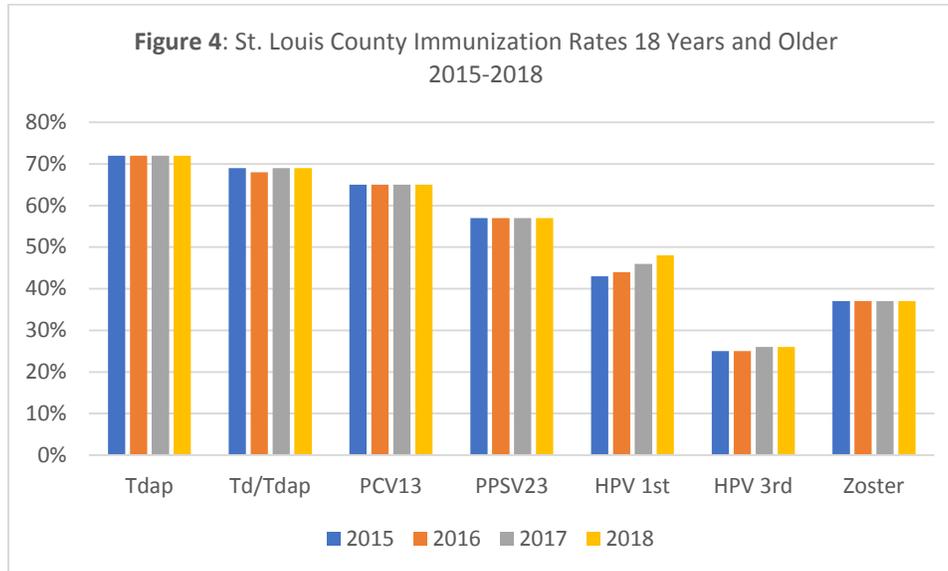


Adult Immunizations

Trends in St. Louis County, MN



When people think about vaccinations, many think they are just for children but this is not the case. Vaccines are needed throughout your entire life. Adults need to keep their vaccinations up to date because immunity from childhood immunizations can wear off over time such as the Tdap vaccine. Adults are also at a higher risk for different diseases like shingles.

Figure 4 shows that adult vaccination has remained relatively the same for the past few years. While it is encouraging that rates are not decreasing, there is room for providers and public health professionals to do more educational outreach to increase the percentage of adult vaccination. This is because it is not only important for adults to receive vaccines to protect themselves, but to help protect others. Infants, elderly adults, and people with weakened immune systems are especially vulnerable to infectious disease. Adults who stay up to date on their vaccinations lower the chance of spreading disease. Staying up to date on immunizations is especially important for elderly adults living in care facilities such as retirement communities, long term care facilities, assisted living centers, etc. These adults are more susceptible to diseases due to the close proximity of their living conditions.

Notes

Information for immunization rates were pulled from the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) registry, which is run by the Minnesota Department of Health. Data was gathered between June 18, 2019 and September 10, 2019. Studies referenced in the text are noted below. Any comments or questions can be sent to Katie Albert, albertk@stlouiscountymn.gov

Flannery, B., Reynolds, S. B., Blanton, L., Santibanez, T. A., O'Halloran, A., Lu, P.-J., ... Fry, A. M. (2017). Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Against Pediatric Deaths: 2010–2014. *Pediatrics*, 139(5). doi: 10.1542/peds.2016-4244

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