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The Arizona Partnership for Immunization Honors 115 Statewide Leaders at 2026 Big Shots for Arizona Awards

MESA, AZ — The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI) honored healthcare providers, public health leaders, policymakers, community advocates, and organizations from across the state at the 2026 Big Shots for Arizona Awards Ceremony on April 14, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix/Mesa.

More than 250 attendees participated in the annual celebration recognizing outstanding contributions to improving immunization access and protecting public health in Arizona. The 2026 theme, “Turn Down the Noise. Tune In to Facts,” highlighted the importance of science-based information and trusted community leadership in strengthening vaccine confidence.

Presenters included Jim McPherson, Board Chair, TAPI; Jeanene Fowler, Executive Director, Maricopa County Department of Public Health; and Dr. Jodi Carter, Board President, Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Guest Speaker

Vaccine advocate Sarafina Starling shared her personal journey growing up surrounded by deeply held beliefs about health and wellness. She described the moment she began asking herself a defining question – “What do I believe?” – and how curiosity, courage, and a willingness to examine evidence led her to trust science and become an advocate for immunization education.

2026 Arizona Big Shots Award Recipients

Spot Shot for Media / Communication. Recognizes community stories that helped educate and reduce barriers to immunizations.

- **Will Humble, Arizona Public Health Association.** Public-facing blog and media communication translating vaccine science and policy to counter misinformation.

Up Shot for Program Innovation / System Improvement. Recognizes innovative programs demonstrating commitment to improving the health of Arizonans.

- **San Luis Walk-In Clinic Mobile School-Based Initiative.** Delivered vaccines and physicals directly to rural schools across multiple counties via mobile clinics.
- **Valleywise Community Health Center Avondale HPV Initiative.** Increased HPV completion rates from 91% to 94% through data-driven outreach and expanded access hours.
- **Deidre Barlow, Mohave County Department of Public Health.** Led measles outbreak response in a vaccine-hesitant community; enabled cross-state record access and delivered 500+ MMR doses.

Long Shot for Policy / System Impact. Recognizes policy initiatives reducing barriers to immunization.

- **Kiran Raman, MD, MPH, AHCCCS.** Led rapid Medicaid policy changes ensuring vaccine coverage remained evidence-based despite ACIP disruption and coordinated multistate legal response.
- **The Honorable Katie Hobbs, Governor, State of Arizona.** Vetoed multiple anti-vaccine policy bills and issued executive action expanding COVID-19 vaccine access statewide.

Top Shot for Employer / Organization Culture. Recognizes organizations fostering work environments supporting healthy lifestyles and vaccine access.

- **Dr. Clarisa Smith, Yavapai Pediatrics.** Maintains strong vaccine policies, community education, and school outreach in a rural region.

Buck Shot for Events / Community Campaigns. Recognizes exceptional events promoting and providing immunizations.

- **Adelante Healthcare Community Health Team.** Delivered 420+ vaccines and introduced well-child checks into community-based outreach.
- **San Luis Walk-In Clinic “Nuestros Niños” Initiative.** Youth-led outreach and back-to-school immunization campaign addressing social determinants and access barriers.

Hot Shot for Individual Dedication / Above & Beyond. Recognizes individuals and teams demonstrating extraordinary commitment to increasing immunization coverage.

- **Nora Wallace, Arizona Community Physicians.** Ensures seamless VFC vaccine supply, compliance, and operations across multiple practices.
- **Brandi Giles, Mountain Park Health Center.** Built statewide immunization systems, improved coverage rates, and integrated advocacy, training, and clinic workflows.
- **Amy Baltazar, Phoenix Children’s Hospital.** Led the “Comfort Promise” initiative improving vaccine experience and increasing uptake across 12 clinics.
- **United Community Health Center Immunization Team** (Heidi Borquez, Odalis Bray, and Camila Salazar). Recognized for proactive record review, accurate vaccine assessment, outreach support, and excellence in patient experience.

Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Awards

The Dr. Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Award honors practices achieving at least 90% immunization coverage among two-year-old or adolescent patients.

First-Time Toddler Cloud Award

- Banner Health Center Raintree
- Banner Sahuarita Children Multispecialty
- Panda Pediatrics & Adolescent Care
- Phoenix Children's Pediatrics (Rome Towers, Scottsdale)

First-Time Teen Cloud Award

- Banner Health Center Raintree
- Sun Life Health (Coolidge, Walk-In Clinic)
- Wassaja Memorial Health Center

Sustaining Repeat Toddler Cloud Award

- Adelante Healthcare (Mesa, Peoria, Surprise)
- Banner Health (Alvernon Family Medicine, Casa Grande, Children's Multi-Specialty Center, Cholla Pediatrics, North Hills Pediatrics)
- Desert Shores Pediatrics (Chandler, Gilbert)
- El Rio Community Health Center (Southeast, Southwest Pediatrics)
- Joshua Tree Pediatrics
- Mesquite Pediatrics
- Mountain Park Health Center (Atkinson, Balsz, Baseline, Christown, Gateway, Glendale, Goodyear Clinic, Maryvale, Tempe)
- Paloma Pediatrics
- Pinal County Public Health (Casa Grande, San Tan Valley)
- San Luis Health (Family Walk-In Clinic, Pediatric Center, Walk-In Clinic)
- Sun Life Health Casa Grande Pediatrics
- Sunset Health (North Yuma, Yuma)
- Tuscany Children Clinic Yuma
- United Community Health Center (La Cañada Pediatrics, Vail)
- Valleywise Community Health Center (Avondale, Mesa, West Maryvale)

Sustaining Repeat Teen Cloud Award

- Adelante Healthcare (Mesa, Peoria, Surprise)
- Banner Health (Alvernon Family Medicine, Children's Multi-Specialty Center, Cholla Pediatrics, North Hills Pediatrics)
- Desert Shores Pediatrics (Chandler, Gilbert)
- Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Medical Center (Partners for Healthy Students)
- El Rio Community Health Center (Southeast, Southwest Pediatrics)

- Hopi Health Care Center
- Joshua Tree Pediatrics
- La Paz County Health Department
- Mohave County Department of Public Health (Bullhead, Havasu, Kingman)
- Mountain Park Health Center (Atkinson, Balsz, Baseline, Christown, Gateway, Glendale, Goodyear Clinic, Maryvale, Tempe)
- Nahata' Dziil Health Center
- Paloma Pediatrics
- Panda Pediatrics & Adolescent Care
- Parker Walk-In Clinic
- Sage Memorial Hospital
- San Luis Health (Family Walk-In Clinic, Pediatric Center, Walk-In Clinic)
- Sun Life Health (Casa Grande Family Practice, Casa Grande Pediatrics, Eloy, Maricopa)
- Sunset Health (North Yuma, San Luis Clinic, Yuma Clinic)
- Tuscany Children Clinic Yuma
- Valleywise Community Health Center (Avondale, South Central, West Maryvale)

Honorable Mention Toddler & Teen Cloud Awards (Practices serving fewer than 20 patients achieving 90% coverage)

- Pinal County Public Health Apache Junction
- Sage Memorial Hospital
- San Carlos Apache Healthcare Clarence Wesley Healthcare Center
- Sierra Vista Family Dental Center, Chiricahua Community Health Centers Inc.
- Sun Life Health (Florence, Mesa Family Practice, Oracle)

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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 again steadily fallen for the past several years and new solutions to new issues are needed. For more information about TAPI, visit www.whymmunize.org