

Shingles Vaccination

2014 & 2015 Vermont Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

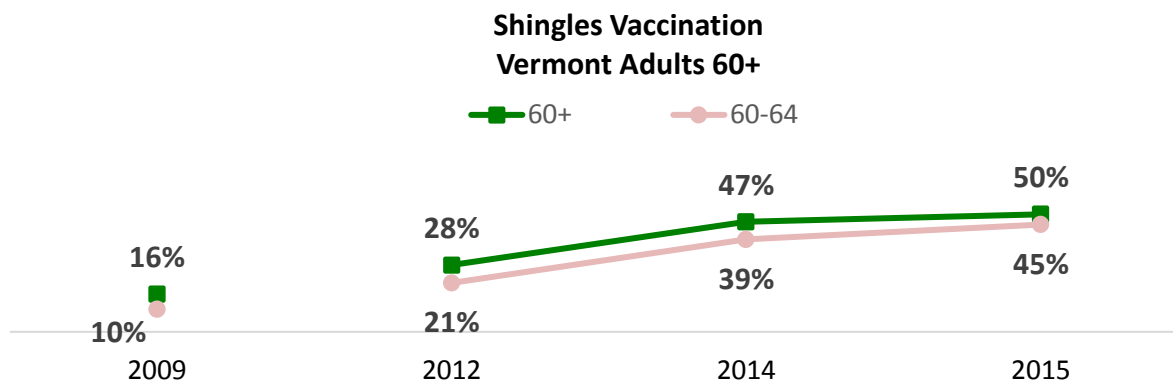
Background

Shingles causes a painful rash and is caused by herpes zoster, the same virus that causes the chickenpox. Risk of developing shingles increases with age. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that adults ages 60 and older receive the shingles vaccine¹. The vaccine has become increasingly available in recent years, both at pharmacies and through programs such as the Vermont Department of Health’s Vaccines for Adults program, which provides this vaccine for adults 60-64 to physician office’s at no charge.

The Vermont Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, or BRFSS, regularly includes a question on receipt of the shingles vaccine. This allows us to look at changes in vaccination over time as well as among sub-groups.

Overall

Half of Vermont adults 60 and older have gotten the shingles vaccine. This is triple the proportion reported in 2009 (16%) and nearly double that in 2012 (28%). In 2014, the last year a U.S. value for shingles vaccination is available, vaccination among Vermont adults was significantly higher than among U.S. adults (47% vs. 31%). Shingles vaccine coverage among adults 60 and older in Vermont is higher than any other U.S. state.

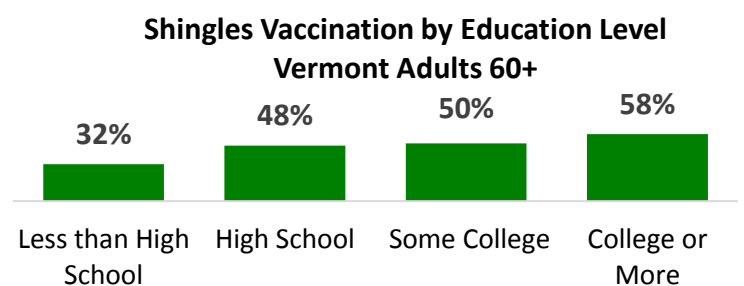


Among adults 60-64, eligible for the Vaccines for Adults program and within the ACIP recommended population for the shingles vaccine, a smaller percentage received the vaccine in 2015 (45%). The proportion of Vermont adults in this age range who have received the shingles vaccine is also higher than among U.S. adults of the same age group for 2014 (39% vs. 22%).

Demographics

Women were significantly more likely than men to have received a shingles vaccine in 2015 (53% vs. 46%).

Receipt of a shingles vaccine increases with education level. Adults 60 and older with a college degree or more are nearly twice as likely as those with less than high school degree to have gotten the vaccine. Those with less than a high school degree are significantly less likely than those with more education to have gotten the shingles vaccine. Similarly, adults 60 and older with a high school degree are significantly less likely to have received the vaccine, compared to those with a college degree or higher.



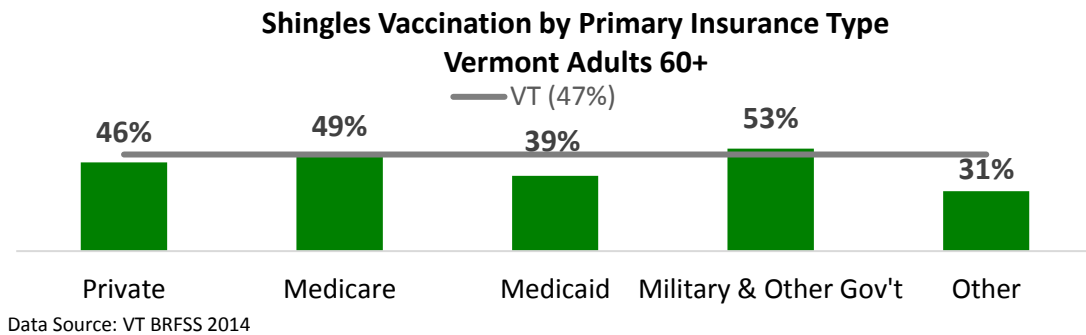
Data Source: VT BRFSS 2015

¹ Information on shingles and the vaccine can be found on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/about/overview.html>, <http://www.cdc.gov/shingles/vaccination.html>.

Shingles vaccination is similar by race among Vermont adults ages 60 and older. Half of White, non-Hispanic adults have received the vaccine, while 48% of racial or ethnic minority adults have gotten the vaccine.

Primary Insurance Type

In 2014, respondents were asked their primary insurance type. Receipt of the shingles vaccination within each type of insurance is statistically similar to the overall vaccination rate among Vermont adults 60 and older.



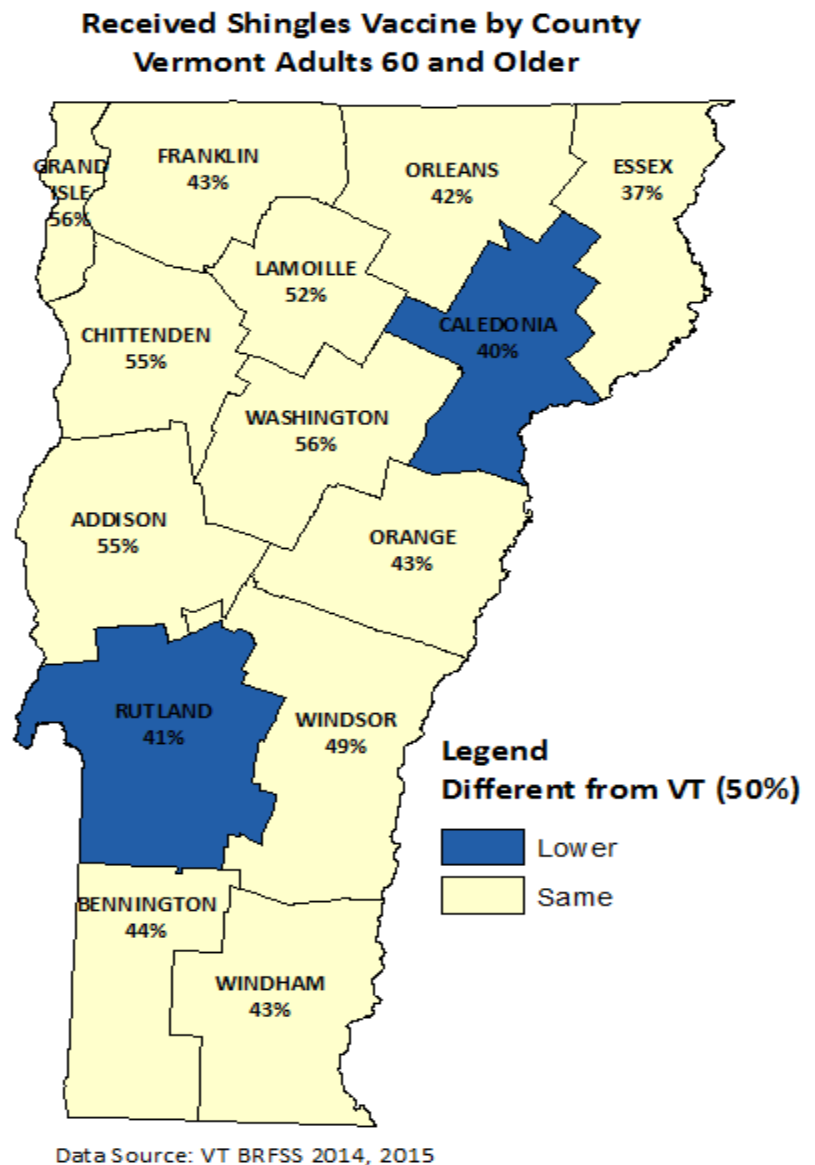
County of Residence

Receipt of a shingles vaccine varies by county of residence. Adults ages 60 and older in Essex County reported the lowest shingles vaccination rate (37%), while those in Grand Isle and Washington Counties reported the highest coverage (56%).

Adults ages 60 and older living in Caledonia (40%) and Rutland (41%) Counties are significantly less likely than Vermont adults (50%) to have received the vaccine. While Essex County adults ages 60 and older are less likely to report getting a shingles vaccine, the difference as compared with Vermont adults is not statistically significant.

Disability Status

In 2015, 48% of disabled Vermont adults ages 60 and older said they ever received a shingles vaccine. This is statistically similar to the 50% among adults overall.



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