

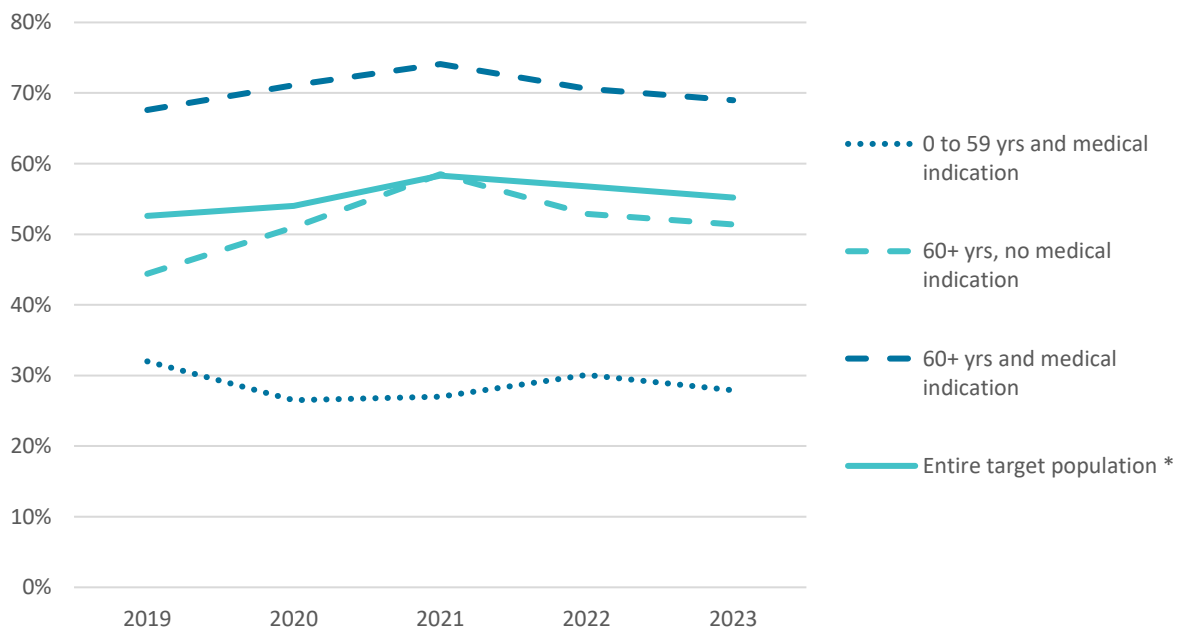
## Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2023: brief monitor

Claudia Laarman, Marianne Heins, Bart Knottnerus, Foekje Stelma, Mariëtte Hooiveld

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 2023, 55.2% of them were vaccinated.

In 2023, 55.2% of those invited for influenza vaccination were vaccinated. Though being lower than 2022, when 56.8% were vaccinated, this number is higher than in 2018 to 2020. After a long downward trend, vaccine coverage increased since 2018, but decreased again after 2021. 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\*, 2019-2023



\* 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, 2023*

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Size (% of population)</b>	<b>Vaccine coverage (% of population)</b>
0-59 years with medical indication*	6.9	27.9
60 years and older	29.1	59.7
<i>Without medical indication</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>51.4</i>
<i>With medical indication</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>69.0</i>
Entire target population	37.2	55.2

\* 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, 2023*

<b>Medical indication</b>	<b>Size (% of target population)</b>	<b>Vaccine coverage (% of group)</b>
Cardiovascular diseases	7.0	63.9
Pulmonary diseases	4.9	57.1
Diabetes mellitus	6.2	61.2
Weakened immune system	3.9	51.9
Chronic renal failure	2.4	69.5
Respiratory disorders caused by neurological conditions	2.6	54.3
HIV	0.1	40.0
Dementia	0.5	69.3
Intellectual disability	0.3	25.3
Morbid obesity (BMI ≥40)	0.8	43.4

---

## About the research

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.

The monitor NPG 2023 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 \(NPG\) 2023. Utrecht: Nivel, 2024.](#)

## About Nivel

Nivel, Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, is the national institute for health services research in the Netherlands. It is an independent organization which provides knowledge to improve healthcare in the Netherlands. We do this in conducting high-quality, reliable and independent scientific research on themes of major public interest. 'Research for better care' is our mission. Nivel publishes all its research publicly, as stipulated in the articles of association. Nivel has been certified ISO 9001 international quality standards. You can find this publication and all other Nivel publications at <https://www.nivel.nl/en/publications>.

## Source citing

Information from this and all other Nivel publications (reports, factsheets, infographics and other downloadables) may be reproduced provided the source is acknowledged. The source disclosure components of Nivel publications are: Laarman C, Heins M, Knottnerus B, Stelma F, Hooiveld M. Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Influenza Prevention Program 2023: brief monitor. Utrecht: Nivel, 2024

---