

Disparities in the Use of Preventive Services

Lynda Flowers

AARP Public Policy Institute

April 17, 2014

Disparities in the Use of Preventive Services Across Four Domains

- Income
- Race
- Education
- Health Insurance Status

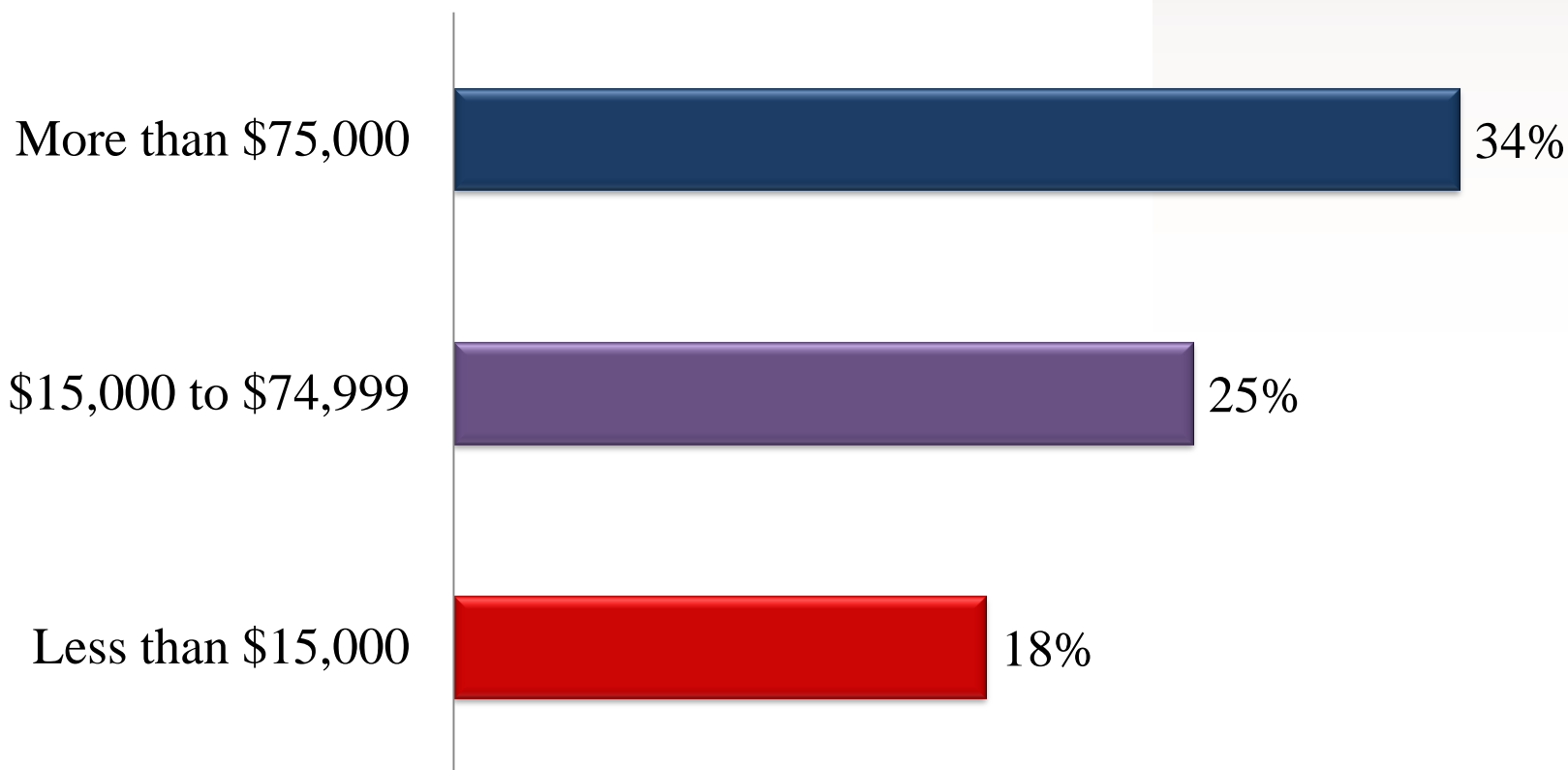
States May Not Meet *Healthy People 2020* Targets for Adults 50-64

Clinical Preventive Service	Healthy People 2020 Targets	Number of states meeting the target rates as of 2012
Mammogram within past 2 years	≥81.1%	11
Pap test within past 3 years	≥93%	0
Colorectal cancer screening	≥ 70.5%	2
Influenza vaccination within past year	≥80%	0
Pneumococcal vaccination ever among persons at risk	≥60%	0

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute analysis of 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data.

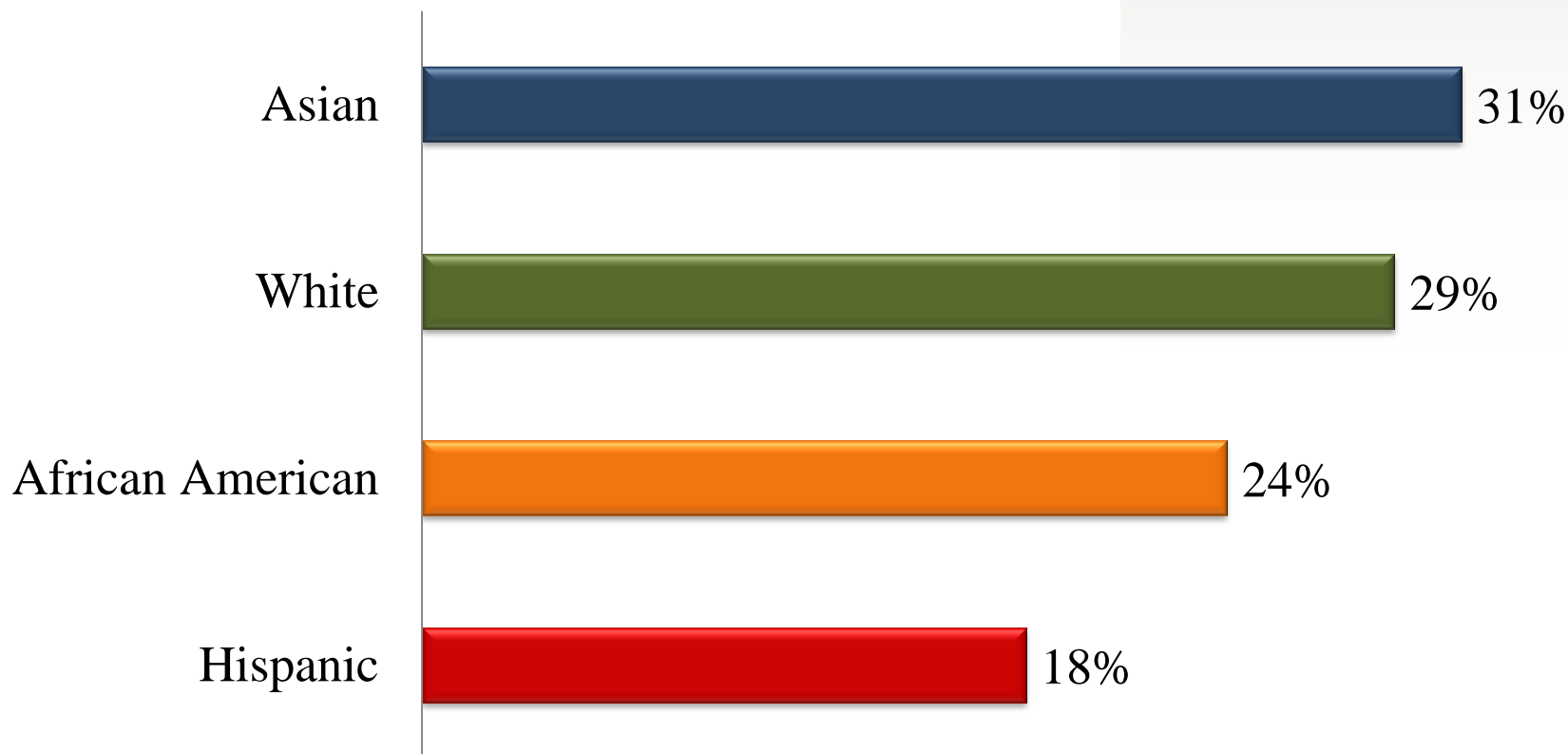
For Healthy People 2020 targets see: <http://www.healthypeople.gov>

Lowest-Income Midlife Adults Half as Likely to Be Up-to-date with Select Preventive Services as Highest-Income Midlife Adults

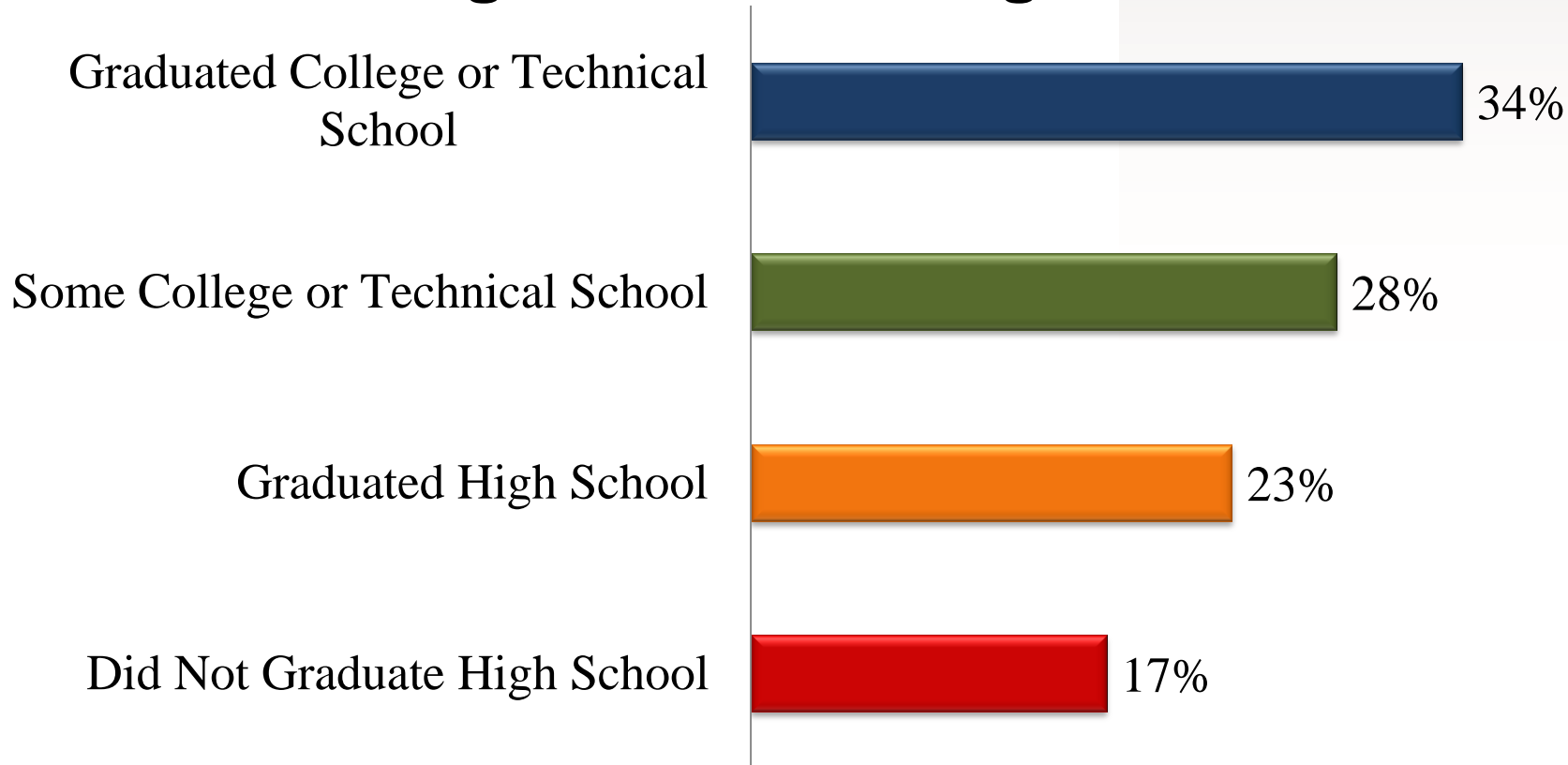


Source: AARP Public Policy Institute analysis of 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data.

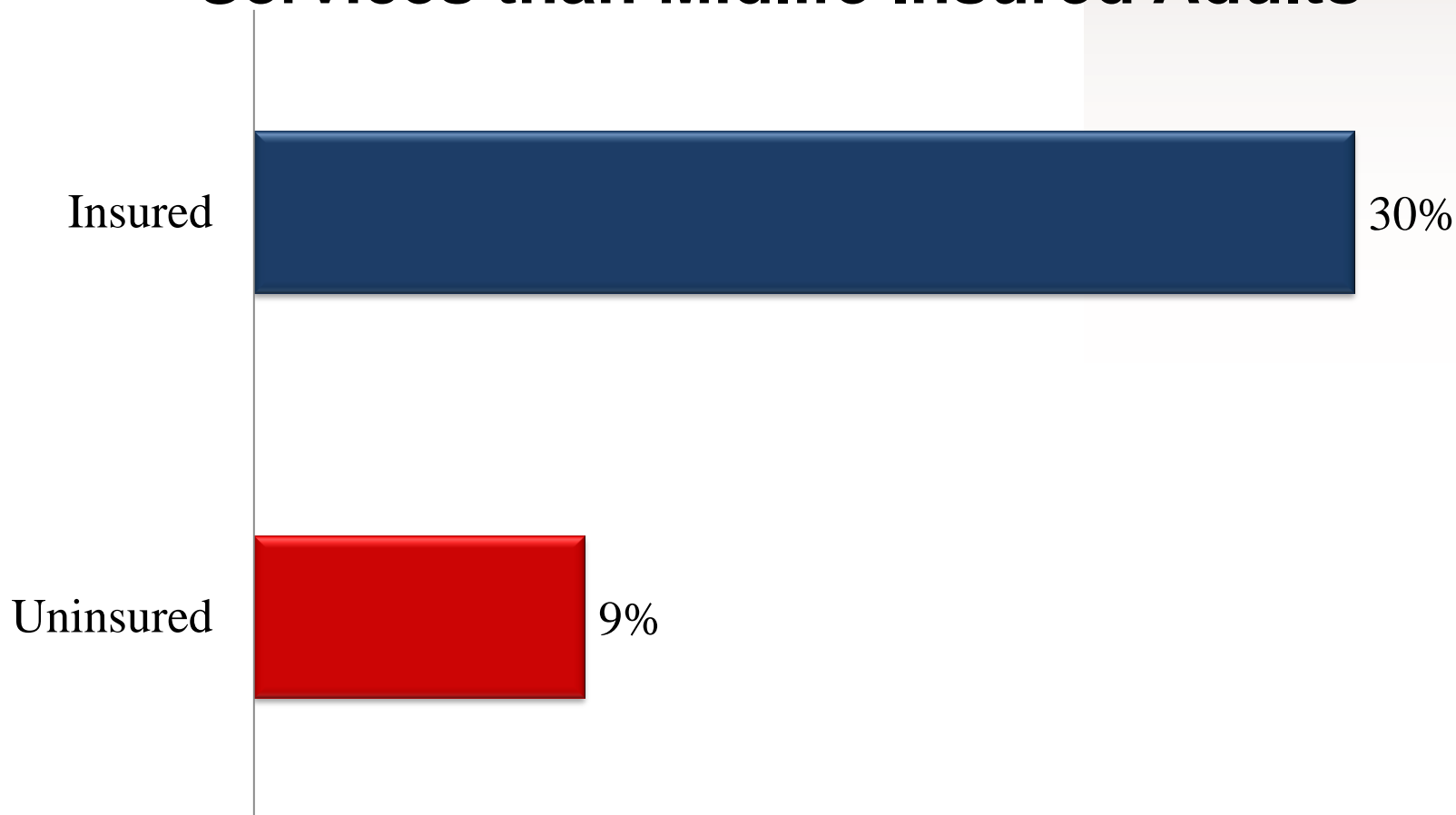
Midlife Hispanics 40% Less Likely to Be Up-to-date with Select Clinical Preventive Services than Midlife Asians



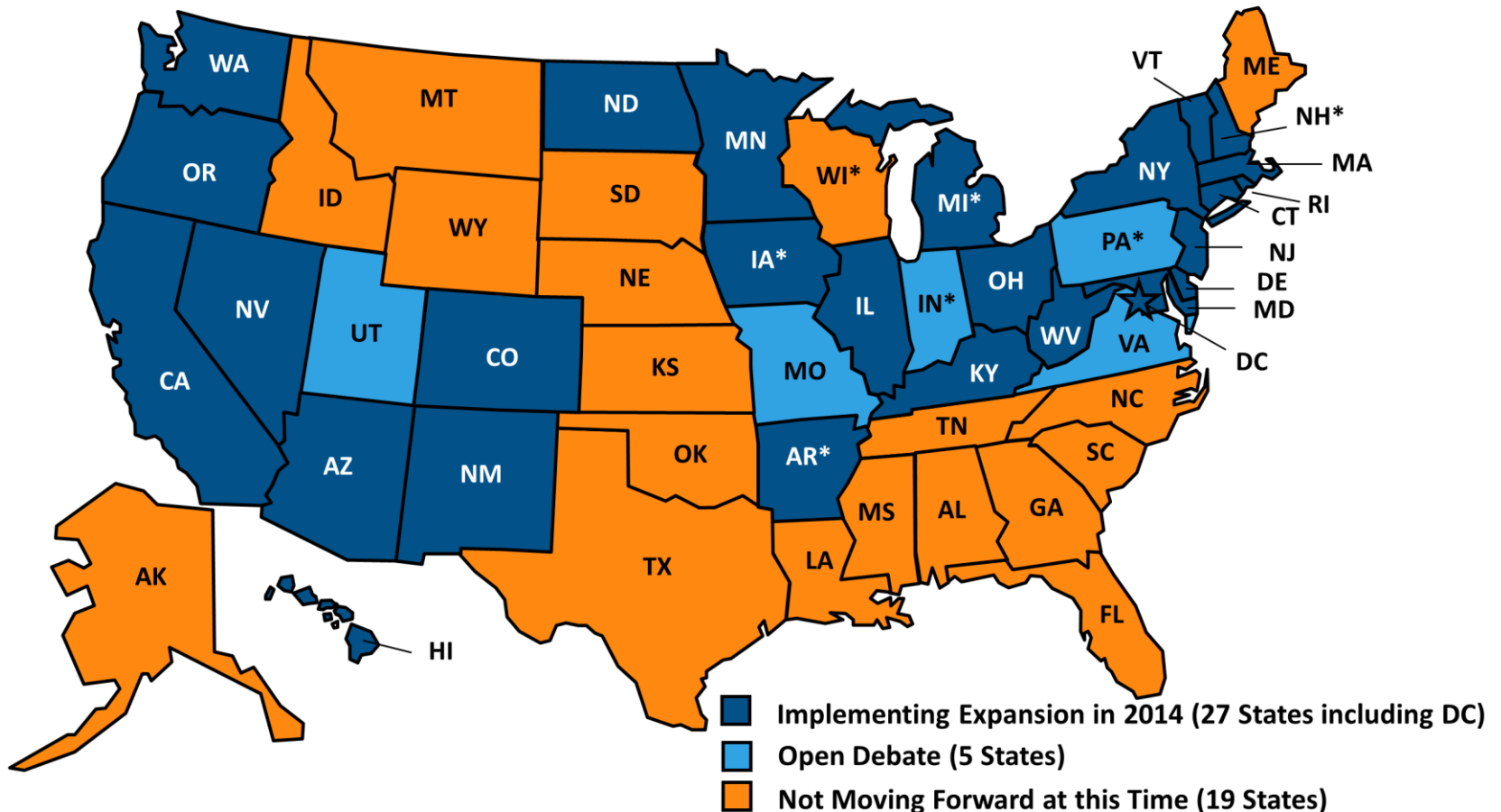
High School Drop-Outs Half as Likely to Be Up-to-date with Select Preventive Services as College Graduates, Ages 50-64



Uninsured Midlife Adults Two-Thirds Less Likely to Be Up-to-date with Select Preventive Services than Midlife Insured Adults



Current Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions, 2014



NOTES: Data are as of March 26, 2014. *AR and IA have approved waivers for Medicaid expansion. MI has an approved waiver for expansion and plans to implement in Apr. 2014. IN and PA have pending waivers for alternative Medicaid expansions. WI amended its Medicaid state plan and existing waiver to cover adults up to 100% FPL, but did not adopt the expansion. NH has passed legislation approving the Medicaid expansion in Mar. 2014; the legislation calls for the expansion to begin July 2014.

SOURCES: States implementing in 2014 and not moving forward at this time are based on data from CMS [here](#). States noted as "Open Debate" are based on KCMU analysis of State of the State Addresses, recent public statements made by the Governor, issuance of waiver proposals or passage of a Medicaid expansion bill in at least one chamber of the legislature.

Getting People Covered May Help Reduce Disparities in Use of Preventive Services

- Expand Medicaid to create opportunities for low-income individuals to access preventive services
- Identify those who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in Medicaid
- Identify and enroll the uninsured in private coverage through Marketplaces, employers, and private market
- Help people get qualified for subsidies: supports access and affordability

Coverage is Necessary but Not Sufficient

- Even though disparities exist, preventive services are underused across incomes, races, education levels and health insurance status
- Need to get the word out about the elimination of cost sharing for prevention; also, need to close loopholes
- Getting people into health insurance coverage will help
- These efforts need to be coupled with consumer outreach and education; hence the need for sustained federal, state and local funding.
- A variety of stakeholders will be needed in these efforts

Other Barriers to Receipt of Preventive Services

Consumer Focused

- Lack of awareness of need
- Fears about a preventive service (e.g., prep for colonoscopy; flu shot will make you sick)
- Lack of trust in the health care system

Provider Focused

- Lack of awareness of age-based prevention recommendations
- Failure to recommend a preventive service to patients
- Underestimation of safety and efficacy of a preventive service
- Failure to institute standing orders and automated reminder systems

Questions?



Appendix: What Tests are Included in the Select Up to Date Measure for Adults, Ages 50-64?

Women Up to Date Measure Includes:

Influenza vaccination within past year + a mammogram within past 2 years + a pap test within past 3 years + either a home blood stool test within past year or a colonoscopy/sigmoidoscopy within past 10 years

Men Up to Date Measure Includes:

Influenza vaccination within past year + either a home blood stool test within past year or a colonoscopy/sigmoidoscopy within past 10 years

Note: Although the pneumococcal vaccine is a Healthy People goal, it is not included in the select “up to date” measures.