%)			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adult Flu: 18-64	22.2	34.4	38.5	32.4
Adult Flu: 65+	45.2	64.0	64.5	66.0
Any Tetanus Containing Vaccine	62.6	65.5		
Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)	28.6	26.3		
Pneumococcal: 18+	28.7	33.1	29.7	28.7
Pneumococcal: 65+	71.3	71.1	70.8	69.0
HPV: 1 or more doses	15.3	17.6		
HPV: All Doses	49.7	44.1		
Hepatitis B: All Doses	50.8	48.5		
Meningococcal	35.2			
Zoster (Shingles): 50+	25.7	29.3	31.6	



# ASN Program Updates

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Due to funding constraints and a rise in vaccine costs, as of August 1, 2023:

- Recruitment for FQHC/RHCs into the ASN program has been temporarily put on hold
- We removed the following vaccines from the ASN formulary:
  - HPV
  - PCV20
  - PPSV23
  - Varicella



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# Upcoming Planned Strategies

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- DSHS Central Office is planning the following activities for the coming year to reinforce AIC and adult activities:
  - Sending dosage data (shipped/administered/wasted) to AICs monthly
  - Reviewing all AICs during ASN site reviews
  - Expanding coverage of site reviews to include dual ASN providers (COVID-19 Bridge Program)
    - Including ASN policy in current TVFC site reviews



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# Upcoming Planned Strategies

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- DSHS Central Office is planning the following activities for the coming year to reinforce AIC and adult activities:
  - Identifying Adult Immunization Program team members as points of contact for designated REs
  - Setting up monthly meetings with individual REs to address targeted concerns along with individual monthly report submissions
- Sending IIS-level data monthly
- Updating the DSHS website



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# **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Bridge Program**

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# ASN Bridge Program COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Eligibility

- In response to the privatization of the COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC created the COVID-19 Bridge Program to supply monovalent COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to participating agencies, including DSHS.
- ASN-enrolled providers now serve as access points for the monovalent COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults ages 19 and older
  - Uninsured: Refers to a person who does not have insurance of any kind, including Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance.
  - Underinsured: Refers to a person who has health insurance, but the insurance does not cover COVID-19 vaccines. It also refers to a person whose medical insurance does not provide first-dollar coverage of COVID-19 vaccinations.
    - First-dollar coverage: Refers to health care services, such as COVID-19 vaccinations, covered pre-deductible and without any cost-sharing.



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# ASN Bridge Program COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Responsibility

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- Participating providers must complete the following:
  - Sign an updated provider agreement outlining requirements, including specific Program requirements (during new/re-enrollment).
  - Utilize an updated ASN Patient Screening Form that includes COVID-19 vaccine eligibility
    - Prior to every ASN vaccination, screening patients is required.
  - Participate in compliance site visits, including unannounced visits, and other educational opportunities associated with ASN Program requirements as recommended by DSHS.
- Participating providers are highly encouraged to report ASN vaccine doses into the Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2.
- ASN providers **cannot** charge an administration fee for the COVID-19 vaccine.



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# ASN Bridge Program Metrics

## COVID-19 Bridge Program Metrics in Texas as of 1/23/2024

Total Number of enrolled ASN providers	620
Number of ASN providers that have administered COVID-19 vaccines	286
Percentage of ASN providers that have administered COVID-19 vaccines	46.13%
Total Doses Administered	20,038



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# Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee Polio Project

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# Project Overview

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- DSHS provided the adult polio vaccine (IPV) to interested TVFC/ASN enrolled DSHS PHR and LHD clinics to administer to Ukrainian humanitarian parolees affected by the Russian-Ukraine conflict, regardless of their insurance status.
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is also available.
- DSHS waives all administration fees for the IPV and MMR vaccines for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees.



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# Program Process

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DSHS PHR and LHD clinics have been participating by:

1. Ordering adult polio vaccine (IPV) doses for their clinics
2. Working with Ukrainian communities by providing information on the importance of receiving the polio vaccine and all ACIP-recommended vaccines.
3. Emphasizing the importance of consenting into the Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2 to save the vaccines they received.

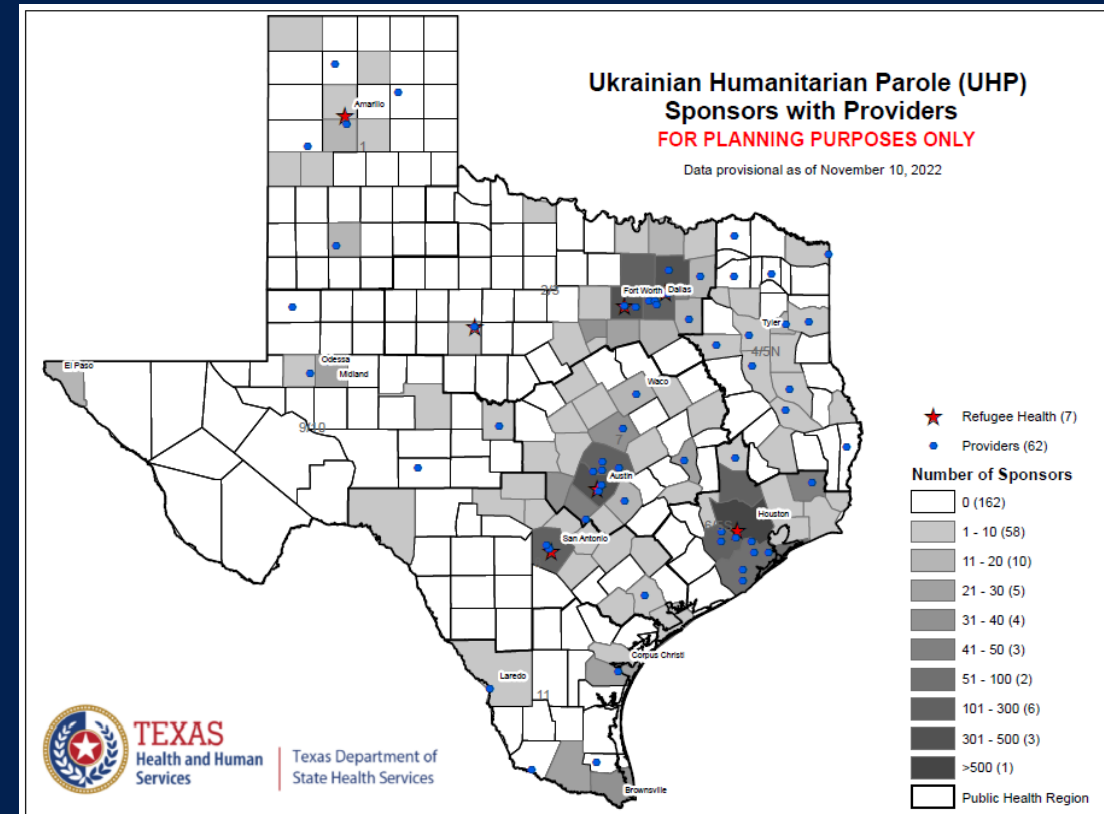


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# Ukrainian Humanitarian Parole IPV Update

- 60 providers shipped adult IPV
- As of December 3, 2023:
  - 1,449 doses in provider inventory
  - 65 doses administered
  - 125 doses wasted



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# **National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC): Standards for Adult Immunization Practices**

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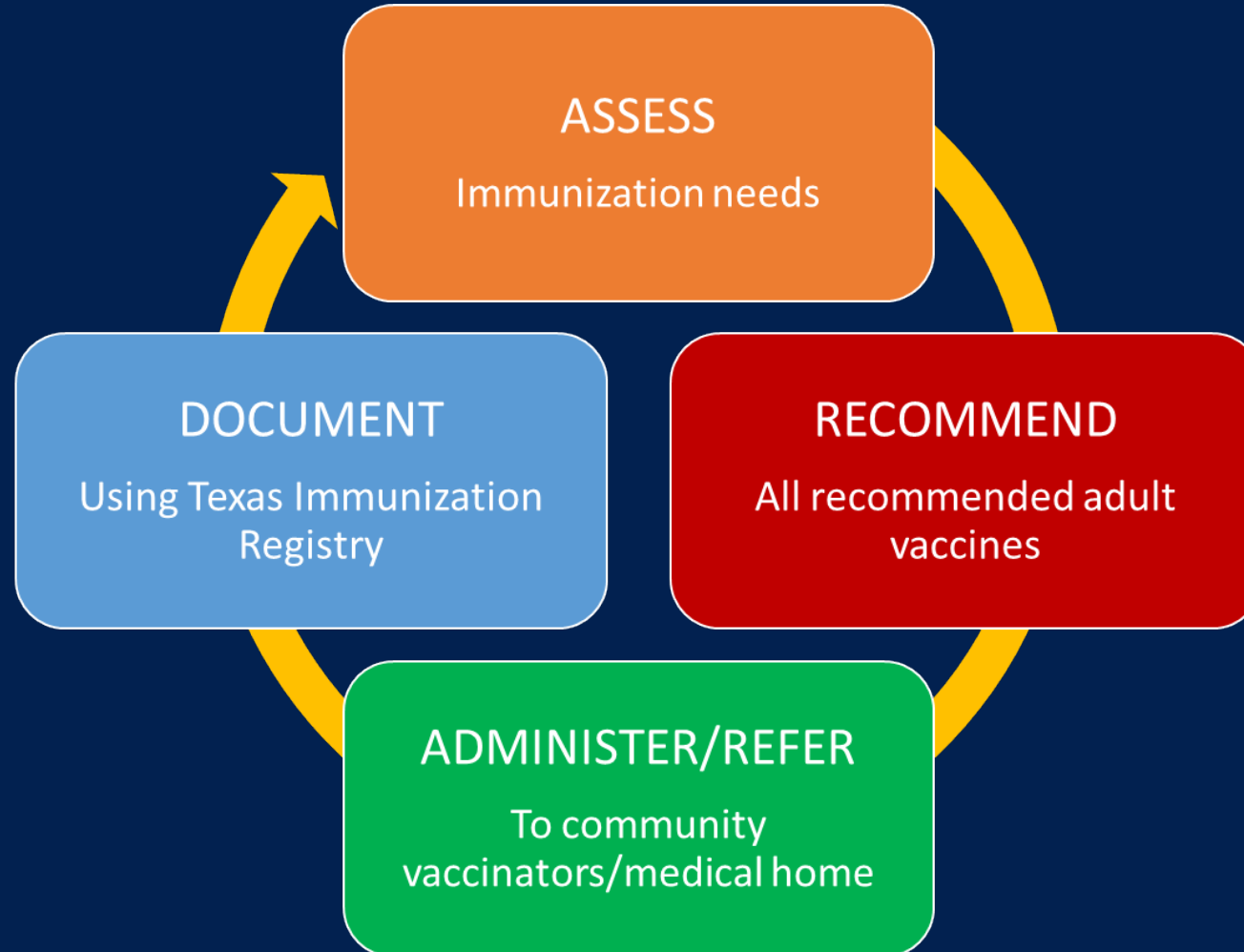
# NVAC Standards for Adult Immunization Practices



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# Assess

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ASSESS immunization needs of all adults.

- Stay informed about the latest CDC recommendations
- Implement:
  - Protocols to ensure the adult vaccine needs are routinely reviewed
  - Provide reminders about needed vaccines
  - A system that collects information on current/new patients to monitor immunization status such as the Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2



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# Recommend

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Recommend all vaccines:

- Explain the benefits of vaccines and potential costs of getting the disease they protect against
- Provide tailored materials
- Highlight positive experiences
- Implement strategies to provide reminders for missed or due soon vaccines



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# Recommend

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Stay current with updated vaccine recommendations:

- Up-to-date with all current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended adult immunizations

## ACIP Adult Immunization Schedule

- General immunization recommendations
- Medical conditions with recommended vaccines for each condition
- Footnotes that provide additional explanation for spacing of vaccines
- Contraindications and precautions
- Information to report adverse events



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# Administer

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Administer needed vaccines:

- Make vaccination services as convenient as possible
- Train and educate staff on vaccine administration
- Properly store and handle vaccines
- Distribute Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) to patients
- Be aware and prepared for potential adverse reactions
  - Report to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)



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# Refer

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Refer adults to community vaccinators or their medical home for immunization services:

- Coordinate with community vaccinators to offer onsite vaccination services

Vaccine Referral Options:

- Pharmacies
- Medical Home
- State or Local Health Departments



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# Document

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Document immunization histories using the Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2:

- A repository of immunization histories for:
  - Texas children and adults
  - Texas first responders
  - Disaster-related participants, such as displaced residents during Hurricane Harvey
- The registry helps healthcare professionals know which vaccines have been received



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# Texas Immunization Registry

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- Why use Texas Immunization Registry?
  - Consolidates vaccination records in one location
  - Ensures necessary vaccine series are completed
  - Reduces chances for unnecessary doses of vaccines or missed opportunities
  - Provides reminder and recall options
  - Provides a personal immunization record of received vaccines
- Providers must be encouraged to report ASN doses into ImmTrac2.



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# Contact Information

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## Adult Safety Net (ASN) Program

Email: [ASNInfo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:ASNInfo@dshs.texas.gov)

ASN Program Website: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/ASN/>

## Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2

Email: [ImmTrac2@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:ImmTrac2@dshs.texas.gov)

ImmTrac2 Program Website:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/immtrac/>



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# **Thank you!**

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