

# Adult Vaccines

H1 2023 Update

## National Trends Show Continued Increase in Adult Vaccination Through First Half of 2023

Vaccinations continued to increase from January through June of 2023 as compared to the same time last year. In comparison to pre-pandemic levels, this marks the first time there has been an increase in H1 national immunization claims. A number of factors may have contributed to these positive trends, including the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) provision that eliminated cost-sharing for adult vaccines covered under Medicare Part D in January. The lead-up to and end of the COVID-19 public health emergency in May—and what appears to be a return to pre-pandemic vaccination trends—may also be a factor.

### Medicare Vaccination Increases Impact National Trends.

While both average monthly commercial and Medicare vaccine claims increased in the first six months of 2023—compared to the first six months of 2022—commercial claims only increased 1%, while Medicare claims increased 36%. These increases in average monthly Medicare vaccine claims appear to more significantly contribute to the national trend.

### Preliminary, Positive Medicare Part D Trend Data.

The first half of 2023 continues to show steady, although possibly preliminary, increases in average monthly Medicare Part D vaccination claims. Specifically, average monthly Medicare Part D claims increased by 49%—for all vaccines monitored by Vaccine Track with the exception of flu—compared to the first half of 2022.

### Part D and B Vaccination Trends Differ.

Average monthly Medicare Part B vaccine claims decreased slightly (7%)—for all vaccines monitored by Vaccine Track with the exception of flu—during that same time, when compared to the first half of 2022. This builds on trends seen in Q1 2023, when average monthly Medicare Part D claims increased by 52% and average monthly Medicare Part B vaccine claims decreased by 2%, compared to Q1 2022.<sup>1</sup>



**Potential Factors Impacting Trends.** To fully understand if these data represent improvements in access to Part D vaccines because of the IRA provisions or a general return of vaccination rates to pre-pandemic levels, it will be important to continue to review vaccination claims through the end of 2023 and beyond. Vaccine Track will be providing these data on an on-going basis with quarterly updates. As trends are reviewed the following issues will need to be considered and assessed:

- The potential full impacts of the IRA
- Implications of the end of the public health emergency
- The impact of having multiple, seasonally administered vaccines (e.g., for infectious respiratory diseases) on uptake and timing of all ACIP-recommended vaccinations

**What's Next - IRA Medicaid Vaccine Provisions.** Medicaid coverage of all ACIP-recommended vaccines with no cost-sharing went into effect October 1, 2023. Data for the last quarter of 2023 and first quarter of 2024 may start to show the impact of this policy on vaccine administration to Medicaid beneficiaries.