

# Increase Section 317 Funding to Help Reduce the Burden of Influenza



Association of  
Immunization  
Managers

## Section 317 Funding Gaps Leave More Americans Unprotected

### Policy Ask

Increase Section 317 funding so that federally funded immunization programs can:

1. Purchase influenza vaccine doses
2. Support trusted outreach/access
3. Limit disruptions in schools, workplaces, and hospitals
4. Reduce preventable hospitalizations/deaths

### The Problem: An Increasing Flu Burden

- The 2024-2025 influenza (flu) season was classified as **high severity** across all age groups, with hospitalization and outpatient visit rates reaching a **15-year high**.<sup>2</sup>
- Last season had the **highest reported number of flu-related deaths among children** (280) during a non-pandemic flu season.<sup>4</sup> Almost **90% of children who died were not fully vaccinated against the flu**, and 44% did not have an underlying medical condition.<sup>4</sup>
- Flu also leads to missed work and school, disrupted daily life, and reduced time with loved ones.

Vaccination is the most effective protection in any influenza season. Unfortunately, Section 317, which helps immunization programs fund flu vaccine purchase for uninsured adults and outbreak response, has been **flat funded** for the past several years.



**Increasing Section 317 funding helps protect communities from flu.**

### The Solution: Increase Section 317 Funding

**Increased funding is needed to ensure flu vaccine access and to support strategies that build public confidence and boost vaccine uptake.** When Section 317 vaccine purchase funding does not keep pace with the need, immunization programs are unable to purchase sufficient vaccine doses or conduct effective community outreach, leaving more people unprotected and increasing the risk of severe community health outcomes.

### About the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)

AIM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization representing the leaders of the 66 federally funded state, local, and territorial immunization programs. For more information, please contact Brent Ewig, MHS, chief policy and government relations officer, at 301-424-6080 or bewig@immunizationmanagers.org.

### References

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**During the 2024-2025 season, flu is estimated to have caused:<sup>1</sup>**



**47–82 million illnesses**



**21–37 million medical visits**



**610,000–1,300,000 hospitalizations**



**27,000–130,000 deaths**