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Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2015: Brief monitor

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Half of the target group vaccinated in 2015

During the yearly influenza vaccination campaign of 2015, 50.1% of the target group with an increased risk for complications due to influenza (because of age or a medical condition) was vaccinated. The highest vaccine coverage (71.4%) was found in persons over 65 years of age who also had a medical indication for vaccination. Vaccine coverage was lowest in persons between 60 and 64 years old without

a medical indication for vaccination (24.2%). Vaccine coverage was 61.6% among persons with medical conditions classified for certain to the at-risk group. The highest vaccine coverage was found in persons with diabetes mellitus (66.7%) or chronic renal failure (64.4%). Vaccine coverage was relatively low among persons with a weakened immune system (50.5%) or HIV (48.7%).

Table 1. Size and vaccine coverage by age group and medical indication for influenza vaccination

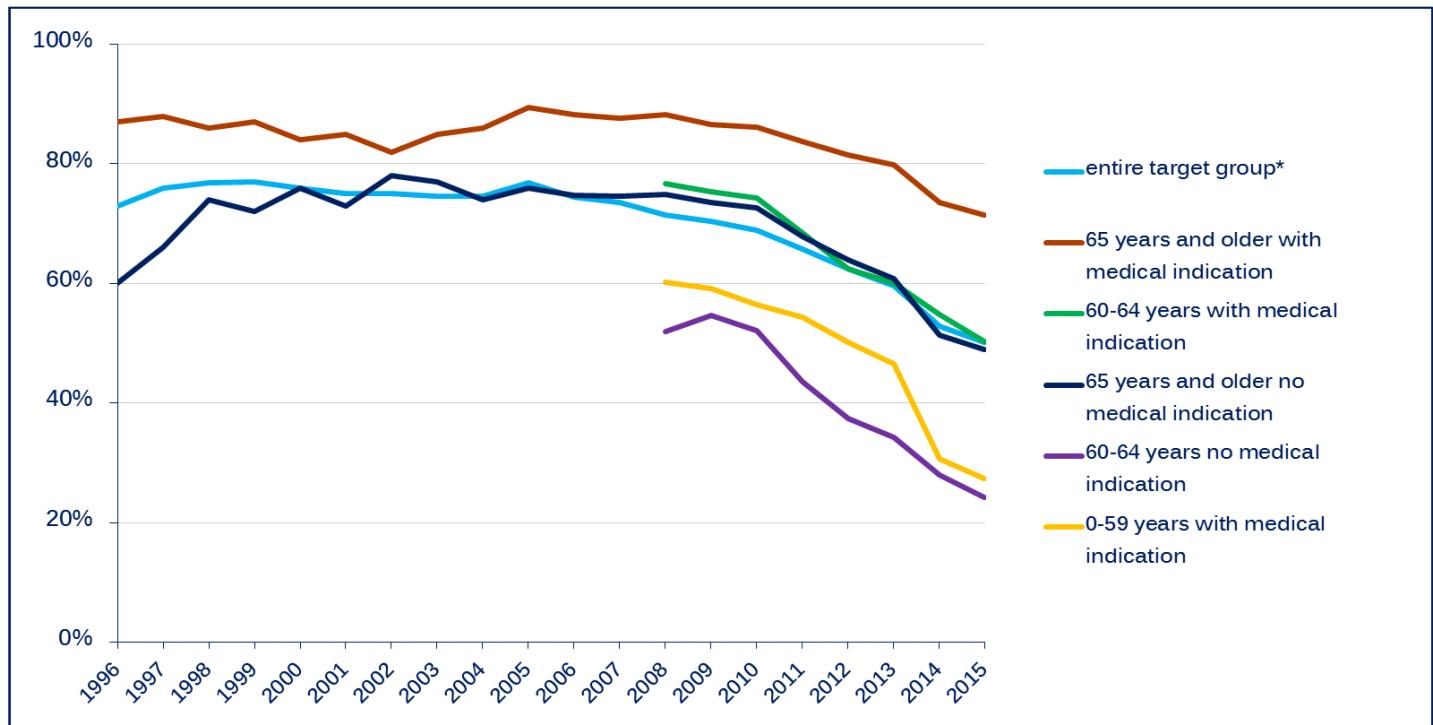
| Age group | Size (% of population) | Vaccine coverage (% vaccinated) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 0-59 years with medical indication* | 10.8 | 27.4 |
| 60 years and older | 25.8 | 57.5 |
| Without medical indication | 9.2 | 39.7 |
| With medical indication | 16.6 | 67.4 |
| 60 to 64 years | 6.6 | 36.7 |
| Without medical indication | 3.4 | 24.2 |
| With medical indication | 3.1 | 50.3 |
| 65 years and older | 19.2 | 64.6 |
| Without medical indication | 5.7 | 48.9 |
| With medical indication | 13.5 | 71.4 |
| Entire target population | 37.7 | 50.1 |

*Persons under age 60 only belong to the target population if they have a medical indication

Table 2. Size and seasonal influenza vaccine coverage by medical indication for influenza vaccination

| Medical indication | Size (% of population) | Vaccine coverage (% vaccinated) |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cardiovascular diseases | 19,5 | 56,0 |
| Pulmonary diseases | 7,6 | 52,5 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 6,3 | 66,7 |
| Weakened immune system | 1,9 | 50,5 |
| Chronic renal failure | 1,8 | 64,4 |
| Respiratory disorders caused by neurological | 1,8 | 58,5 |
| HIV | 0,1 | 48,7 |

Figure 1. Vaccine coverage by age group and medical indication, 1996-2015



Results from 1996-2013 are from practices participating in the 'Landelijk Informatienetwerk Huisartsenzorg' (Tacken M.A., et al. Monitoring vaccinatiegraad Nationaal Programma Grieppreventie 2013. Nijmegen, IQ Healthcare: 2014)

A small reduction in vaccine coverage

The decrease of the vaccine coverage continued in 2015. The reduction is somewhat more prominent in the age group 60-64 than in the other age groups. This was also seen in previous years. Differences in vaccine coverage compared to 2014 are similar to the general trend during 2009-2013 (Figure 1).

Monitoring the Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program

Each year an estimated 2.000 people die because of influenza in the Netherlands. The World Health Organization (WHO) therefore advises that vulnerable groups are vaccinated. Vaccination reduces both the risk of getting an influenza infection and the risk of complications if someone is infected. The Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program was established in 1997 and provides an infrastructure for influenza vaccination. Persons at risk from

complications due to (the consequences of) influenza are invited to visit their general practitioner for influenza vaccination free of charge. The target group is defined as all people aged 60 year or older and people with certain chronic diseases. The annual monitoring of uptake rates allows one to evaluate the number of people that is vaccinated (vaccine coverage) each year. In 2009, the European Union set a target to reach a vaccine coverage of 75% in the elderly and if possible in those with a medical indication during the season 2014-2015.

About the monitor

The 2015 monitor was performed by NIVEL and commissioned by RIVM. Data from general practices participating in NIVEL Primary Care Database were used for the analysis. For more information, see: [Vaccinatiegraad Nationaal Programma Grieppreventie 2015. NIVEL, 2016.](#)