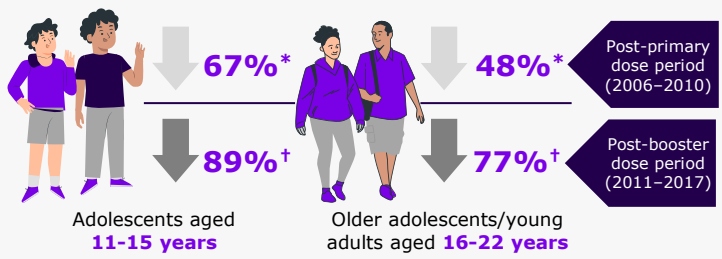
Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MenACWY) as a Foundation for Robust Protection: Navigating Adolescent Immunization

Prior to routine adolescent MenACWY vaccination in the US (1991–2002)[1,2]

- **~1400–2800** IMD cases reported each year
- **62%** of cases occurred in people ≥11 years of age
- **75%** of cases reported in adolescents primarily due to serogroup C, W, and Y

Routine MenACWY vaccination helped substantially reduce IMD rates[3]

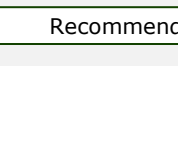


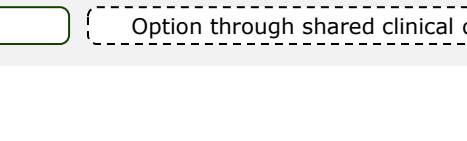
Arrows represent declines in IMD caused by serogroups C, W, and Y.
*Compared with pre-vaccine period (2000–2005). †Compared with post-primary dose period.

- Incidence of serogroup B IMD is **relatively uncommon in young adolescents aged 11-14 years; ~4 cases/year** in the US[4-8]
- The sustained low number of serogroup B cases post-MenACWY vaccine adoption indicate the **absence of serogroup replacement**[5-9]

ACIP meningococcal vaccination recommendations for healthy adolescents as of October 2023[10,11]

	11-12 Years	16-18 Years
Without Pentavalent	MenACWY Quadrivalent	MenACWY Quadrivalent + MenB Monovalent + MenB Monovalent
With Pentavalent (QPB schedule)	MenACWY Quadrivalent	MenABCWY Pentavalent + MenB Monovalent





Recommended for routine use | Option through shared clinical decision making

MenABCWY vaccine may be used *as an option* only when immunization with MenACWY and MenB vaccines are indicated at the same visit[10]

Possible consequences of eliminating or reducing MenACWY vaccination coverage at 11-12 year

01 Could fuel **vaccine hesitancy** and **sow doubt in other established vaccination** recommendations

02 **Lower vaccination coverage at age 16 (vs 11-12),** leaving more persons **unprotected** during time when characteristic social behaviors could increase risk (college living, military barracks, bar visits, intimacy)[12,13]

03 Behaviors that put adolescents **at risk begin prior to age 16**, as do cases of IMD[13,14,15]

04 **Disease resurgence,** as experienced with other vaccine-preventable diseases (eg, *H. influenzae* b) when vaccination rates decrease

Other Considerations

Compliance with well exams is significantly higher at age 11-12 years than it is in older adolescents[16]

In addition, it is important to consider the **persistence of immunity** offered by available vaccines against the different meningococcal serogroups[4,17]

The US MenACWY immunization program has contributed to reducing IMD

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Abbreviation:

ACIP, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; B, serogroup B meningococcal vaccine; IMD, invasive meningococcal disease; P, pentavalent meningococcal vaccine; Q, quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine.

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