



Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

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 data collected from NH residents who had a live birth during 2013-2015. For more information on NH PRAMS and to access NH PRAMS Data Books and other publications visit: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/mch/prams.htm>

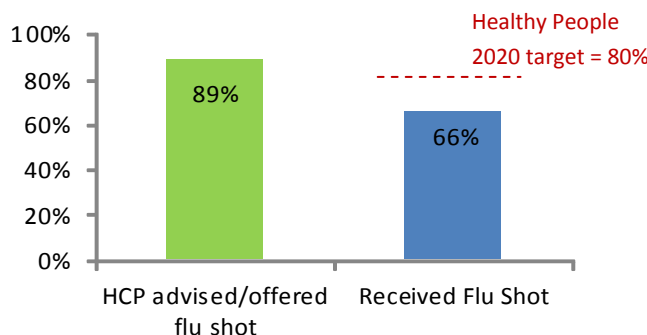
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommend the flu shot for all women who will be pregnant during flu season. The inactivated vaccine is safe to give during any trimester to protect pregnant women and their babies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

Healthy People 2020 has set a target of increasing the percentage of pregnant women who are vaccinated against seasonal flu to 80%.² The CDC reports that in the 2016-17 flu season 53.6% of pregnant women in the U.S. received a flu vaccine before or during pregnancy.³ PRAMS data show that in New Hampshire 66% of pregnant women who gave birth during 2013-2015 received a flu vaccine during the 12 months before delivery.

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?*

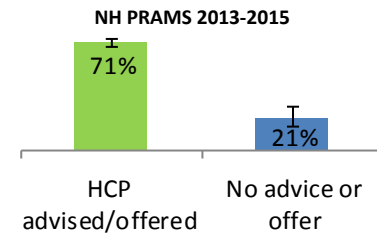
Flu vaccine advice from provider and receipt of flu vaccine during 12 months prior to delivery
NH PRAMS 2013-2015



Importance of Provider's Recommendation

Provider recommendation and/or offer of vaccination have been shown to have a significant positive impact on vaccination status among pregnant women.^{1,3} In New Hampshire, women who gave birth during 2013-2015 whose provider recommended or offered the vaccine were vaccinated at a rate more than three times that of those who received no offer or recommendation (71% vs. 21%).

Receipt of flu vaccine within 12 months prior to delivery by provider offer or recommendation

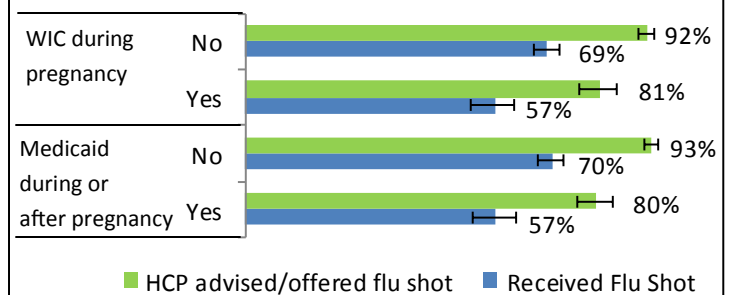


Where shown in this report, Confidence Intervals (CI) indicate 95% certainty that the true population value is included within this range.

Reaching Vulnerable Populations

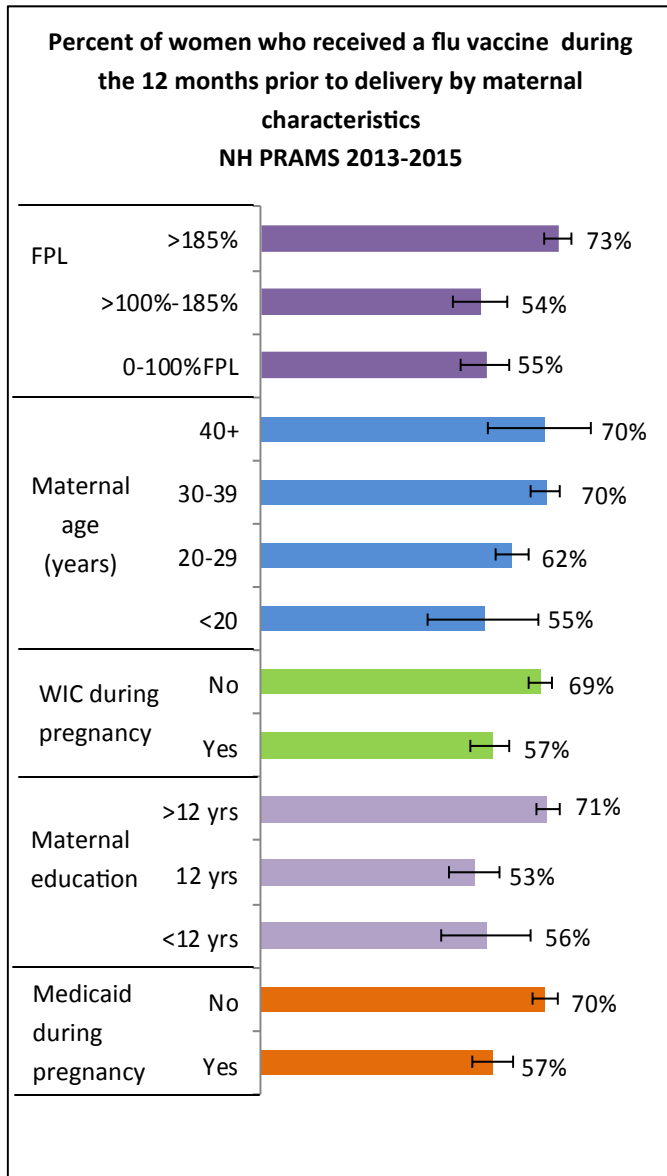
NH PRAMS data for 2013-2015 show that women who were enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) during their pregnancy and those who were enrolled in Medicaid during or after pregnancy were less likely to receive a provider recommendation for the flu vaccine and less likely to receive the vaccine than those not enrolled in WIC or Medicaid.

Advice/offer from provider and receipt of flu vaccine during 12 months prior to delivery by WIC and Medicaid enrollment
NH PRAMS 2013-2015



Flu Vaccination by Maternal Characteristics

PRAMS data show that certain populations are more likely to receive the flu vaccine during pregnancy than others. Women with a household income greater than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are more likely than those with lower incomes to receive the vaccine. Women with more than 12 years of education are more likely than those with less education to receive a flu vaccine.



References:

¹ 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>

² 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>

³ Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women — United States, 2016-17 Influenza Season, MMWR 2017, September 29, 2017/66(38);1016-1022

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 certain populations of women 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 resource list below).
- Contact the **NH Immunization Program at 603-271-4482** for additional immunization information and guidance.

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>

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