

Vaccine Coverage Dutch National Pneumococcal vaccination Program Adults 2021: brief monitor

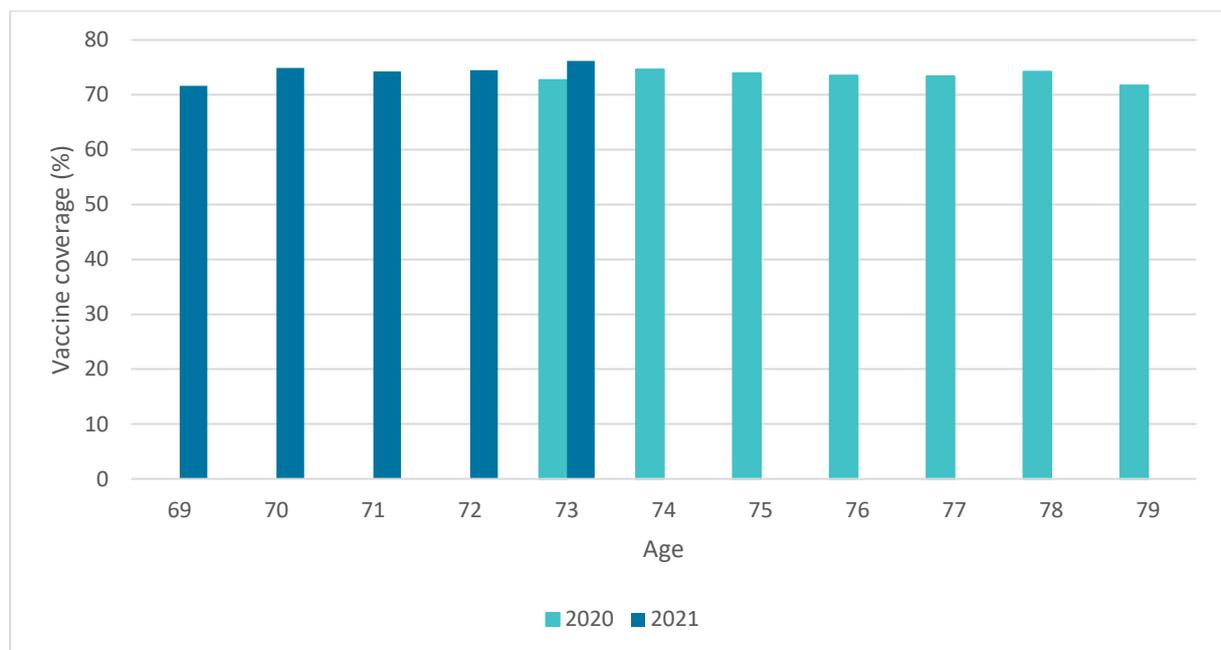
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Increase in pneumococcal vaccine coverage in 2021

During the second campaign of the pneumococcal vaccination program for adults (NPPV) in 2021, people born in 1948 to 1952 were invited for vaccination. Of these, 74.1% were vaccinated. This is higher than in 2020, when people born in 1941 to 1947 were invited and 73.0% were vaccinated.

Vaccine coverage did not differ much between the years of birth and was between 72% and 74% in all birth years. The vaccine coverage was slightly higher in women (74.4%) than in men (73.8%).

Figure 1 Pneumococcal vaccine coverage by age, 2021



The target population of the NPPV is older than 60 years and therefore those invited for pneumococcal vaccination are also eligible for influenza vaccination based on their age. There is a strong correlation between pneumococcal vaccination and influenza vaccination. In people from the invited age group who were vaccinated against influenza, 93.2% were also vaccinated against pneumococcal disease. In the group that was not vaccinated against influenza, the vaccination rate for pneumococcal disease was 7.8%.

Monitoring the Dutch National Programme Pneumococcal Vaccination Adults

Pneumococci are bacteria that many people can carry with them without experiencing symptoms of disease. But especially children, people with a less well-functioning immune system and people older than 60 years can get respiratory infections due to the pneumococcal glands, such as pneumonia, middle ear infection and inflammation of the sinuses or forehead cavities. In a small proportion of patients, the infection is more severe and an invasive pneumococcal infection develops. In the elderly, the likelihood of dying from invasive pneumococcal disease increases with age. For children, pneumococcal vaccination is included in the National Vaccination Programme. In 2018, the Health Council of the Netherlands advised that people aged 60 and older should be offered a vaccination against pneumococcal disease every five years up to and including the age of 75. In 2020, therefore, the National Program Pneumococcal Vaccination Adults (NPPV) was started. Invitation and vaccination is, as with the National Influenza Vaccination Programme, placed with the general practitioner. Every year, a different birth cohort is invited for vaccination, in such a way that all persons aged 60 and older receive an invitation every five years.

About the monitor

The monitor NPPV 2021 was carried out by Nivel and commissioned by RIVM. Data from general practices participating in Nivel Primary Care Database were used for the analysis. For more information (in Dutch), see: [Monitor Vaccinatiegraad Nationaal Programma Pneumokokken Vaccinatie Volwassenen 2021. Utrecht: Nivel, 2022](#)

Citing this publication

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