

# Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Pneumococcal vaccination Program Adults 2023: brief monitor

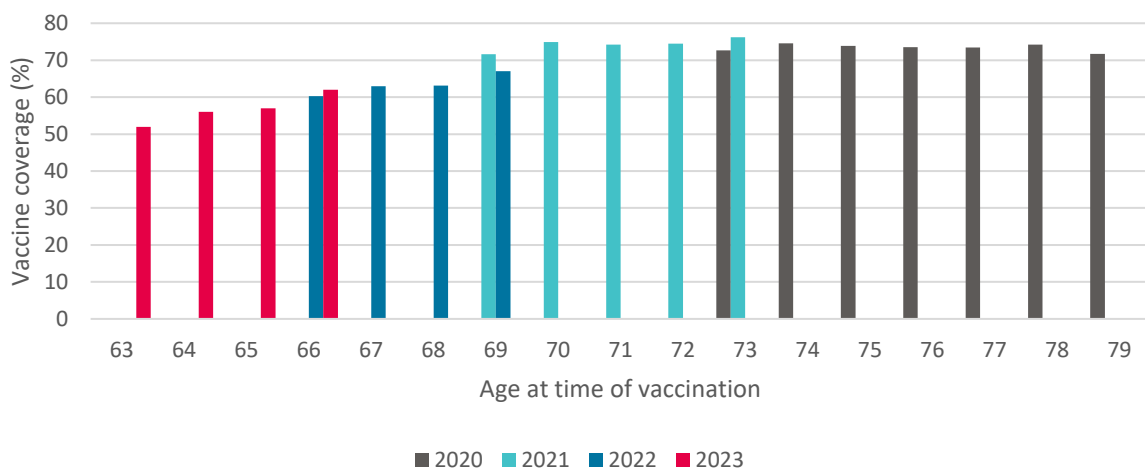
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Since 2020, adults aged 60 years or older are being invited for pneumococcal vaccination every 5 years. In 2023, during the fourth vaccination campaign, people born in 1957 to 1960 (aged 63 to 66) were invited for vaccination. Of these, 56,4% were vaccinated.

Vaccine coverage differed between the years of birth with 61,7% for 1957 to 51,8% for 1960. The vaccine coverage was higher among women (59.0%) compared to men (53.8%). In 2023, the vaccine coverage was lower compared to earlier vaccination campaigns in 2020 (73.0%), 2021 (74.1%), and 2022 (63.0%). However, one has to take into account that in 2023, a younger age group (63 to 66 years) was invited. In 2022, the invitation was for 66 to 69 year olds and in 2021 and 2020, people aged 69 to 73, and 73 to 79 years old were invited, respectively. The pneumococcal vaccination rate seems to increase with age, as is the case with the influenza vaccination rates.

The target population of the pneumococcal vaccination program among adults is 60 years or older and therefore those invited for pneumococcal vaccination are also eligible for influenza vaccination. There was a strong correlation between both vaccinations. Often these vaccines are provided simultaneously. The pneumococcal vaccine coverage was slightly higher in the group who also had a medical indication for influenza vaccination (60.8%) compared to the group without a medical indication (52.9%).

Figure 1. Pneumococcal vaccine coverage in the Netherlands in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, by age



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## Monitoring the Dutch National Program Pneumococcal Vaccination Adults

Pneumococci are bacteria that many people can carry with them without experiencing symptoms of disease. But especially children, people with a less well-functioning immune system and people older than 60 years can get respiratory infections due to the pneumococcal glands, such as pneumonia, middle ear infection and inflammation of the sinuses or forehead cavities. In a small proportion of patients, the infection is more severe and an invasive pneumococcal infection develops. In the elderly, the likelihood of dying from invasive pneumococcal disease increases with age. For children, pneumococcal vaccination is included in the National Vaccination Program. In 2018, the Health Council of the Netherlands advised that people aged 60 and older should be offered a vaccination against pneumococcal disease, with revaccination every five years up to and including the age of 75. In 2020, therefore, the National Program Pneumococcal Vaccination Adults (NPPV) was started. Invitation and vaccination is, as with the National Influenza Vaccination Program, organized by general practices and institutional physicians. Vaccinations by institutional physicians are not part of this monitor. Each year, a different birth cohort is invited for vaccination, in such a way that all persons aged 60 and older receive an invitation every five years. The monitor NPPV 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 analyses. For more information (in Dutch), see: [Monitor Vaccinatiegraad Nationaal Programma Pneumokokkenvaccinatie Volwassenen \(NPPV\) 2023](#).

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