

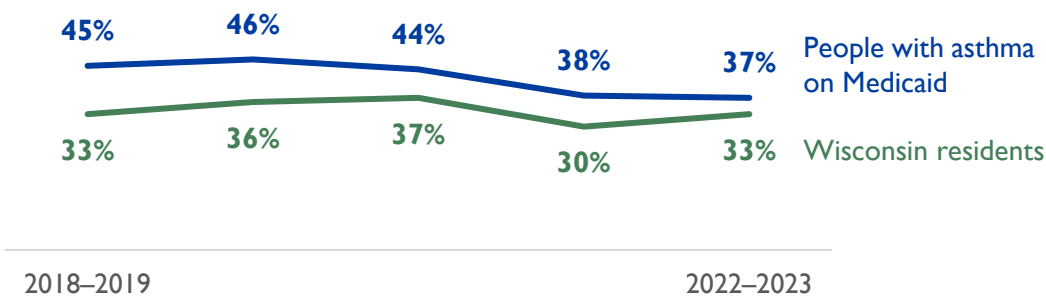
Influenza (flu) vaccination rates among people with asthma on Medicaid, ages 4–64 years

Background

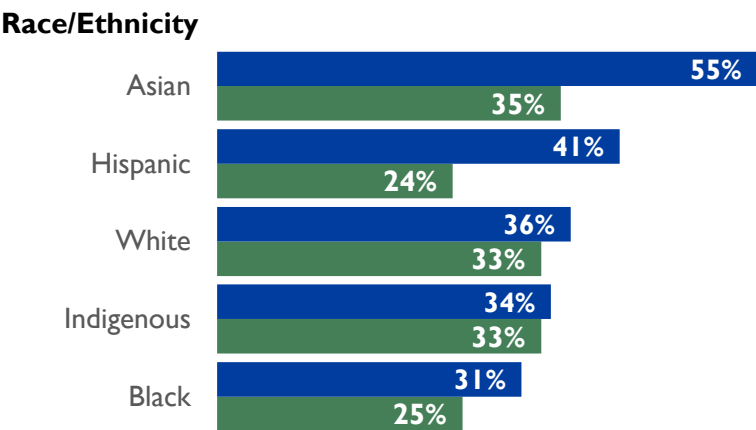
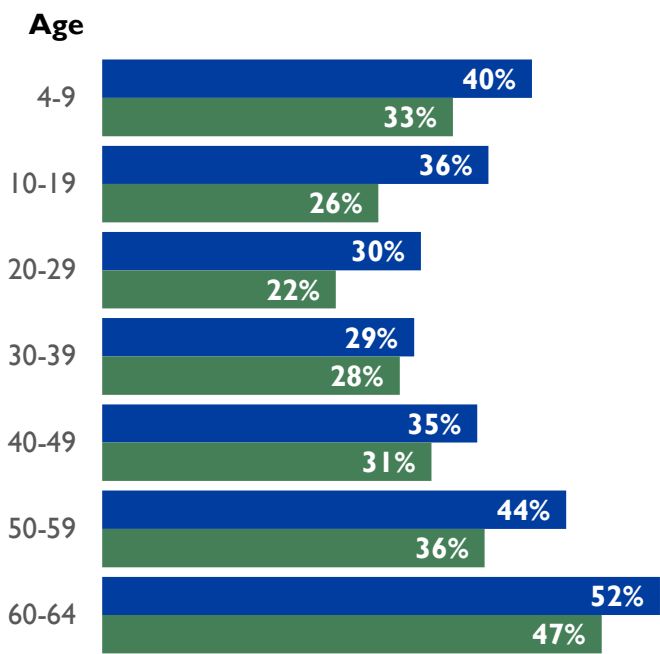
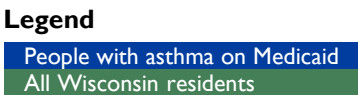
People with asthma are at high risk of severe disease and complications from influenza, also known as the flu. Flu infections can trigger asthma attacks, worsen asthma symptoms, and lead to pneumonia. This is why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommend all people ages 6 months and older, especially those with asthma, get a flu vaccine each year.

Comparing vaccinations among people with asthma on Medicaid to Wisconsin residents, ages 4–64 years

Flu vaccination rates among people with asthma were higher than Wisconsin’s general population. However, the asthma population slightly decreased while the Wisconsin general population increased in the 2022–2023 flu season compared to the previous year.



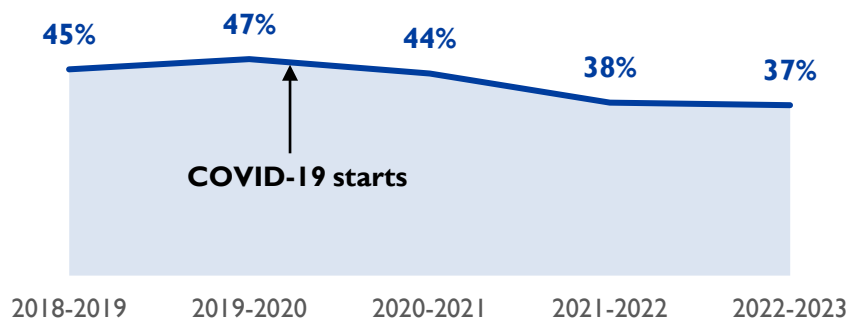
During the 2022–2023 flu season, vaccination rates varied by age, gender, race, and ethnicity. Vaccination rates were higher among people with asthma on Medicaid for all groups.



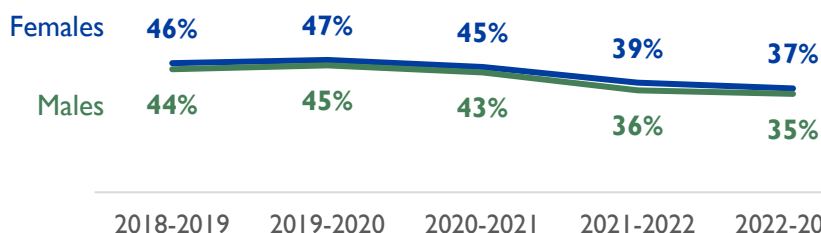
Flu vaccination trends over time among people with asthma on Medicaid, ages 4–64 years

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted flu vaccination rates

The percent of people with asthma on Medicaid who received a flu shot remained stable until the COVID-19 pandemic (approximately 47%). The 2022–2023 flu season saw a 10% decrease in flu vaccinations compared to pre-pandemic years.



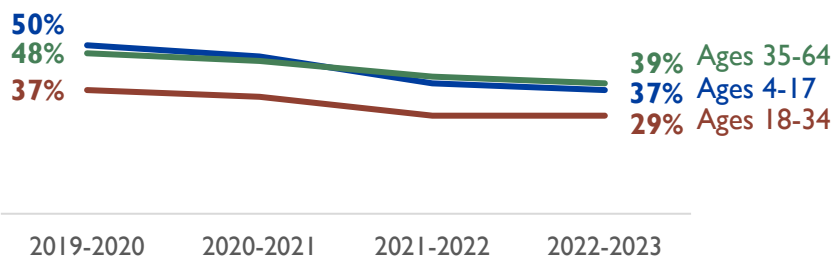
Gender



Females with asthma on Medicaid have had slightly higher flu vaccination rates over time compared to males with asthma on Medicaid.

Age

Flu vaccination rates among people with asthma on Medicaid decreased within all age groups between the 2019–2020 to the 2022–2023 flu seasons. However, the rate of **flu vaccination remained about 10% lower among ages 18–34 years** compared to other age groups.



Race and Ethnicity

Flu vaccination rates among people with asthma on Medicaid differ by race and ethnicity, but all groups have seen a decrease in flu vaccination since the COVID-19 pandemic started. There are several explanations for these observed differences, or disparities, that we see by racial and ethnic groups. Some may include access to high quality health care, distrust, safety concerns, and experiences with discrimination. Systemic racism and historical medical traumas continue to have large, negative impacts on Black and Indigenous communities.

