

CDC says more people with asthma getting flu shots

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(HealthDay)—Influenza vaccination has increased substantially among people with asthma since the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded recommendations for annual vaccinations, though all age groups fall short of *Healthy People 2020* targets, according to a report published in the Dec. 6 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Matthew J. Lozier, Ph.D., of the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues analyzed data from the 2010 and 2011 National Health Interview Surveys to ascertain the degree of annual <u>vaccination coverage</u> among people with asthma aged 2 and older since the ACIP issued its updated recommendations.

The ACIP's original recommendation, issued starting in 1964, advised



yearly flu shots for people 6 months and older with asthma; the updated recommendation has been expanded to include all people 6 months and older. During the 2010/2011 influenza season, vaccination coverage among people with asthma increased to 50 percent, from 36 percent five years earlier. This represents an improvement but is still far below the *Healthy People 2020* targets of 80 and 90 percent for high-risk children and adults, respectively.

"These findings highlight the need to educate <u>health care providers</u> and persons with <u>asthma</u> about the importance of annual influenza vaccination," the authors write.

More information: Full Text

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