

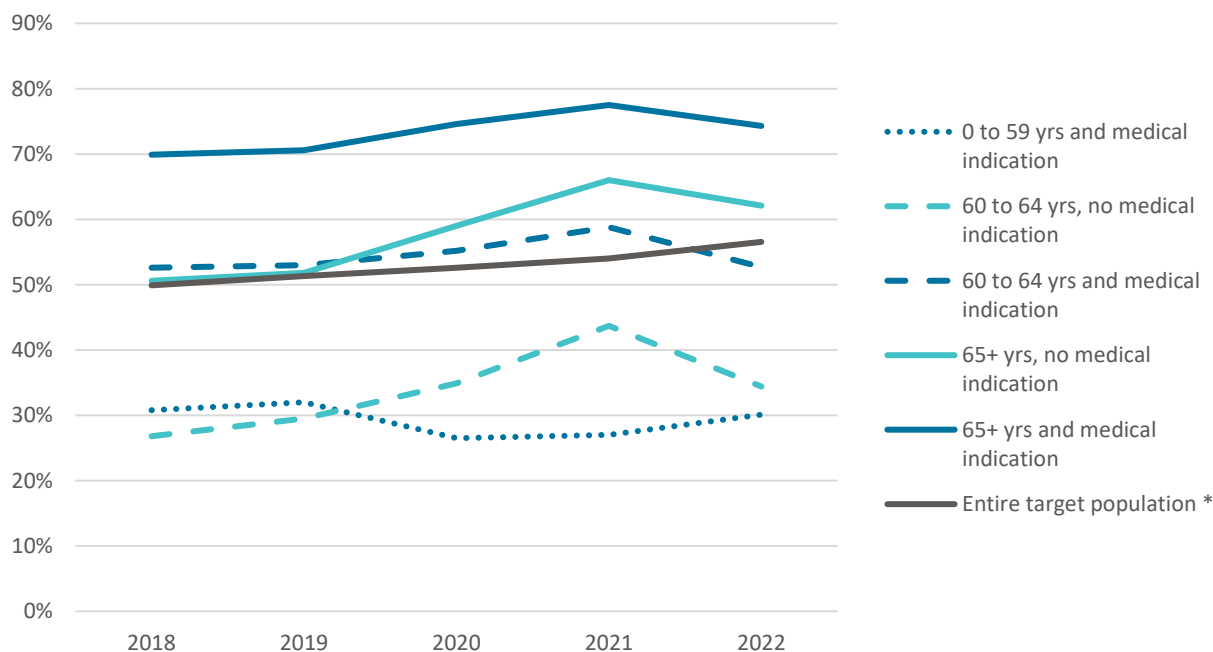
Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2022: brief monitor

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In the Netherlands, people who are at increased risk of complications from an influenza infection (flu), due to a higher age or a medical condition, are invited for influenza vaccination each year. In 2022, 56.8% of them were vaccinated.

In 2022, 56.8% of those invited for influenza vaccination were vaccinated. Though being lower than in 2021, when 58.3% were vaccinated, this number is higher than in 2017 to 2020. In 2008, 72% of the target group was vaccinated. This dropped in the following years to 50% in 2017. Since then, there has been an upward trend. When comparing with previous years, changes in the criteria for a medical indication for influenza vaccination should be taken into account.

Figure 1. Trend in influenza vaccine coverage by age group and medical indication*, 2018-2022



* In 2020 and 2022 there have been changes in the medical indications for influenza vaccination.

Table 1. Population size and influenza vaccine coverage within the target group, by age group and medical indication, 2022

Age group	Size (% of population)	Vaccine coverage (% of population)
0-59 years with medical indication*	6.8	30.1
60 years and older	28.4	61.2
<i>Without medical indication</i>	15.1	52.9
<i>With medical indication</i>	13.3	70.6
60 to 64 years	7.2	40.1
<i>Without medical indication</i>	5.0	34.4
<i>With medical indication</i>	2.2	52.7
65 years and older	21.2	68.4
<i>Without medical indication</i>	10.1	62.1
<i>With medical indication</i>	11.1	74.3
Entire target population	28.4	61.2

* Persons under age 60 only belong to the target population if they have a medical indication for influenza vaccination.

Table 2. Population size and influenza vaccine coverage by specific medical indication for vaccination, 2022

Medical indication	Size (% of target population)	Vaccine coverage (% of group)
Cardiovascular diseases	6.9	65.8
Pulmonary diseases	4.8	59.4
Diabetes mellitus	6.1	63.2
Weakened immune system	3.6	53.1
Chronic renal failure	2.4	70.8
Respiratory disorders caused by neurological conditions	2.5	55.3
HIV	0.1	44.3
Dementia	0.5	69.7
Intellectual disability	0.5	26.2
Morbid obesity (BMI \geq 40)	0.9	43.8

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 for complications due to (the consequences of) influenza are invited by their general practitioner or institutional physician for influenza vaccination free of charge. The target group is defined as all people aged 60 years or older and people with certain medical conditions. 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. The monitor NPG 2022 was performed by Nivel and commissioned by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (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 2022](#). Utrecht: Nivel, 2023.

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