



## Improving Flu Vaccination Rates in Pregnancy Health Care Providers' Key Role

The New Hampshire Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (NH PRAMS) collects data on a variety of topics related to maternal health. This report is based on PRAMS survey questions that address the flu vaccine and is limited to data collected from NH residents who gave birth in 2013. For more information on NH PRAMS and to access the complete 2013 NH PRAMS Data Books visit:  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/mch/prams.htm>

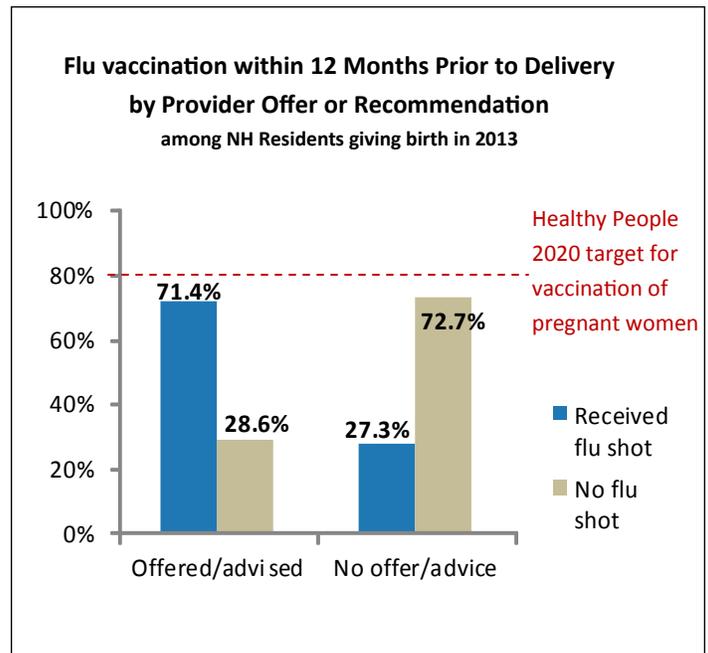
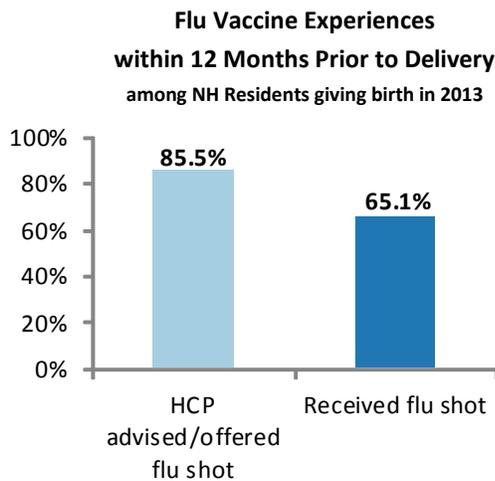
### NH PRAMS Questions Addressing the Flu Vaccine:

- *During the 12 months before the delivery of your new baby, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker offer you a flu shot or tell you to get one?*
- *During the 12 months before the delivery of your new baby, did you get a flu shot?*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommend the flu shot for all women who will be pregnant during flu season. The inactivated vaccine is safe to give during any trimester to protect pregnant women and their babies who are at high risk of developing serious complications from the flu.<sup>1</sup>

Healthy People 2020 has set a target of increasing the percentage of pregnant women who are vaccinated against seasonal flu to 80%.<sup>3</sup> The national rate for the 2014-15 flu season was only around 50% according to the CDC. Provider recommendation and offer of vaccination has been shown to have a significant positive impact on vaccination status among pregnant women.<sup>1,2</sup>

Respondents to the 2013 NH PRAMS survey whose provider recommended or offered the vaccine were over 2.5 times more likely to receive the vaccine than those whose provider did not recommend or offer the vaccine.



### Resources for Providers:

Flu Vaccine and Pregnancy: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/pregnant.htm>

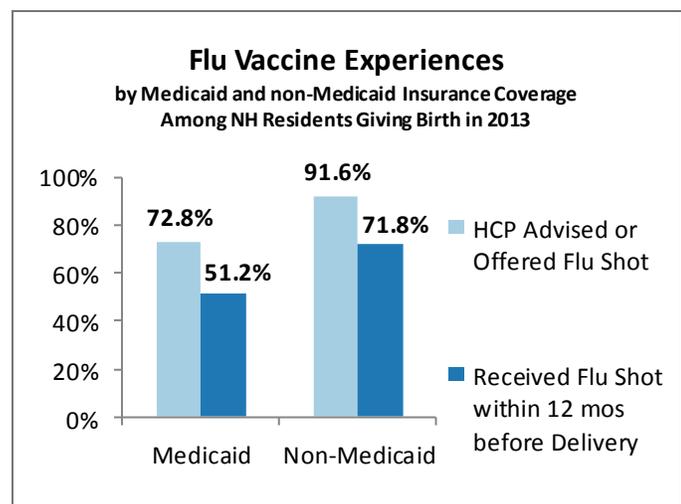
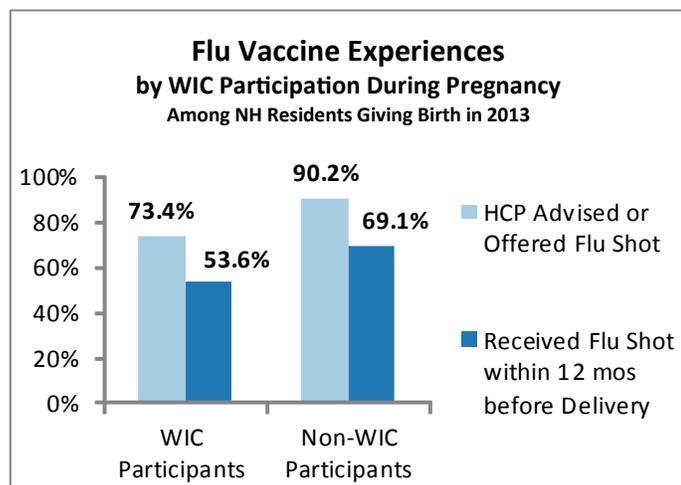
NH Immunization Program : <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/immunization/providers.htm>

Free Printable Resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/print-pregnant.htm>

ACOG's Influenza Immunization during Pregnancy Tool Kit: <http://immunizationforwomen.org/providers/resources/toolkits/influenza.php>

## Reaching Vulnerable Populations

An analysis of the 2013 NH PRAMS data demonstrates some differences in the experiences of women who were enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) during their pregnancy and those who were not enrolled. Similar differences are seen between those who were insured by Medicaid during their pregnancy and those who were covered by private insurance.



### References:

<sup>1</sup> American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee Opinion. Number 608, September 2014. <https://www.acog.org/-/media/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/co608.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20160527T0925425786>

<sup>2</sup> Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women — United States, 2014–15 Influenza Season, MMWR 2015, September 18, 2015 / 64(36);1000-1005

<sup>3</sup> Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020 topics and objectives: immunization and infectious diseases. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/immunization-and-infectious-diseases/objectives>

## Strategies for Health Care Providers

- Recognize the important role of providers in recommending the flu vaccine to pregnant women and educating them about the safety of the vaccine and the protection provided to both mother and baby.
- Administer the flu vaccine to pregnant women or refer to another vaccine provider.
- Be aware that vulnerable populations may have fewer opportunities and resources to receive a flu vaccine.
- Educate staff about the importance of the flu vaccine for pregnant women and their families.
- Establish a flu vaccine reminder system in each practice that targets pregnant women.
- Provide multiple modes of education such as videos, posters, and brochures for pregnant patients and their families (see resources on page 1).
- Contact the NH Immunization Program at 603-271-4482 for additional immunization information and guidance.

### About NH PRAMS

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, PRAMS, is an ongoing population based surveillance project of the CDC and state departments of health, with the goals of reducing infant mortality and low birth weight and improving the overall health of mothers and infants. New Hampshire PRAMS was funded in 2011 by the CDC and began collecting data in 2013. This report is based on data collected in 2013, the first year PRAMS data was collected in New Hampshire.

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### New Hampshire PRAMS

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