

Influenza Immunization Coverage

Why Is This Important?

Each year influenza infection causes significant illness and death in the Canadian population. On average in Saskatoon Health Region, one in four individuals annually are hospitalized with laboratory confirmed influenza infection.

The very young, the 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. The strains in the vaccine are selected by the World Health Organization each year prior to the influenza season.

What Is Being Done?

[Immunization Activities](#)

To Learn More:

[About the Data](#)

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

Highlights

Influenza immunization coverage has increased over the last five years for most risk groups in the community.

- In 2016/17, 57% of persons 65 years and older were immunized against influenza (Figure 1).
- Coverage among babies six to 23 months fell to 38% from 46% last year (Figure 1).
- Overall coverage in the Region was 27% (Figure 1).
- Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) employee coverage decreased to 60.5% in 2016/17 from 64% in 2015/16 (Figure 2).
- Long term care staff, a subset of SHR employees, decreased to 47.5% in 2016/17 from 52.5% last year (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Influenza Vaccine Coverage Percent in Selected Populations, Saskatoon Health Region, 2012/13 to 2016/17

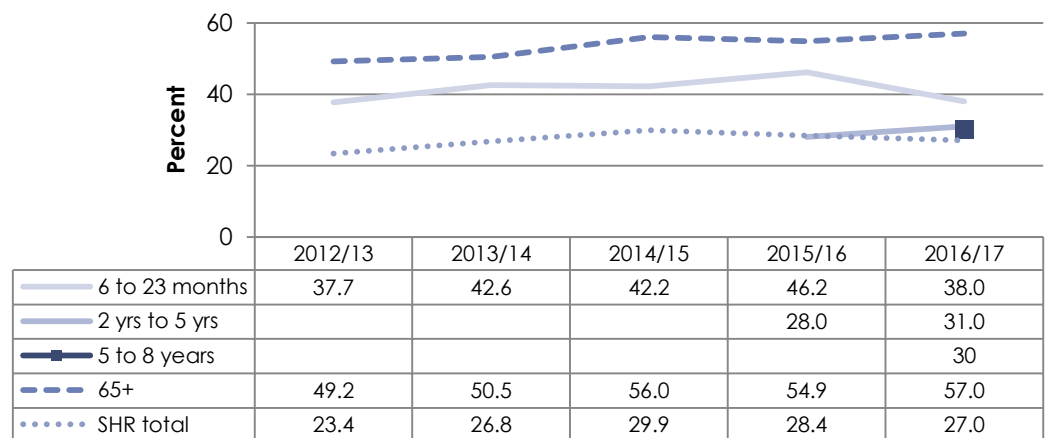
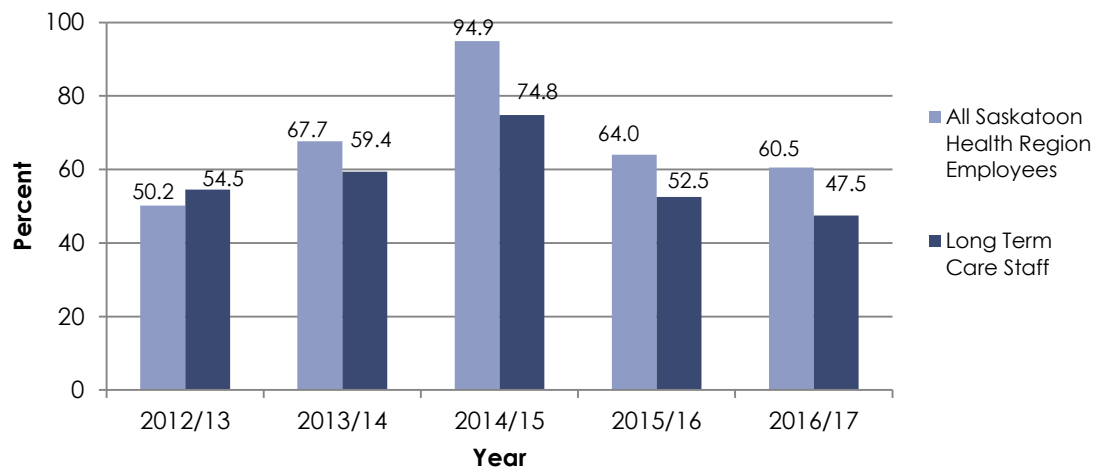


Figure 2: Influenza Vaccine Coverage Percent Among Regional Healthcare Staff, Saskatoon Health Region, 2012/13 to 2016/17



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