

Influenza Immunization Coverage

Why Is This Important?

Each year influenza disease causes significant illness and death in the Canadian population. Annually, in Saskatoon Health Region, an average of one in four individuals with a laboratory confirmed influenza infection are hospitalized.

The very young, elderly and people with underlying medical conditions are hospitalized most frequently for influenza or influenza-related illness. It is especially important that staff who work at facilities caring for vulnerable populations are immunized annually.

Annual vaccination is necessary to protect against the influenza strains most likely to be circulating in a given year. Influenza vaccines generally protect against three or four strains of influenza.

What Is Being Done?

[Immunization Activities](#)

To Learn More:

[About the Data](#)

Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

Influenza immunization coverage increased for some risk groups, but decreased for others; overall coverage remained the same.

- Over five years, annual influenza immunization increased for pregnant women and seniors, and decreased for adults with medical conditions. In 2015/16 pharmacies immunized 11,484 residents between 18 and 65 years of age, an unknown percentage of which were medically at risk, potentially boosting the 30% reported (Figure 1).
- In 2015/16, 46.2% of children between two and five years were immunized (Figure 1).
- Twenty-four percent of pregnant women were immunized.
- Overall influenza regional coverage was 28.4%.
- Health Region employee coverage decreased from 94.9% in 2014/15 to 64% in 2015/16 when policy changed. Long term care staff, a subset of these employees, also decreased to 52.5% (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Influenza Vaccine Coverage Percent in Selected Populations, Saskatoon Health Region, 2011/12 to 2015/16

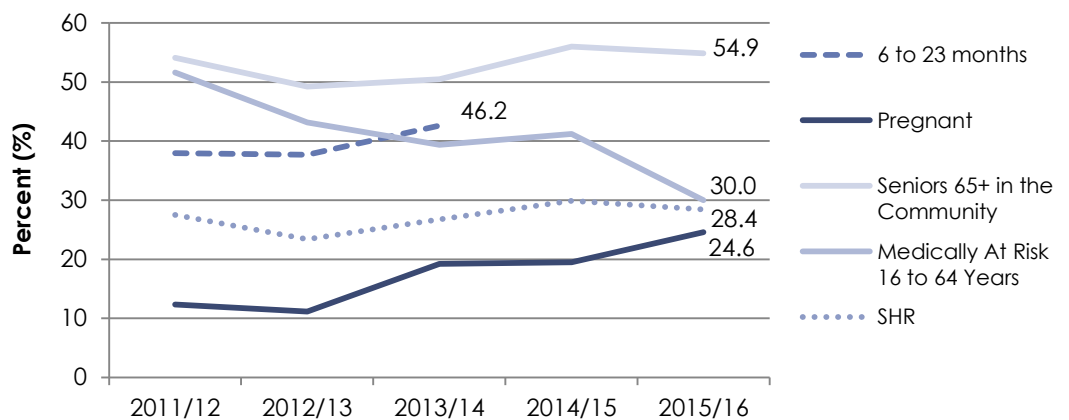
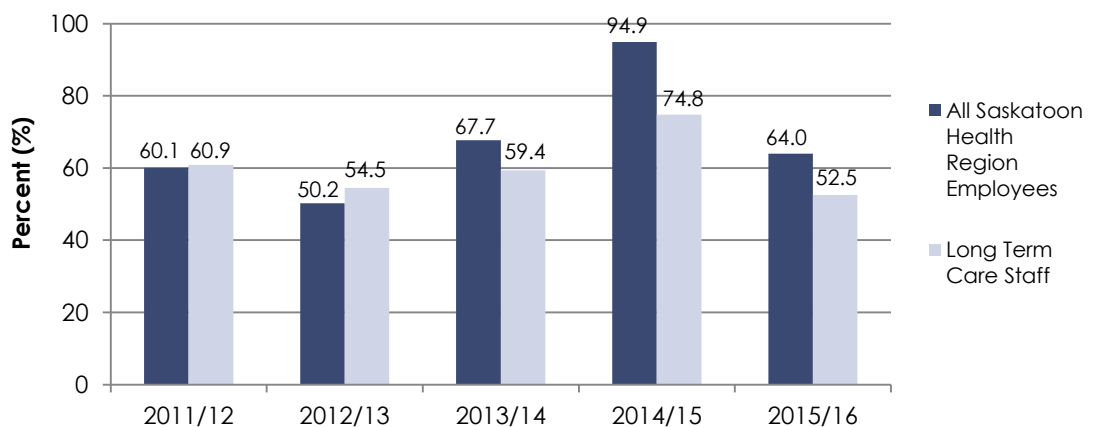


Figure 2: Influenza Vaccine Coverage Percent Among Regional Healthcare Staff, Saskatoon Health Region, 2010/11 to 2014/15



Source: [SIMS, Panorama](#), Population and Public Health, Saskatoon Health Region OH&S