

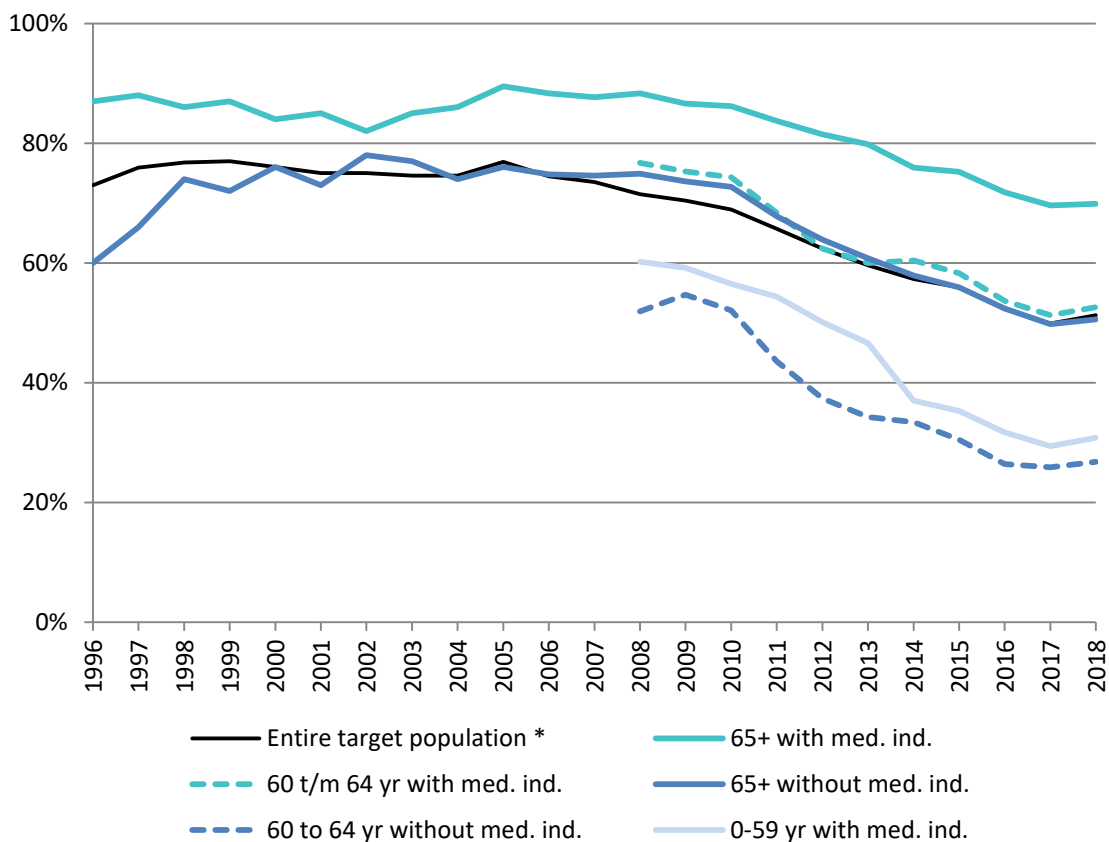
Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2018: Brief monitor

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Small increase in vaccine coverage in 2018

For the first time since 2008 there was a small increase in influenza vaccine coverage. During the yearly influenza vaccination campaign of 2018, 51.3% of the target population was vaccinated. In 2017 this was 49.9%. The target population are persons with an increased risk for complications due to influenza because of age or a medical condition. 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 (26.8%). Vaccine coverage was highest in persons with cardiovascular diseases (62.7%) and lowest among persons with HIV (45.8%).

Figure 1. Vaccine coverage by age group and medical indication, 1996-2018



* 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)

Table 1. Size and vaccine coverage by age group and medical indication for influenza vaccination (2018)

Leeftijdsgroep	Size (% of population)	Vaccine coverage (% of population)
0-59 years with medical indication*	7.0	30.8
60 years and older	27.0	53.8
Without medical indication	14.7	43.0
With medical indication	12.3	67.0
60 to 64 years	6.8	34.9
Without medical indication	4.7	26.8
With medical indication	2.1	52.6
65 years and older	20.2	60.3
Without medical indication	10.0	50.6
With medical indication	10.1	69.9
Entire target population	35.5	51.3

* 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 (2018)

Medische indicatie	Size (% of target population)	Vaccine coverage (% of group)
Cardiovascular diseases	6.8	62.7
Pulmonary diseases	6.5	51.5
Diabetes mellitus	6.2	61.8
Weakened immune system	2.1	47.6
Chronic renal failure	1.6	61.8
Respiratory disorders caused by neurological conditions	1.8	55.3
HIV	0.1	45.8

Low coverage in 60-64 year age group

For years, influenza vaccine coverage has been relatively low in the age group 60-64 years old. Nivel initiated a survey among the Dutch Health Care Consumer Panel. Results showed that almost all vaccinated persons receive the vaccine from their general practitioner. Therefore, the estimated vaccine coverage in this age group is not underestimated because of a substantial number of vaccinations administered at work or elsewhere; information that is not included in the monitor. Persons of 60-64 years old who did not receive vaccination more often reported a good health status and high educational level. The main reason for not being vaccinated was that they deemed influenza vaccination unnecessary. Vaccine coverage was considerably higher in those over 65 years of age, but also in this group the main reason for not being vaccinated was that influenza vaccination was being deemed unnecessary.

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 (in Dutch), see: [Monitor Vaccinatiegraad Nationaal Programma Grieppreventie 2018. Utrecht: Nivel, 2019](#)

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