
Executive summary

Health Council of the Netherlands: Programmatic vaccination of adults
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This report looks at the desirability of a programme for the immunization of adults who, on account of their age, fall outside the scope of the National Immunization Programme (NIP). In its deliberations, the committee that prepared the report concentrated primarily on data collected since 1980 concerning the impact of the NIP, and the significance of such data in the wider context of the epidemiology of the diseases with which the NIP is concerned.

The committee concludes that there is no pressing need for a programme for the immunization of older people against the 'NIP diseases'. In individual cases, however, it can be desirable that older people, particularly those born before 1950, are aware that their immunity to diphtheria and tetanus may be limited. The committee would like to see more emphasis on public information campaigns designed to increase understanding of age-related health issues within the target group. Continuous evaluation of the NIP in relation to infectious diseases is also considered necessary.