

Pharmacist Vaccination Authority and Vaccine Uptake: Why State Policy Matters



Research Shows Restrictive Laws May Be Holding Back Immunization Rates

A [study](#) from the IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science and the Global Healthy Living Foundation finds that restrictive state policies limiting pharmacists' authority to administer vaccines are associated with lower adult vaccination rates.

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are well-positioned to offer vaccinations quickly and cost-effectively, especially in communities with limited access to traditional health care providers. **Yet millions of adults may not be receiving vaccinations due to restrictive state policies that limit pharmacists' ability to provide immunizations.**

Restrictive State Policies Are Associated With Lower Vaccination Rates

KEY FINDINGS:

- ✓ States with the least restrictive policies have higher vaccination rates compared to states with more restrictive protocol or prescription requirements.
- ✓ States requiring a protocol have a 9% lower average vaccination rate than states that allow pharmacist vaccination.
- ✓ States with the most restrictive laws, requiring a physician prescription, have vaccination rates that are 14% lower than states with the least restrictions.

HERE'S WHY THAT MATTERS

Pharmacists have a proven track record when it comes to vaccination.

- ✓ [Vaccination rates increase](#) when pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are authorized to immunize both adults and children.
- ✓ Adult patients most often receive vaccinations at pharmacies —[almost 90% of adult vaccinations occur at a pharmacy](#).
- ✓ [Pharmacies are more accessible](#)—with longer hours and more locations than physician offices, especially in underserved, low-income, and minority communities.

State policies that limit pharmacists' ability to provide immunizations can delay patient access to vaccines and impose unnecessary costs on patients and the health care system.

Recommendations for States

TO INCREASE VACCINATION RATES, STATES SHOULD:

Ensure Pharmacists Have the Authority

to Immunize: With pharmacies playing a growing and crucial role in immunization, now is the time to consider ways to simplify the regulatory environment to ensure that pharmacists in all states have the authority to immunize in their communities.

Remove Barriers to Pharmacist-Administered

Vaccines: States should eliminate unnecessary restrictions such as prescription requirements and prescriber-level protocols. Adopting statewide standing orders and reducing administrative burdens will increase immunization rates, reduce overall health care costs, and save lives. It will also lay the groundwork for a better, stronger, and fairer health care system for all.

Read the full study: www.iqvia.com/insights/the-iqvia-institute/reports-and-publications/reports/assessing-the-impact-of-state-pharmacist-vaccination-authority-on-vaccine-uptake-in-the-us