



This brief monitor is a NIVEL (Netherlands institute for health services research) publication. Please cite as: Heins M, Hooiveld M, Korevaar J. Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2016 – Brief monitor. Utrecht, NIVEL: 2017. NIVEL publications can be downloaded from [www.nivel.nl](http://www.nivel.nl)

## Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2017: Brief monitor

*M. Heins, PhD, M. Hooiveld, PhD, J. Korevaar, PhD*

### Half of the target population vaccinated 2017

During the yearly influenza vaccination campaign of 2017, 49.9% of the target population with an increased risk for complications due to influenza (because of age or a medical condition) was vaccinated. The highest vaccine coverage (69.6%) 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 (25.9%). Vaccine coverage was 58.0% among persons who belonged to the at-risk group because of a medical condition. The highest vaccine coverage was found in persons with diabetes mellitus (61.9%) or chronic renal failure (61.0%). Vaccine coverage was relatively low among persons with HIV (47.1%) or a weakened immune system (44.8%).

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

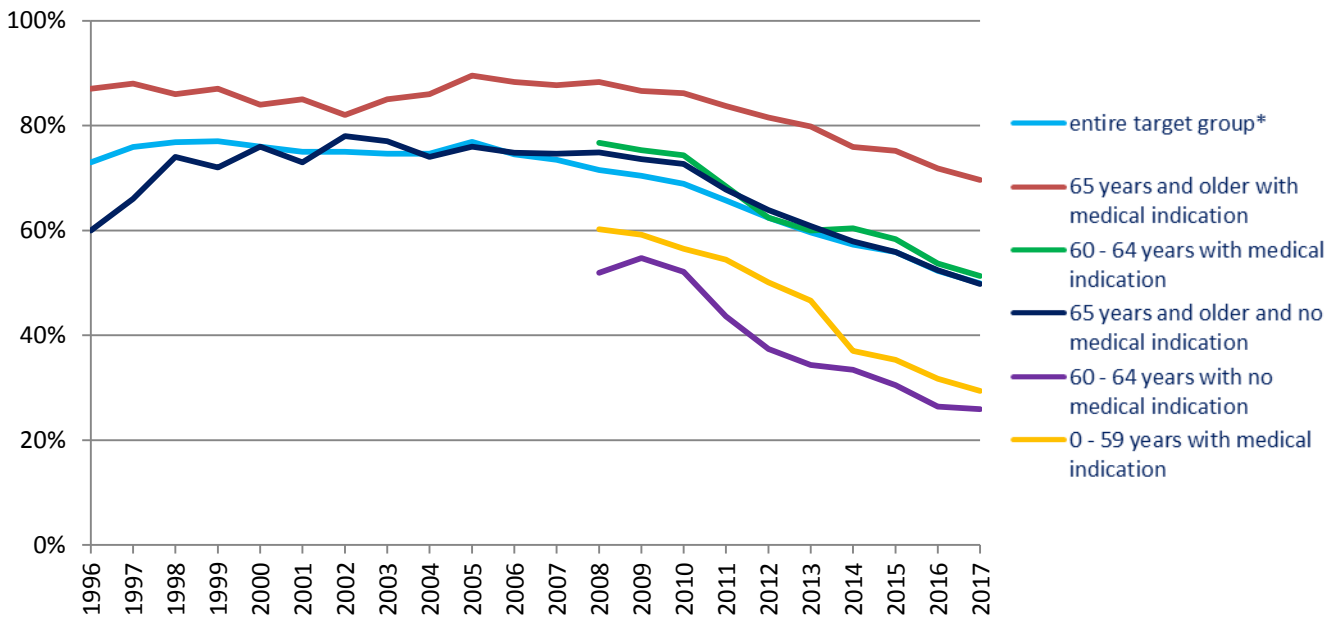
Age group	Size (% of population)	Vaccine coverage (% vaccinated)
<b>0-59 years with medical indication*</b>	7.8	29.4
<b>60 years and older</b>	26.0	53.6
Without medical indication	13.4	41.8
With medical indication	12.5	66.3
<b>60 to 64 years</b>	6.7	34.4
Without medical indication	4.5	25.9
With medical indication	2.2	51.3
<b>65 years and older</b>	19.2	60.4
Without medical indication	9.0	49.8
With medical indication	10.3	69.6
<b>Entire target population</b>	35.1	49.9

*\*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	7.7	61.1
Pulmonary diseases	6.9	49.7
Diabetes mellitus	6.2	61.9
Weakened immune system	2.2	44.8
Chronic renal failure	1.9	61.0
Respiratory disorders caused by neurological	1.9	54.8
HIV	0.1	47.1

Figure 1. Vaccine coverage by age group and medical indication, 1996-2017



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

There was a continued decrease in the vaccine coverage in 2017. The reduction is somewhat less prominent in persons aged 60-64. The coming years will show whether this trend will continue (Figure 1).

### Monitoring the Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program

An influenza infection is relatively harmless for most persons, however, in those who are vulnerable because of high age or medical conditions, influenza may cause serious complications. 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 coordinates and implements the influenza vaccination program. 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 vaccination uptake rates allows one to evaluate the number of people that are 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.

### About the monitor

The 2017 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 2017. NIVEL, 2018.](#)