



# Are Pregnant Women in Nebraska Getting Vaccinated?

## Maternal Child Health Topics in Nebraska

### Are Women Getting the Influenza/Flu Vaccine?

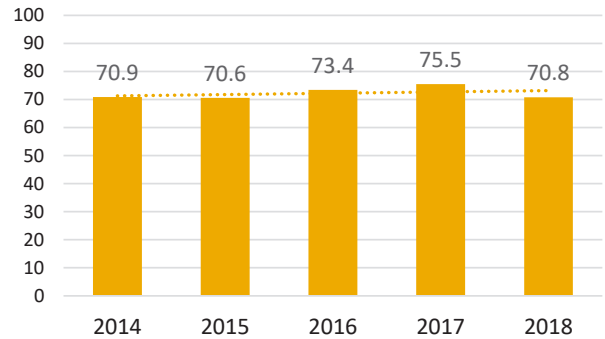
Vaccines help protect an unborn baby and are safe to administer during pregnancy.

The inactivated influenza vaccination can be administered at any time during pregnancy. Flu season begins in early fall and lasts into January or later.

**Women who are or will be pregnant during influenza season should receive the vaccine.<sup>1</sup>**

Obstetricians and gynecologists are encouraged to stock and administer the influenza vaccine to their pregnant patients in their offices and should get the vaccine themselves every season.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1. Percent of women who received the flu shot in the 12 months prior to a recent live birth

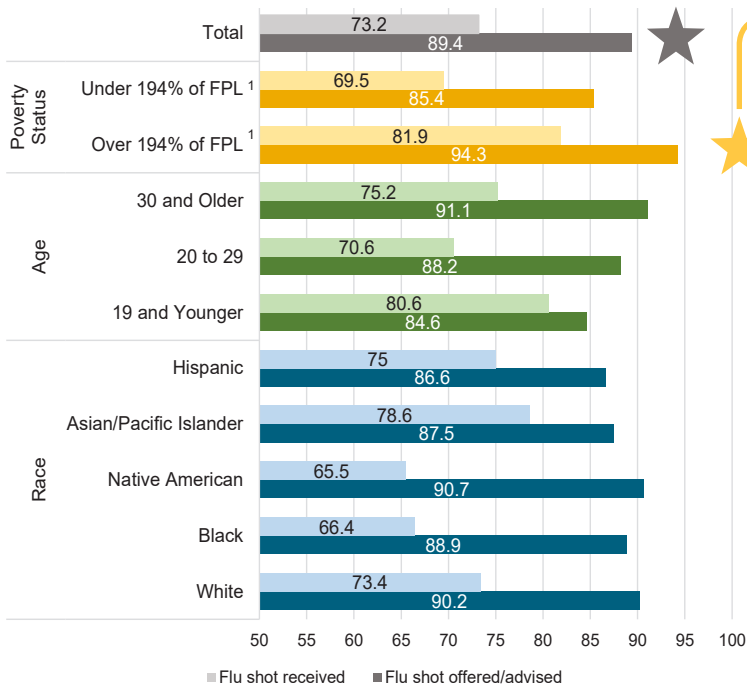


Source: Nebraska PRAMS, 2014-2018

Vaccination rates are increasing in Nebraska. Between 2014 and 2018 flu shot receipt increased by 5%. About 800 more pregnant women received the vaccine each year compared to five years earlier. In 2018, 70.8% of women got a flu shot before or during their most recent pregnancy.

### Disparities in Influenza Vaccination

Figure 2. Percent of women who were offered a flu shot and percent of women who received a flu shot in the 12 months, among women with a recent birth



Overall, 16.2% fewer women reported receiving a flu shot than being offered a flu shot.

Women in poverty report being offered and receiving the flu shot less often than women above 194% of the federal poverty level.

All women should be advised to get a flu shot during or before pregnancy.

#### Concerns About Getting a Flu Shot

- "I don't normally get a seasonal flu shot." - **75%**
- "I was worried about side effects of the seasonal flu shot for me." - **46%**
- "I was worried that the seasonal flu shot might harm my baby." - **44%**
- "My doctor didn't mention anything about a seasonal flu shot during my pregnancy." - **31%**
- Other reason - **28%**

Source: Nebraska PRAMS, 2009-2010

Source: Nebraska PRAMS, 2017-2018

1. Poverty status is indicated by 194% of the federal poverty level as this is the threshold for qualifying for Medicaid during pregnancy/delivery in Nebraska.



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## Maternal Child Health Topics in Nebraska

### Are Women Getting the Whooping Cough Vaccine?

All pregnant women should receive a tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine during each pregnancy, as early in the 27–36 weeks-of-gestation window as possible.<sup>3</sup>

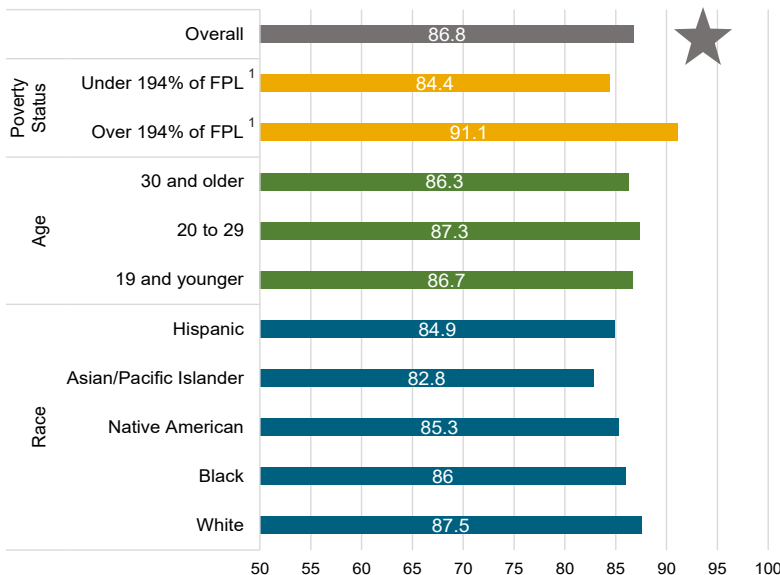
Obstetrician–gynecologists and other obstetric care providers play a critical role in ensuring that pregnant women receive recommended vaccines. When vaccines are recommended and made available directly from a woman’s obstetrician or other obstetric care provider, the odds of vaccine acceptance and receipt during pregnancy are 5-fold to 50-fold higher.<sup>4</sup>

Routinely assess pregnant patients’ vaccination status and, based on this assessment, recommend and (when possible) administer needed vaccines to pregnant patients. Other vaccines may be recommended during pregnancy depending on a patient’s age, prior immunizations, comorbidities, or disease risk factors.



### Disparities in Tdap Vaccination Coverage

Figure 3. Percent of women who received a Tdap vaccination, among women with a recent birth



Source: Nebraska PRAMS, 2017-2018

#### References:

1. CDC. General recommendations on immunization: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2011; 60 (No. 2): 26.
2. Influenza vaccination during pregnancy. ACOG Committee Opinion No. 732. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2018;131:e109–14.
3. Maternal immunization. ACOG Committee Opinion No. 741. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2018;131:e214–7.
4. Ahluwalia IB, Jamieson DJ, Rasmussen SA, D’Angelo D, Goodman D, Kim H. Correlates of seasonal influenza vaccine coverage among pregnant women in Georgia and Rhode Island. Obstet Gynecol 2010;116:949–55.

Women with lower receipt of the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy may need additional outreach, education, and service to encourage essential vaccination.

#### Pregnancy and Vaccinations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/index.html>

#### Resources for Patient Education:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/resources-patient-education.html>

#### Nebraska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an

ongoing population-based surveillance system of maternal behavior and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. The data presented in this publication are based on 6,521 completed surveys representing Nebraska mothers who gave birth to live infants between 2014-2018. PRAMS data are self-reported.

For more information, visit [www.dhhs.ne.gov/PRAMS](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/PRAMS)