

# Immunizations

**Summary / Recommendations:** In 2006, Louisiana residents aged 65 and older were much more likely to receive influenza vaccines (flu shots) and pneumonia vaccines if they were White and had higher levels of education and income. Those over 75 years old were more likely to have received these immunizations than the 65-74 year olds.

**Immunizations among people aged 65 years or older, overall and by select categories Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Louisiana 2006**

| Characteristics+      | Had Flu Shot Last 12 Months++ |             |                    | Had Pneumonia Vaccine Last 12 Months^ |             |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|                       | Sample Size*                  | %           | 95% CI             | Sample Size*                          | %           | 95% CI             |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>987</b>                    | <b>64.4</b> | <b>(61.6-67.2)</b> | <b>1007</b>                           | <b>66.4</b> | <b>(63.7-69.2)</b> |
| <b>Age</b>            |                               |             |                    |                                       |             |                    |
| 65-74                 | 308                           | 62.1        | (57.4-66.8)        | 299                                   | 62.5        | (57.8-67.3)        |
| 75+                   | 679                           | 66          | (62.7-69.4)        | 708                                   | 69.1        | (65.8-72.4)        |
| <b>Gender</b>         |                               |             |                    |                                       |             |                    |
| Male                  | 522                           | 57.6        | (53.9-61.3)        | 530                                   | 58.5        | (54.8-62.2)        |
| Female                | 465                           | 72.2        | (68.1-76.3)        | 477                                   | 75.5        | (71.5-79.5)        |
| <b>Race-Ethnicity</b> |                               |             |                    |                                       |             |                    |
| White                 | 765                           | 69.0        | (66.0-72.1)        | 789                                   | 72.1        | (69.1-75.0)        |
| Black                 | 147                           | 48.2        | (41.4-54.9)        | 145                                   | 47.3        | (40.5-54.1)        |
| <b>Education</b>      |                               |             |                    |                                       |             |                    |
| < High school         | 226                           | 60.2        | (54.1-66.3)        | 228                                   | 62.2        | (56.1-68.2)        |
| High school grad      | 294                           | 58.6        | (53.8-63.5)        | 324                                   | 64.7        | (59.9-69.5)        |
| Some college/grad     | 464                           | 71.1        | (67.3-75.0)        | 452                                   | 70.3        | (66.4-74.2)        |
| <b>HH Income</b>      |                               |             |                    |                                       |             |                    |
| <\$25,000             | 354                           | 59.5        | (55.0-63.9)        | 384                                   | 66.3        | (61.9-70.6)        |
| \$25,000-\$49,999     | 208                           | 68.1        | (62.2-74.0)        | 213                                   | 70.8        | (65.0-76.6)        |
| \$50,000+             | 133                           | 71.8        | (64.7-78.9)        | 117                                   | 63.3        | (55.8-70.9)        |
| <b>Employment</b>     |                               |             |                    |                                       |             |                    |
| Employed              | 85                            | 65.5        | (56.9-74.2)        | 72                                    | 53.1        | (43.7-62.4)        |
| Self-employed         | 760                           | 65.8        | (62.6-69.0)        | 783                                   | 68.7        | (65.6-71.9)        |
| Unemployed            | 80                            | 55.0        | (45.9-64.1)        | 86                                    | 62.9        | (54.0-71.8)        |
| Unable to work        | 59                            | 59.2        | (47.7-70.7)        | 62                                    | 60.8        | (49.1-72.5)        |

\* Percentages are based on weighted data estimates. Un-weighted sample size (Flu shot)= 987. Un-weighted sample size (Pneumonia Vaccine ) = 1007.

+In this analysis, data for each category are included only for persons for whom the data were available; excluded data were either unknown or refused..

++ Among those aged 65 or older, the proportion who reported that they had a flue vaccine, either by injecting in the arm or spraying in the nose during the past year.

^ Among those aged 65 or older, the proportion who reported that they ever had a pneumonia vaccine.

Immunizations are an effective way to prevent many common and debilitating diseases. On average, about 200,000 US residents are hospitalized from influenza complications each year, and about 36,000 people die. About 5,000 people die from Pneumococcal pneumonia each year; most are older adults. Thus high rates of influenza and pneumonia vaccines are essential to a healthy society. The *Healthy People 2010* objective is for 90% of adults aged 65 and older to receive annual flu shots and one-time pneumonia vaccines.

In 2006, 66.4% [95% CI: 63.7-69.2] of Louisiana residents 65 and older reported that they have ever had a pneumonia vaccine. Of those 75 and older, 75.5% [95% CI: 71.5-79.5] had a significantly higher prevalence of having the vaccine. Females and Whites were more significantly more likely than males and Blacks to receive both influenza vaccines and pneumonia vaccines.

Over the last ten years, Louisiana's rates of influenza and pneumonia vaccine progressed from being significantly lower than the US rates to reaching or surpassing US rates. Unfortunately, the proportion of Louisiana residents who reported having influenza vaccines in 2006 was significantly lower than the US proportion.

