

Vermont PRAMS Data Brief

2009-2010 Flu Season: Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

This is a report on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a survey conducted on a sample of Vermont women with live births since 2001. For pregnancies occurring during the 2009-2010 flu season, the PRAMS survey incorporated an additional set of questions pertaining to the influenza vaccines available that year. This report describes characteristics of those obtaining the seasonal flu vaccine, and for those who did not, their reasons for not doing so.

Pregnant women have increased morbidity and mortality from seasonal influenza due to the changes that occur during pregnancy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommend that women who are or plan to be pregnant during influenza season should receive the influenza vaccine as soon as possible.

Demographics

- Overall, 66 percent of mothers were vaccinated for seasonal influenza during the 2009-2010 flu season.
- Women in their teens and early twenties were not as likely to get vaccinated compared to older women
- Those who were not married were less likely to receive the vaccine than mothers who were married.
- Less than half of women without a high school diploma (45%) got vaccinated for seasonal flu.

Medical care and birth history

- Those who gave birth for the first time, those with private medical insurance for prenatal care, and those who entered prenatal care in the 1st trimester were all more likely to have obtained seasonal flu vaccination.
- Women who were either recommended or offered influenza vaccine by their health care providers were 3 times more likely to be vaccinated than women who were not recommended or offered the vaccine (75% vs. 24%).

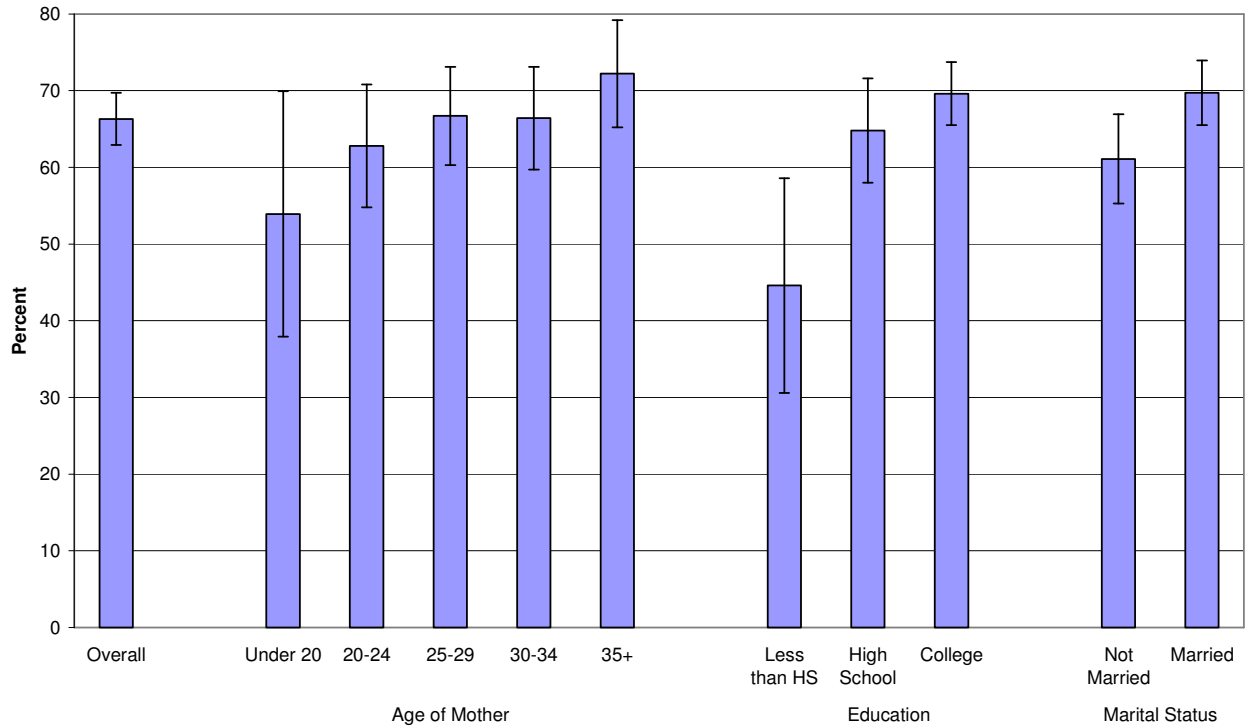
Reasons given for not getting the seasonal flu shot

- "Don't normally get a shot" was the most common reported reason women did not get the 2009-2010 seasonal flu shot, with nearly 80% listing that reason.
- 46% listed concern about side effects for themselves.
- 45% indicated concern about harm to their baby as a reason for not getting a shot.
- Less than a quarter of those not getting the shot listed lack of provider advice as a reason (23%).
- Of those who listed some other reason, review of comments reveals that the most common reason was lack of availability of the vaccine itself.

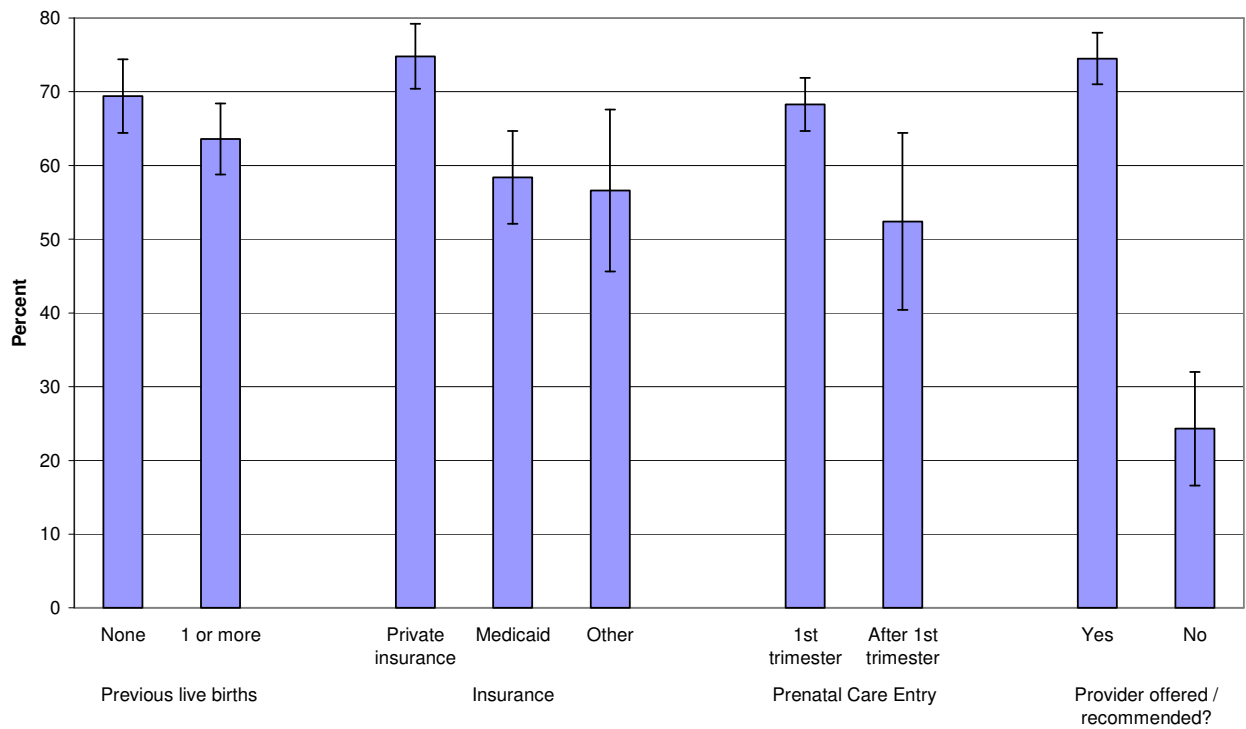
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Percentage obtaining a seasonal flu vaccination, 2009-2010, by selected characteristics

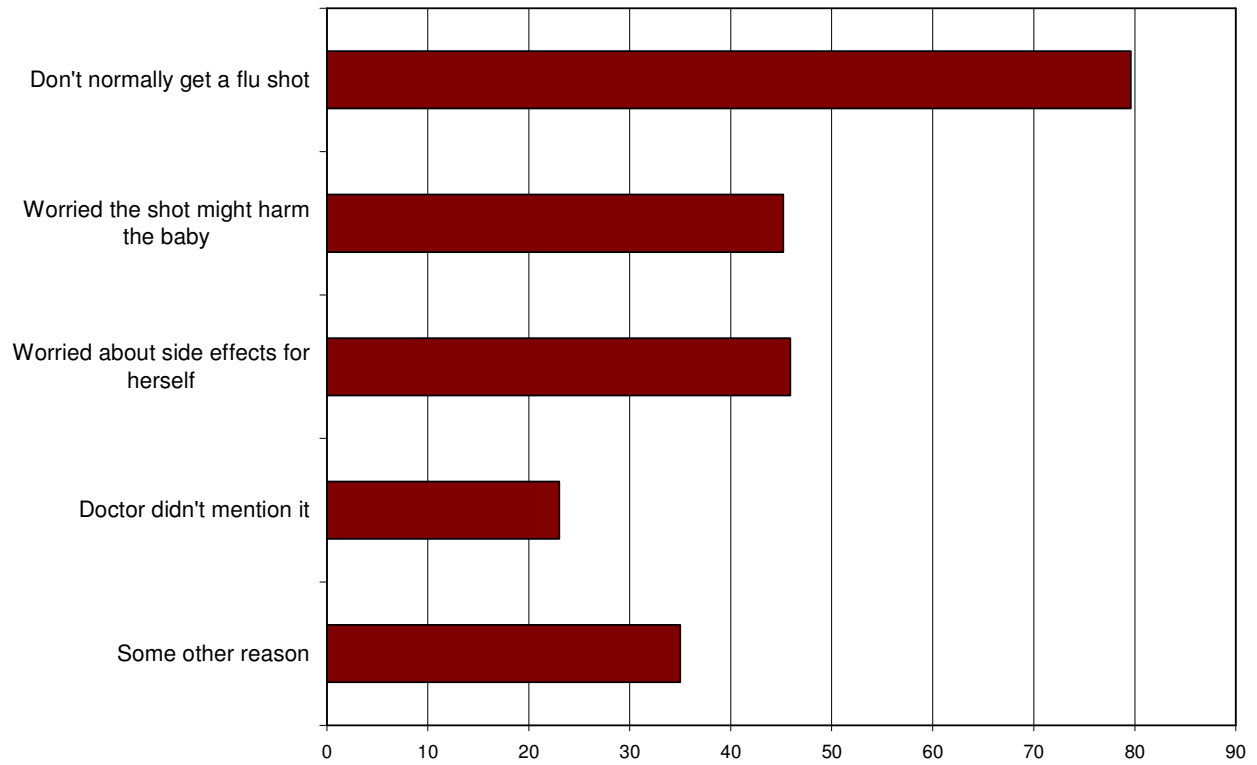


Percentage obtaining a seasonal flu vaccination, 2009-2010, by mother's birth history and medical care



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Reasons for not obtaining the seasonal flu vaccine, 2009-2010 flu season



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Question wording on the 2009-2010 PRAMS Flu Supplement

F6. At any time during *your most recent* pregnancy, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker offer you a seasonal flu shot or tell you to get one? **Y / N**

F7. Since September 2009, did you get a seasonal flu shot? This is different than the H1N1 flu shot. **Y / N**

F9. What were your reasons for not getting a seasonal flu shot during *your most recent* pregnancy? For each item, circle **Y** (Yes) if it was a reason for you or circle **N** (No) if it was not.

- a. My doctor didn't mention anything about a seasonal flu shot during my pregnancy **Y / N**
- b. I was worried about side effects of the seasonal flu shot for me **Y / N**
- c. I was worried that the seasonal flu shot might harm my baby **Y / N**
- d. I don't normally get a seasonal flu shot **Y / N**
- e. Other reason **Y / N** _____