







This data brief includes the annual Influenza (referred to as flu in the remainder of the report) vaccine coverage rates from the Vermont Immunization Registry (IMR). The Vermont IMR manages immunization records centrally to support the planning and evaluation of efforts to increase flu vaccination coverage rates. This data can be utilized to improve outreach and access to flu vaccines for all, focusing on those groups with the lowest rates. Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone six months and older to reduce the risk of flu and flu-related complications.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, flu vaccination during the 2020-2021 flu season increased in most VT age groups, with the most significant increases in school-aged children and teens. Young children and older adults saw moderate to no gain.

## KEY POINTS

- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Vermont flu vaccination increased in almost all age groups.
- Flu vaccination rate among 5 through 17 year olds increased over 2019-2020 flu season.
- 18-49 year olds remain the age group with the lowest flu vaccination rates.

## Percent of Vermonters Receiving Flu Vaccine: Last Season vs. Previous Season

Age Group		2019-2020 Flu Season	2020-2021 Flu Season	% Difference
6 months through 4 years		<b>59.1%</b> 16,518/27,963	<b>59.8%</b> 16,529/27,660	<b>+ 0.7%</b>
5 through 12 years		<b>42.6%</b> 25,292/59,413	<b>46.9%</b> 27,660/59,374	<b>+ 4.3%</b>
13 through 17 years		<b>35.5%</b> 13,362/37,653	<b>41.6%</b> 16,184/38,877	<b>+ 6.1%</b>
18 through 49 years		<b>27.2%</b> 62,937/231,028	<b>28.1%</b> 78,967/280,379	<b>+ 0.9%</b>
50 through 64 years		<b>45.3%</b> 56,225/124,144	<b>46.3%</b> 67,301/145,342	<b>+ 1.0%</b>
65 years and older		<b>59.1%</b> 72,146/122,013	<b>59.1%</b> 83,850/141,867	<b>No change</b>

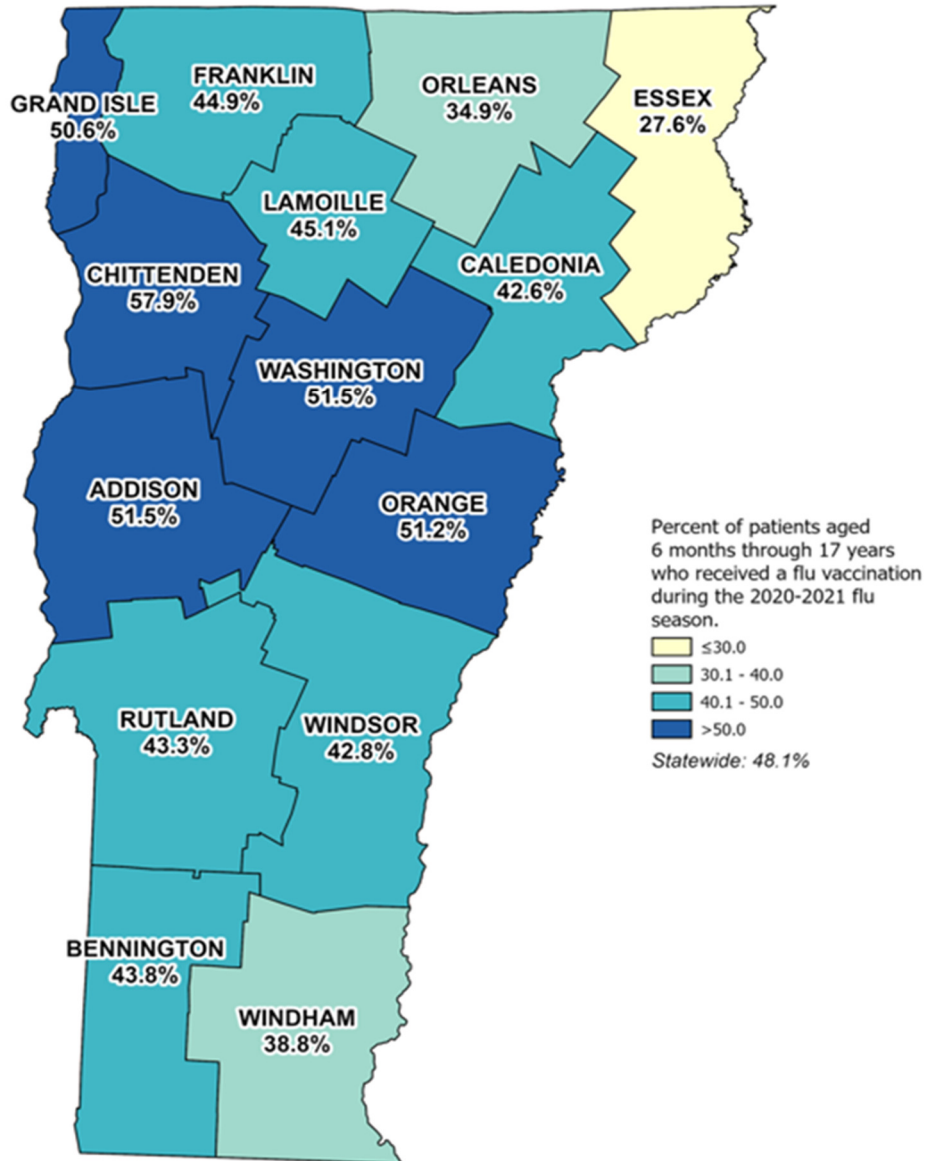
In the 2020-2021 flu season, 290,415 Vermonters were immunized against flu, with 43,000 more doses reported than during the previous flu season. See the definitions section at the end of this document for more information about this increase.

While rates have increased, Vermont’s flu vaccination review shows that more work can be done to protect Vermonters against flu. As the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the risk of co-infection of flu and COVID-19 among all age groups persists, this effort is increasingly important.

### Persons Under 18 years, by County – GIS Map

During the 2020-2021 flu season, the coverage rate among people 6 months through 17 years was 48.1%. The vaccination rate by county ranged from 57.9% in Chittenden to 27.6% in Essex, with each county increasing its rates compared to the 2019-2020 season. Statewide, flu vaccination coverage among teens is lower than in young children.

A data table with the number and percentage of individuals by county is found at the end of this document.

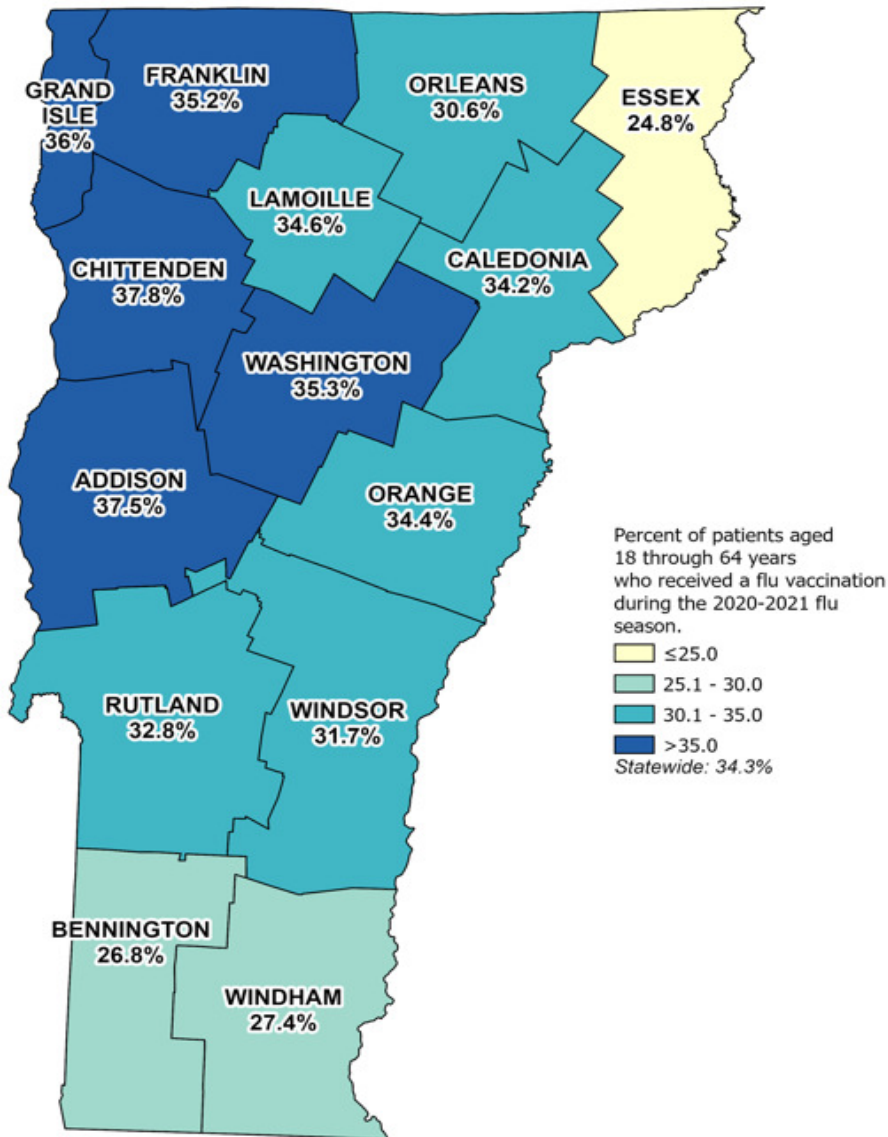


### Persons 18 years through 64 years, by County – GIS Map

Vermont adults 18-64 years had the lowest flu vaccination rates. Only 34.3% had a flu vaccination documented in the Registry for the 2020-2021 flu season.

County level coverage rates show that Essex, Bennington and Windham had coverage rates below 30%. Rates for this age group may be higher than reported due to incomplete reporting from an indeterminate number of employer-based flu vaccination clinics.

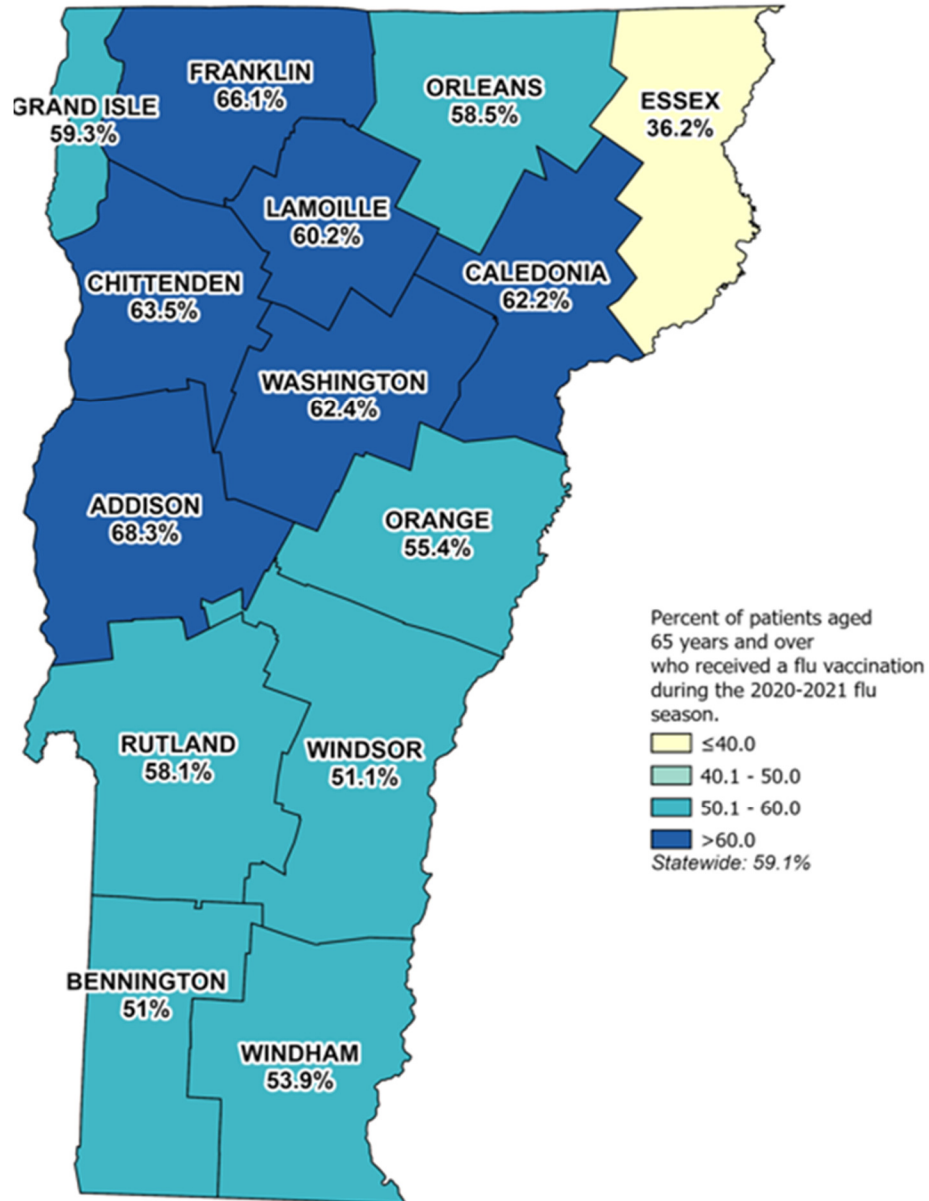
A data table with the number and percentage of individuals by county is found at the end of this document.



### Persons 65 years and up, by County – GIS Map

For persons, 65 years and older, the flu vaccine is important, as this age group has the highest rates of death due to flu and complications related to the flu. Statewide, 59.1% of Vermonters 65 and older received the flu vaccine in the 2020-2021 flu season, but county levels vary. Essex, Bennington, Windsor, and Windham counties all trail the state rate by more than 5%.

A data table with the number and percentage of individuals by county is found at the end of this document.



### For More Information:

Contact the Vermont Immunization Registry manager at (802) 951-4094

**Appendix A – Data Tables by County and Age Group**

Source: Vermont Immunization Registry 7/9/2020

**Persons Under 18 years, by County**

	6 months through 4 years		5 through 12 years			13 through 17 years			
	Count	Percent	Count	Count	Percent	Count	Count	Percent	Count
Addison	972	63.0%	1,542	1,560	51.8%	3,012	880	42.5%	2,069
Bennington	905	58.7%	1,542	1,480	42.1%	3,518	955	37.3%	2,558
Caledonia	654	50.9%	1,284	1,231	42.2%	2,916	851	38.2%	2,227
Chittenden	5,180	69.9%	7,411	8,749	55.2%	15,846	5,262	53.2%	9,900
Essex	88	35.3%	249	140	24.0%	584	93	28.1%	331
Franklin	1,416	55.7%	2,541	2,255	45.2%	4,993	1,120	35.8%	3,129
Grand Isle	164	58.6%	280	337	53.4%	631	162	40.7%	398
Lamoille	673	54.8%	1,227	1,208	45.1%	2,677	663	38.2%	1,735
Orange	763	61.6%	1,239	1,364	51.0%	2,672	757	44.0%	1,721
Orleans	548	45.0%	1,218	897	34.0%	2,635	499	29.1%	1,715
Rutland	1,280	54.1%	2,366	2,183	42.1%	5,186	1,285	37.6%	3,416
Washington	1,602	62.6%	2,559	2,768	51.2%	5,405	1,584	44.0%	3,602
Windham	898	50.7%	1,770	1,509	38.1%	3,960	845	31.9%	2,653
Windsor	1,386	57.0%	2,432	2,173	40.7%	5,339	1,228	35.9%	3,423
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>16,529</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>27,660</b>	<b>27,854</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>59,374</b>	<b>16,184</b>	<b>41.6%</b>	<b>38,877</b>

**Persons 18 years through 64 years and 65 years and older, by County**

	18 through 49 years			50 through 64 years			65+ years		
	Had Vax	Percent	Count	Had Vax	Percent	Count	Had Vax	Percent	Count
Addison	4,738	29.8%	15,907	4,344	52.6%	8,253	5,738	68.3%	8,397
Bennington	2,904	20.3%	14,332	3,280	37.6%	8,720	4,923	51.0%	9,645
Caledonia	3,345	26.8%	12,481	3,090	48.6%	6,352	4,284	62.2%	6,889
Chittenden	28,825	32.2%	89,402	18,664	51.7%	36,103	19,154	63.5%	30,170
Essex	363	18.6%	1,955	473	33.3%	1,420	576	36.2%	1,589
Franklin	5,659	28.0%	20,184	5,153	49.1%	10,502	5,710	66.1%	8,636
Grand Isle	766	26.9%	2,851	1,005	48.6%	2,068	1,298	59.3%	2,189
Lamoille	3,296	28.1%	11,727	2,901	46.7%	6,207	3,289	60.2%	5,464
Orange	3,149	27.8%	11,312	3,094	45.4%	6,816	3,852	55.4%	6,948
Orleans	2,471	23.9%	10,356	2,536	42.2%	6,006	4,026	58.5%	6,878
Rutland	5,824	25.5%	22,864	6,410	44.4%	14,427	8,667	58.1%	14,917
Washington	7,473	28.6%	26,118	6,688	47.7%	14,028	8,383	62.4%	13,438
Windham	3,555	21.0%	16,893	3,883	37.8%	10,265	5,897	53.9%	10,950
Windsor	6,329	26.4%	23,997	5,780	40.8%	14,175	8,053	51.1%	15,757
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>78,697</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>280,379</b>	<b>67,301</b>	<b>46.3%</b>	<b>145,342</b>	<b>83,850</b>	<b>59.1%</b>	<b>141,867</b>

**Definitions:**

**Vermont Immunization Registry:** is a secure health information system that contains immunization records for persons living in Vermont. It has been live since 2004 and is connected with Vermont’s Electronic Births and Deaths Registries. Medical provider offices, hospitals, pharmacies, and nursing homes report to the registry. As of January 1, 2021, there were 879,028 patients and almost 10 million immunizations in the system.

**Flu Season:** 2020-2021 flu season includes doses received between July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

Note: Changes in immunization coverage are influenced by the number of doses administered and the number of individuals in the population, also known as the denominator. In addition to the increase in the number of flu vaccine doses administered during the 2020-2021 flu season, the number of individuals in the population also increased. As a result, changes in coverage rates overall and by specific age group or county may not be as large as expected. Changes in the denominator can occur for multiple reasons.

**Limitations:**

VT law requires that all immunizations be reported to the Vermont Immunization Registry, some doses may have not been reported – and Vermont rates may in fact be slightly higher. Known non-reporters include a few small independent pharmacies, and employee health clinics including some employee health clinics at a few Vermont hospitals.

Photo credits: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention