

Influenza Immunization for Seniors

Name	Influenza Immunization for Seniors
Short/Other Names	Not applicable
Description	The percentage of persons age 65 and older who report that they had their last influenza immunization (flu shot) less than one year ago
Interpretation	High results are desirable.
HSP Framework Dimension	Health System Outputs: Appropriate and effective
Areas of Need	Staying Healthy
Geographic Coverage	All provinces/territories
Reporting Level/Disaggregation	National, Province/Territory, Region
Indicator Results	Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth

Identifying Information

Name Influenza Immunization for Seniors

Short/Other Names Not applicable

Indicator Description and Calculation

Description The percentage of persons age 65 and older who report that they had their last influenza immunization (flu shot) less than one year ago

Calculation: Description Population age 65 and older who received an influenza immunization (flu shot) less than one year ago, divided by the total number of survey respondents age 65 and older who responded to the question

Population estimates are based on weighted survey responses to reflect the total population.

Calculation:

Geographic Assignment Place of residence

Calculation: Type of Measurement Percentage or proportion

Calculation: Adjustment Applied None

Calculation: Method of Adjustment Not applicable

Denominator **Description:** Population age 65 and older who responded to the question (based on weighted survey responses)

Exclusions: Non-response categories (refusal, don't know and not stated) are excluded as of 2009.

Numerator **Description:** Population age 65 and older who report that they have been immunized for influenza within the past year (based on weighted survey responses)

Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks

It has been recognized for many years that people age 65 and older are at greater risk of serious complications from the flu compared with young, healthy adults.

Rationale Every year, up to 20,000 Canadians are hospitalized as a result of influenza illness. It is estimated that between 4,000 and 8,000 persons, mostly seniors, die from pneumonia or pneumonia-related complications each year. This is because human immune defenses become weaker with age. For this reason, seniors age 65 years and older are advised to get influenza vaccine each year.

Interpretation High results are desirable.

HSP Framework Dimension Health System Outputs: Appropriate and effective

Areas of Need Staying Healthy

Targets/Benchmarks Not applicable

An Advisory Committee Statement (ACS) and National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2011-2012. Canada Communicable Disease Report. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2011. Available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/11vol37/acs-dcc-5/index-eng.php>. Accessed September 12, 2016.

Schanzer DL, Tam TW, Langley JM, Winchester BT. Influenza attributable deaths, Canada 1990-1999. *Epidemiol Infect.* 2007;135(7):1109-1116. PM:17306052.

- References Center for Disease Control and Prevention on What You Should Know and Do this Flu Season If You Are 65 Years and Older. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/65over.htm>. Accessed September 12, 2016.
- Statistics Canada. Health Trends. Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 82-213-XWE. Ottawa. Released December 12, 2013. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/health-sante/82-213/index.cfm?Lang=ENG>. Accessed September 12, 2016.
- Health Link BC. Why Seniors Should get the inactivated flu (influenza) vaccine; 2013. Available at <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile12a.stm>. Accessed September 12, 2016.

Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources CCHS, Statistics Canada

Type of Year:

Calendar

Available Data Years **First Available Year:**

2003

Last Available Year:

2014

Geographic Coverage All provinces/territories

Reporting Level/Disaggregation National, Province/Territory, Region

Result Updates

Update Frequency Every year

Indicator Results **Web Tool:**
Your Health System: In Depth

URL:

[Accessing Indicator Results on Your Health System: In Depth](#)

Updates Not applicable

Quality Statement

Regional-level results for Nova Scotia are not available. In 2014, the *Health Authorities Act* passed by the Nova Scotia legislature consolidated the 10 district health authorities into 2 (1 provincial health authority with 4 management zones, and the IWK Health Centre). Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) data was not available for the new health authority boundaries.

The data year reflects the CCHS survey cycle. Prior to 2007, data for the CCHS was collected every 2 years, involving a sample of 130,000 respondents. In 2007, the survey transitioned to a yearly collection cycle, involving a sample of 65,000 respondents.

Some values have data quality flags that indicate "use with caution" or "suppressed" due to high coefficients of variation: health regions with small populations and results disaggregated by age group or sex within small regions.

The 2-year combined data has higher precision (less variability) than annual estimates. Users should refer to the annual CANSIM Table 105-0501 as the source for 2014 yearly CCHS estimates, as well as to obtain data from previous years. However, where data quality flags indicate suppression (F) or higher variability (E), the 2-year CANSIM Table 105-0502 should be used. Self-reported data is subject to bias.

Caveats and Limitations

The CCHS covers the population age 12 and older living in the 10 provinces and 3 territories. Excluded from the survey's coverage are the following:

- Persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces
- Full-time members of the Canadian Forces
- The population of institutionalized persons
- Persons living in 2 Quebec health regions: Nunavik Health Region and Terres-Cries-de-la-Baie-James Health Region

Altogether, these exclusions represent less than 3% of the target population.

In the North, the frame for the CCHS covers 92% of the target population in Yukon, 96% in the Northwest Territories and 92% in Nunavut. Before 2013, coverage in Nunavut was 71%.

Trending Issues

Not applicable

The 2009 data on flu shots may include H1N1 vaccines received in fall 2009. In 2010, the word "seasonal" was added to the questions in order to collect the two types of vaccines separately.

Indicator results are also available in

- Comments
- OECD Interactive Tool (<https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-system-performance/performance-reporting/international/oecd-interactive-tool-international>)
 - Health Inequalities Interactive Tool (<https://www.cihi.ca/en/factors-influencing-health/socio-economic/health-inequalities-interactive-tool>)
Please note that these results are calculated based on age-standardization to the 2011 Canadian standard population.