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**For more information:**  
James Washington, TAPI  
602-738-9782, [JamesW@tapi.org](mailto:JamesW@tapi.org)

## **121 Arizonans honored by The Arizona Partnership for Immunization for raising immunization rates, saving lives**

MESA, AZ – The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI) honored 121 individuals, organizations, and initiatives at the annual “Big Shots for Arizona Awards Ceremony” on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. The theme was *Celebrating over 30 years of Science, Education, and Advocacy*. More than 250 people attended the event at the DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix/Mesa as part of the [2025 Arizona Immunization Conference](#).

Presenting the award prizes were Nicole Witt, MPH, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS); Dr. Jodi Carter, Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; James Washington, CEO of TAPI; and Rebecca Nevedale, TAPI Coalition Member.

Guest speakers included Debbie McCune Davis, former Executive Director of TAPI, and Machrina Leach, TAPI Founder and Immunization Nurse with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health as a panel discussion on “*Celebrating our History and Looking Towards the Future*.”

### **Recipients of 2025 Arizona Big Shots Awards (by category)**

**Spot Shot Award.** Spot Shot recognizes community stories that helped educate and/or reduce barriers to immunizations.

- Caitlin McGlade
- Pima County Communications Team
- Bill and Susan Goodykoontz

**Up Shot Award.** Up Shot recognizes innovative programs to the immunization effort that has demonstrated commitment to improving the health of Arizonans.

- Arizona School Immunization Coalition
- Banner Medical Group

**Long Shot Award.** Long Shot recognizes someone responsible for legislation, regulations, or public policy initiatives that have helped to reduce barriers to immunization.

- Arizona Families for Vaccines
- Zaida Dedolph Piecoro
- Susie Cannata

**Top Shot Award.** Top Shot recognizes employers who have created work environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles including full coverage for life saving vaccines.

- Jacque Alvillar
- Andrea Cabrera of Phoenix Children's Hospital

**Buck Shot Award.** Buck Shot recognizes exceptional events that have helped educate, promote, and provide immunizations to Arizonans.

- San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc.
- Lake Havasu Pediatric & Family Clinic
- Patrice Ekpe Nipape, ADHS

**Hot Shot Award.** Hot Shot recognizes a person or organization that has gone "above and beyond" the call of duty to give tremendous amounts of time and effort to increase immunization coverage levels.

- Kandy Evans
- Sandra Espinoza
- Stephanie Alvarado

**Hot Shot Andie Denious Award.** This award honors nurse Andie Denious, who served for many years at ADHS and later at TAPI. A colleague stated, "I know she will live on forever within the children and adults who are protected from vaccine preventable diseases due to her dedication."

- Adelina Lopez
- Samantha Chapman

**Hot Shot Innovation Award.** This awards honors Carole Joyce, a nurse from Mountain Park Health Center. Carole understood the benefits of the registry and data to keep kids on track and described herself as, "a nurse with a syringe in one hand and a mouse in the other."

- Mary McClendon
- Kelsey Vincent

**Lifetime Achievement Award** Dr. Bob England's legacy in Arizona's immunization landscape is undeniable, with his strategic vision and tireless advocacy directly strengthening vaccine policies and provider networks across the state. His data-driven approach has not only improved childhood immunization rates but also laid the groundwork for long-term public health improvements, setting a powerful precedent for future leaders. Dr. Bob's leadership during the COVID-19 crisis exemplified his ability to navigate public health emergencies while ensuring that immunization efforts remained a priority. His work with TAPI and the Arizona Department of Health Services led to critical reforms that have revitalized the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, reversing the decline in immunization access. For his decades of dedication, resilience through crises, and transformative role in reshaping Arizona's immunization infrastructure, Dr. Bob England's impact will resonate for generations to come (despite 4 retirements), making him a most deserving recipient of the 2025 TAPI Big Shot Award.

### **2025 Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Awards (by category)**

Receiving Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Awards are healthcare providers that have achieved certain minimum coverage level of their infant and teen patients. A pediatric surgeon by profession, Dr. Cloud served as Chief of Surgery at Arizona Crippled Children's Hospital and Chief of Staff at Good

Samaritan Hospital. In 1981, he was elected to a one-year term as president of the American Medical Association. He served as TAPI's board chair since its inception in 1993 until his death in 2010.

**Toddler/First Time** (practices that reached 90% coverage level for patients 24-35 months of age who received 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, and 4 PCV on or by their second birthday):

- Alvernon Family Medicine
- Valleywise Health FQHC Peoria
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**Toddler/Repeat**

- Adelante Healthcare Mesa
- Adelante Healthcare Peoria
- Adelante Healthcare Surprise
- Adelante Healthcare West Phoenix
- Arizona Pediatric Clinics
- Banner Medical Group Cholla Pediatrics
- Banner Medical Group Rita Ranch Primary Care
- Banner North Hills Pediatrics
- BUMG Wilmot Children's Multi-Specialty Clinic
- Children's Oasis Pediatrics
- Desert Shores Pediatrics Gilbert
- Desert Shores Pediatrics Chandler
- El Rio Southwest Pediatrics
- El Rio Southeast
- Joshua Tree Pediatrics
- La Cañada Pediatrics
- Mesquite Pediatrics
- Mountain Park Health Center Atkinson
- Mountain Park Health Center Balsz
- Mountain Park Health Center Baseline
- Mountain Park Health Center Christown
- Mountain Park Health Center Gateway
- Mountain Park Health Center Glendale
- Mountain Park Health Center Goodyear
- Mountain Park Health Center Maryvale
- Mountain Park Health Center Tempe
- Onvida Health Pediatrics
- Paloma Pediatrics
- Pinal County Public Health Casa Grande
- San Luis Family Walk-In Clinic
- San Luis Pediatric Center
- San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc.
- Sun Life Health Pediatrics
- Sunset Health North Yuma Clinic
- Sunset Health San Luis Clinic
- Sunset Health Yuma Clinic
- Tuscany Children Clinic Yuma

- Valleywise Community Health Center Mesa
- Valleywise Community Health Center West Maryvale

**Toddler/Honorable Mention** (practices with fewer than 20 patients, but achieved 90% coverage):

- Adelante Healthcare Central Phoenix
- Adelante Healthcare Wickenburg
- Banner Cortaro Primary Care
- Mohave County Department of Public Health Bullhead City
- Mohave County Department of Public Health Lake Havasu City
- North Country Healthcare
- Partners for Healthy Students (a service of Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Medical Center)
- Pinal County Public Health Maricopa
- Sahuarita Pediatrics
- SLWIC Maternal & Child Health Clinic
- Valleywise Community Health Center Avondale
- Wassaja Memorial Health Center

**Teenager/First Time** (practices that reached 90% coverage levels for Tdap, MCV4, and HPV series):

- Alvernon Family Medicine
- Banner Cortaro Primary Care

**Teenager/Repeat**

- Adelante Healthcare Central Phoenix
- Adelante Healthcare Gila Bend
- Adelante Healthcare Goodyear
- Adelante Healthcare Mesa
- Adelante Healthcare Peoria
- Adelante Healthcare Surprise
- Adelante Healthcare West Phoenix
- Arizona Pediatric Clinics
- Banner Children's Banner Health Clinic Casa Grande
- Banner Medical Group Rita Ranch Primary Care
- Banner North Hills Pediatrics
- Banner University Medical Group Cholla Pediatrics
- BUMG Wilmot Children's Multi-Specialty Clinic
- El Rio Southwest Pediatrics
- El Rio Southeast
- Hopi Health Care Center
- Joshua Tree Pediatrics
- La Paz County Health Department
- Lake Havasu Pediatric and Family Clinic
- Mohave County Department of Public Health Bullhead City
- Mohave County Department of Public Health Kingman
- Mohave County Department of Public Health Lake Havasu City
- Mountain Park Health Center Atkinson
- Mountain Park Health Center Balsz

- Mountain Park Health Center Baseline
- Mountain Park Health Center Christown
- Mountain Park Health Center Gateway
- Mountain Park Health Center Glendale
- Mountain Park Health Center Goodyear
- Mountain Park Health Center Maryvale
- Mountain Park Health Center Tempe
- Nahata' Dził Health Center
- North Country Healthcare
- Paloma Pediatrics
- Parker Walk-In Clinic
- Partners for Healthy Students (a service of Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Medical Center)
- San Luis Family Walk-In Clinic
- San Luis Pediatric Center
- San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc.
- Sun Life Health Casa Grande
- Sun Life Health Pediatrics
- Sun Life Health San Manuel
- Sunset Health North Yuma Clinic
- Sunset Health San Luis Clinic
- Sunset Health Wellton Clinic
- Sunset Health Yuma Clinic
- Tuscany Children Clinic Yuma
- Valleywise Community Health Center Avondale
- Valleywise Community Health Center Guadalupe
- Valleywise Community Health Center West Maryvale
- Valleywise Health South Central Community Health Center

#### **Teenager/Honorable Mention**

- Kingman Family Walk-In Clinic
- SLWIC Maternal & Child Health Clinic
- Sun Life Health - Oracle
- Sun Life Health - Walk-In Clinic

The evening took a special moment to honor Mountain Park Health Center Baseline, celebrating 25 years as a Cloud Award recipient. They have shown leadership and dedication by reaching 90% immunization coverage levels of their two-year-old and/or teen patients for 25 consecutive years. Their practice represents immunization pioneers, leaders, and an outstanding team overall.

#### **Event Sponsors**

Special thanks to the event sponsors: [Adelante Healthcare](#), [Albertsons](#), [Safeway and Vons-Southwest Division](#), [Arizona Department of Health Services](#), [Blue Cross Blue Shield/Health Choice](#), [CSL Seqirus](#), [FrameShift Group](#), [Maricopa County](#) Department of Public Health, [Merck](#), [Molina Health Care](#), [Mountain Park Health Center](#), [National Bank of Arizona](#), and [STCHealth](#).

## About TAPI

The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI) is a non-profit statewide coalition of more than 400 members. TAPI was formed in response to the alarming fact that in 1993, only 43% of Arizona's two-year-olds were fully immunized against preventable childhood diseases like measles, mumps, polio, and whooping cough. Through the efforts of TAPI's partners in the public and private sectors, immunization coverage rates in Arizona improved dramatically. Unfortunately, rates have steadily fallen nationwide for the past several years and new solutions to new issues are needed. For more information about TAPI, visit [www.whyimmunize.org](http://www.whyimmunize.org)

## Event Photos



Big Shots for AZ Awards Event – “Celebrating Over 30 Years of Science, Education and Advocacy”



Awards event audience at the Double Tree Mesa Ballroom



Dr. Bob England, Lifetime Achievement Award (left to right, James Washington, Dr. Bob England, Will Humble, and Nicole Witt)



Debbie McCune Davis and Machrina Leach – panel discussion on “Celebrating Our History and Looking Towards the Future”.