

CDC Vitalsigns™

Vaccinating Pregnant Women Protects Moms and Babies



Want to learn more?

www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/maternal-vaccines

2x

Women with influenza are more than twice as likely to be hospitalized if they are pregnant.

69%

Sixty-nine percent of reported whooping cough deaths occur in babies less than 2 months old.

1 in 3

Only 1 in 3 US pregnant women receive both influenza (flu) and whooping cough vaccines.

Overview:

Influenza and whooping cough can be deadly, especially in a baby's first few months of life. Vaccinating women against these diseases during each pregnancy helps protect both them and their babies. Studies show flu and whooping cough vaccines are very safe for pregnant women and developing babies.

- CDC recommends all pregnant women receive flu vaccine at any time during pregnancy, and whooping cough vaccine (Tdap) early in their third trimester, during each pregnancy.
- Pregnant women who get vaccinated pass antibodies to their babies, protecting babies in the first few months of life before they can get their own vaccines.
- Recommendations from healthcare providers are one of the strongest motivators for pregnant women to get vaccinated.



PROBLEM:

Not enough women receive flu and Tdap vaccines during each pregnancy.

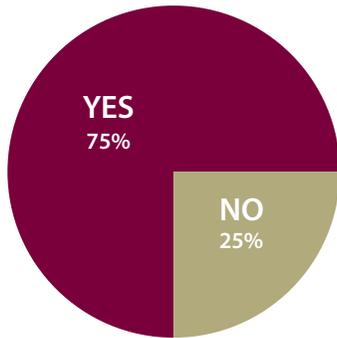
- About 2 in 3 pregnant women do not receive both recommended vaccines.
- Babies less than 6 months old are at the highest risk of all children for hospitalization from influenza.
- 38% of pregnant women who didn't get Tdap say they didn't know the vaccine was needed in each pregnancy.



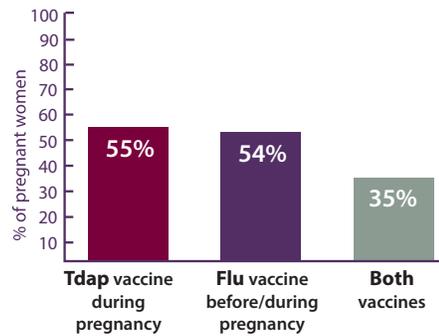
**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
National Center for Immunization
and Respiratory Diseases

Vaccines often offered, but many pregnant women and babies left unprotected

Women who report provider offer or referral for flu and Tdap vaccine



Flu and Tdap vaccination coverage for pregnant women



SOURCE: CDC Internet Panel Survey 2019.

Women vaccinated during pregnancy pass protective antibodies to babies.



SOURCES: Lancet, April 2017, <https://bit.ly/2lNYsgZ>. Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics, October 2017, <https://bit.ly/2monhke>.



Flu and whooping cough vaccines protect against life-threatening diseases.

Flu vaccination during pregnancy lowers risk of influenza hospitalization in:

- Pregnant women by an average of 40%
- Babies less than 6 months old by an average of 72%

Tdap vaccination during pregnancy lowers risk of:

- Whooping cough in babies less than 2 months old by 78%
- Hospitalization due to whooping cough in babies less than 2 months old by 91%

THE WAY FORWARD >>>

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS CAN:

- Discuss the benefits of vaccination with pregnant women early and often.
- Strongly recommend flu and Tdap vaccines to all pregnant women.
- Offer flu and Tdap vaccines to pregnant women, or provide referrals to other vaccination providers.
- Reinforce that vaccination is the best way to protect young babies from influenza and whooping cough.

PREGNANT WOMEN CAN:

- Talk with their healthcare providers if they have any questions about flu and Tdap vaccines.
- Get a flu vaccine anytime during pregnancy.
- Get a Tdap vaccine during the third trimester of each pregnancy.
- To learn more: <https://bit.ly/2yoUXAG>

EVERYONE CAN:

- Get a flu vaccine every year.
- Get a whooping cough vaccine as recommended.
- Be up to date on childhood vaccines: <https://bit.ly/1cWkgte>
- Be up to date on adult vaccines: <https://bit.ly/1hNagRo>

For more information

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 | Web: www.cdc.gov

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