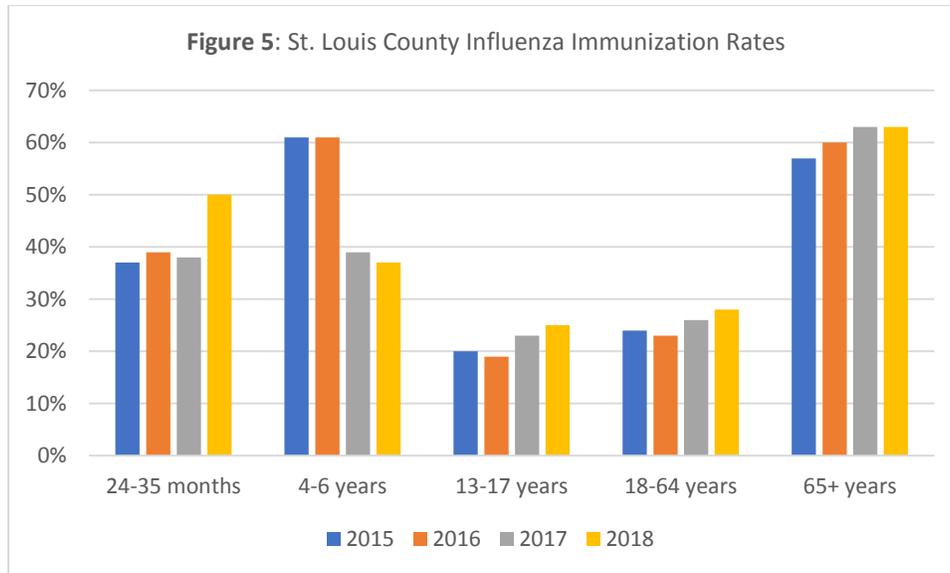


Influenza Immunizations

Trends in St. Louis County, MN



The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season with few exceptions. Getting the flu vaccine is especially important for people who are at a higher risk of serious complications from influenza.

The flu vaccine has numerous benefits. It can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. Flu vaccination also has been shown to be life-saving, especially in children. A 2017 CDC study showed that flu vaccination can significantly reduce a child's risk of dying from flu.

St. Louis County clearly has room for improvement with influenza vaccination rates. Our adolescent rates are hovering just over 20% while the population with the highest rate is slightly over 60% for 65 years of age and older. When considering that influenza vaccination is a person's best protection against getting the flu, a majority of the population is not utilizing this means of protection.

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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