

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunization Rates

2023-2024 Respiratory Illness Season

April 2024

Infants, young children, and older adults are at an increased risk for severe illness from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The virus affects the lungs and for most people generally causes mild, cold-like symptoms. RSV spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes and virus droplets enter eyes, nose or mouth. You can also get the virus by touching an infected person or surface. RSV season usually begins in the fall and cases peak in the winter months. Immunizations to protect against RSV became available in 2023 for certain groups.

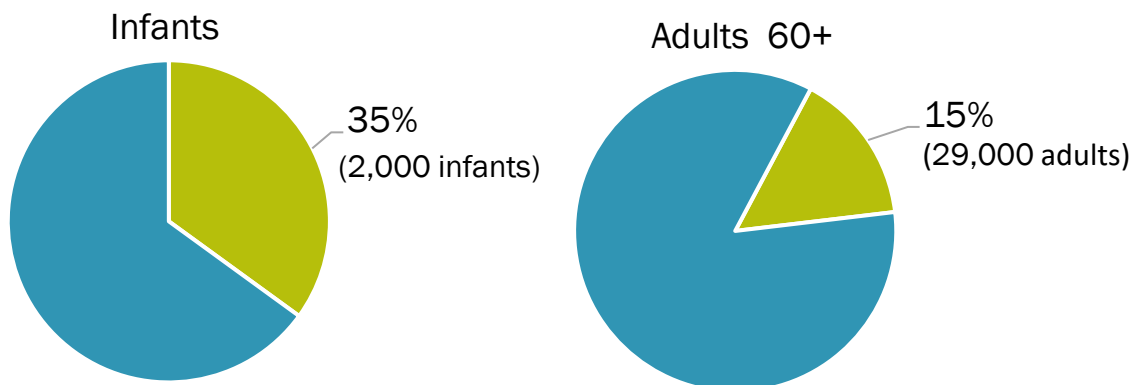


RSV vaccines are only recommended for adults (age 60+), pregnant people, and infants (and high-risk young children).

RSV immunization coverage among Vermonters

For adults 60 and older, a single dose of RSV vaccine can protect against severe illness. Infants can be protected two different ways: (1) pregnant people can be given the vaccine weeks 32-36 of pregnancy, or (2) babies less than 8 months old can receive the RSV antibody immunization*. Learn more about the RSV vaccine at [HealthVermont.gov](https://www.healthvermont.gov).

In Vermont over 2,000 (35%) infants and 29,000 (15%) adults 60+ were protected against RSV during the 2023-2024 respiratory illness season.



Vaccine and antibody supply were low this year. Next year, with more supplies, we plan to increase immunization rates among infants and adults 60 and older.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization

Notes:

*1 dose of nirsevimab is also recommended for infants and children aged 8–19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season. A different monoclonal antibody, palivizumab, is limited to children aged 24 months and younger with certain conditions that place them at high risk for severe RSV disease. It must be given once a month during RSV season. Please see AAP guidelines for palivizumab.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/rsv/index.html>

Data include immunizations reported to the Vermont Immunization Registry and may be missing some doses administered out of the state.

Sources: Vermont Immunization Registry, April 2024

Vermont Department of Health Population Estimates, 2022

Vermont Vital Statistics birth files, preliminary 2023-2024 data