

Beginning this year, we will publish annual Influenza Vaccine Coverage Rates from the Vermont Immunization Registry. The rates will be presented for six age groups, by county. We encourage you to use this data to increase outreach and access to flu vaccine for all, with a focus on those groups with the lowest rates. Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older to reduce the risk of flu and flu-related complications.

Percent of Vermonters Receiving Flu Vaccine in 2019-2020 Flu Season

Age Group		Percent
6 months through 4 years		59.1%
5 through 12 years		42.6%
13 through 17 years		35.5%
18 through 49 years		27.2%
50 through 64 years		45.3%
65 years and older		59.1%

Photos credit: Centers for Disease Control
Source: Vermont Immunization Registry 7/9/2020

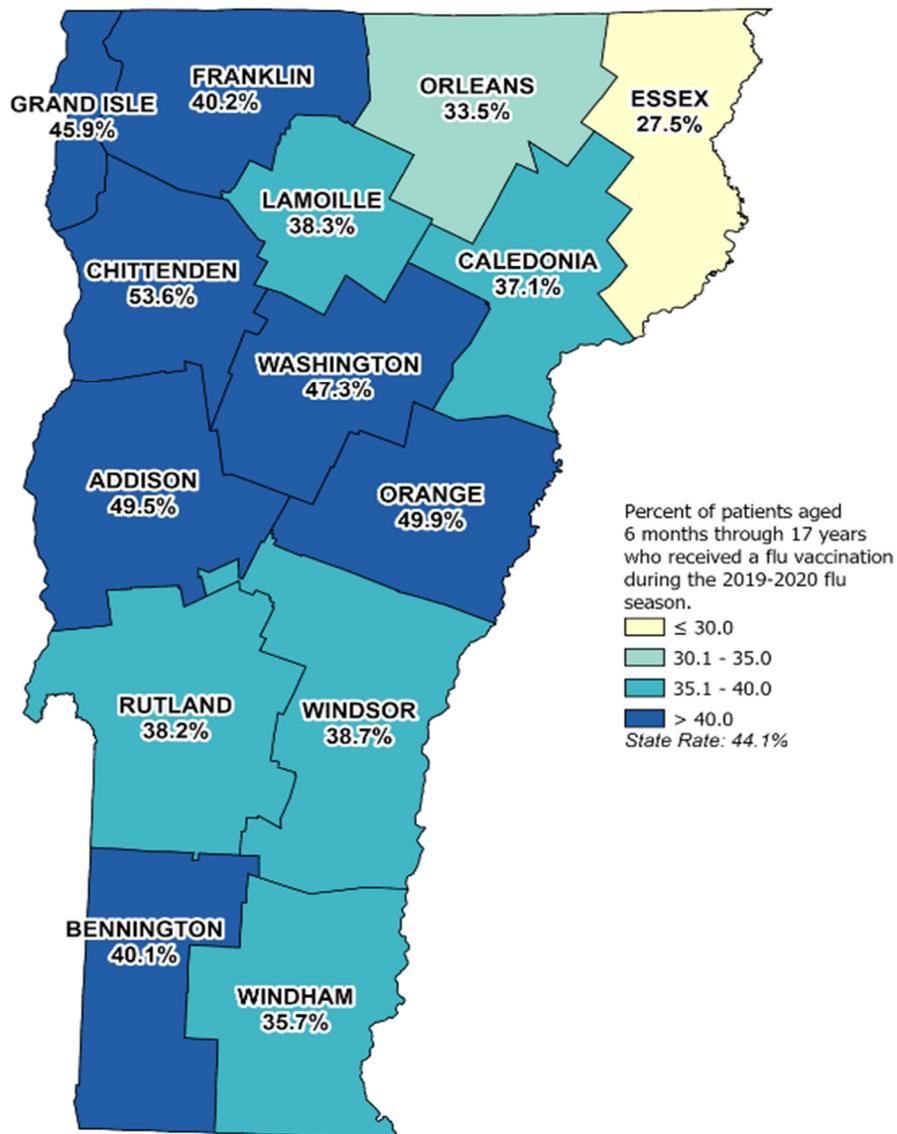
A review of Vermont's flu vaccination rates clearly shows that more needs to be done to protect Vermonters again influenza. This is especially true during the Covid-19 pandemic because infection with influenza and Covid-19 infection is dangerous at any age. The Vermont Immunization Registry manages immunization records centrally, allowing a closer look at county data to support the planning and evaluation of efforts to increase flu vaccination coverage rates.

Persons Under 18 years, by County

During the 2019-2020 flu season, coverage rates among persons 6 months through 17 years by county ranged from a high of 53.6% in Chittenden to 27.5% in Essex. Rates among the youngest children (6 months through 4 years) were higher at 59.1% statewide. The Chittenden county rate (68.9%) far exceeded that of Essex (32.6%) and Orleans (42.6%) counties.

Statewide, influenza coverage among teens is lower than in young children. Chittenden has the highest rate of teen coverage (45.6%) but several counties – including Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, and Windham failed to achieve 30%.

A data table containing the number and percentage of individuals by county can be found in on page 5.

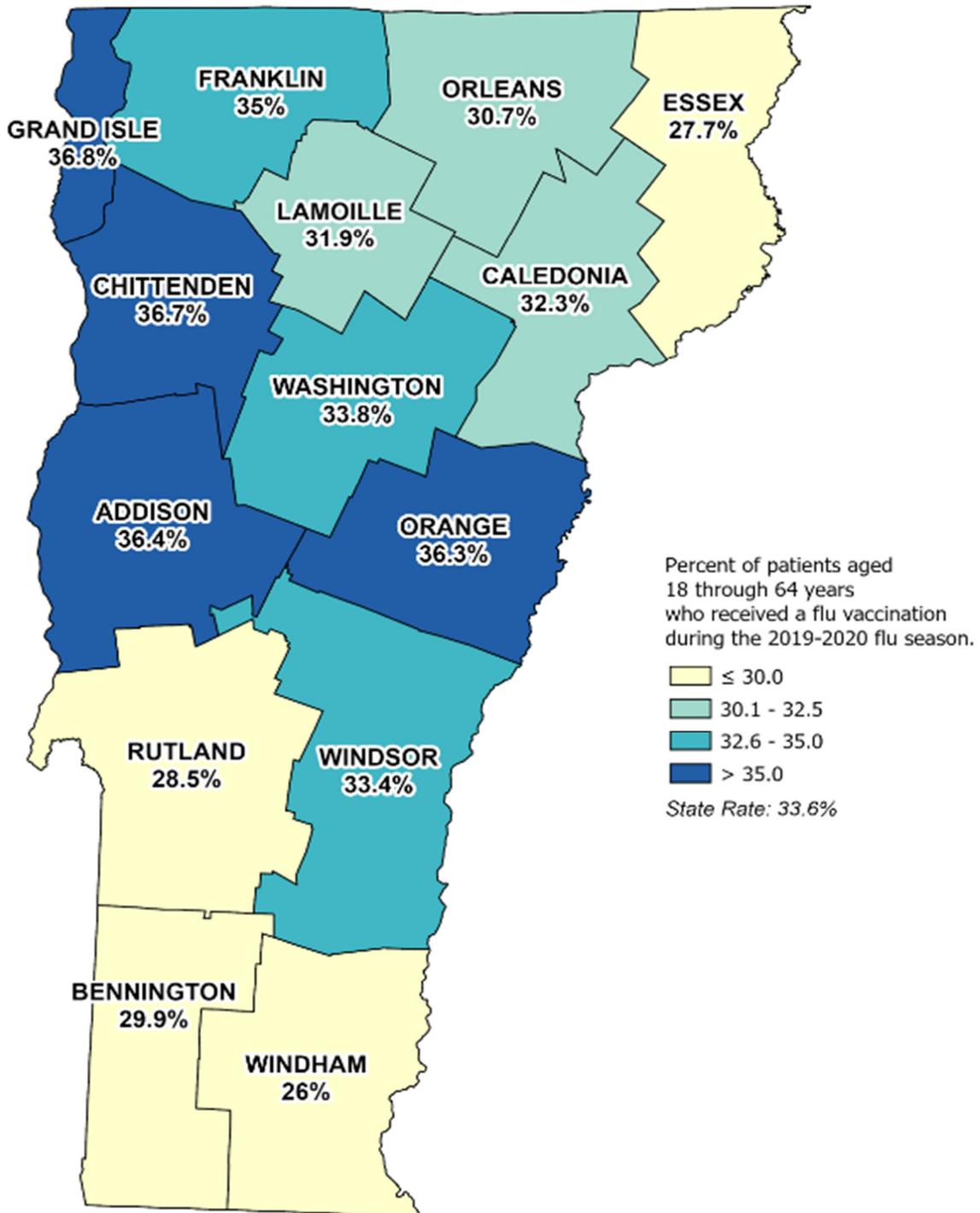


Persons 18 years through 64 years, by County

Vermont adults 19-64 years also had low flu vaccination rates. Only 33.6% had flu shot documented in the Registry for the 2019-20 flu season. Rates are even lower (27.2%) in those 18-49 years.

County level coverage rates show that Rutland, Bennington, Windham, and Essex had lower rates than other parts of the state. Rates for this age group may be higher than reported, due to incomplete reporting from an indeterminate number of employer-based flu vaccination clinics.

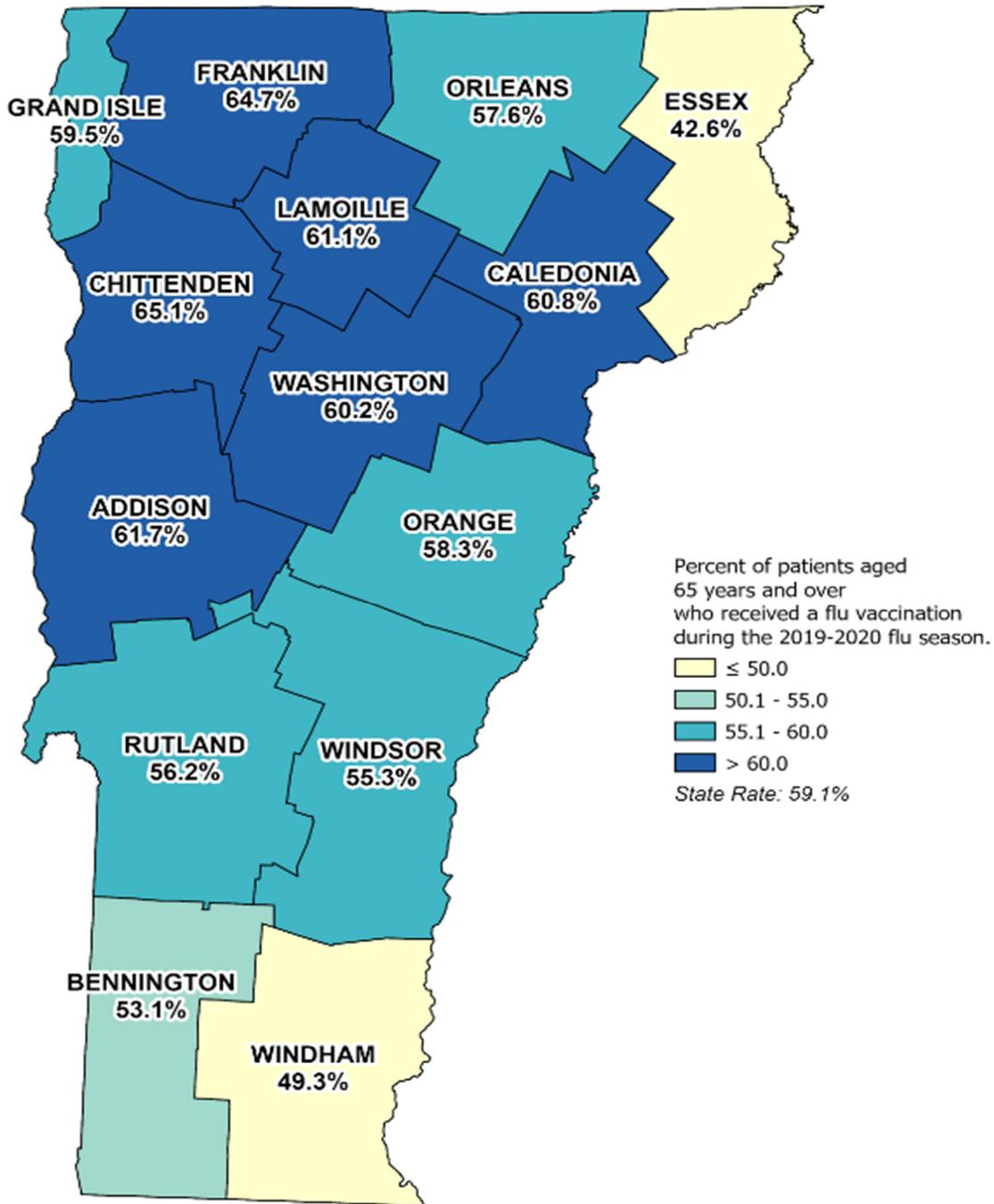
A data table containing the number and percentage of individuals by county can be found in on page 5.



Persons 65 years and up, by County

For persons 65 years and older, influenza vaccine is important, as this age group has the highest rates of death due to flu and complications related to the flu. Statewide, 59.1% of Vermonters received an influenza vaccine in the 2019-2020 flu season. The following five counties achieved a flu vaccination rate of over 60%: Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, and Washington.

A data table containing the number and percentage of individuals by county can be found in on page 5.



For More Information:

Contact the Vermont Immunization Registry manager at (802) 951-4094.

Appendix A – Data Tables by County and Age Group

Source: Vermont Immunization Registry 7/9/2020

Persons Under 18 years, by County

Influenza Vaccine Coverage 2019-20 Season

	6 months through 4 years			5 through 12 years			13 through 17 years		
	Had vax	Percent	Count	Had vax	Percent	Count	Had vax	Percent	Count
Addison	1,010	66.4%	1,521	1,420	47.2%	3,010	795	40.0%	1,986
Bennington	877	55.7%	1,574	1,368	39.1%	3,500	764	31.5%	2,422
Caledonia	668	52.0%	1,285	1,075	36.9%	2,911	615	28.5%	2,155
Chittenden	5,218	68.9%	7,576	8,108	51.1%	15,854	4,422	45.6%	9,700
Essex	93	36.2%	257	148	25.6%	577	80	23.9%	335
Franklin	1,414	54.8%	2,581	2,001	39.9%	5,019	869	28.3%	3,068
Grand Isle	162	55.9%	290	303	47.9%	633	135	35.2%	384
Lamoille	630	51.6%	1,220	976	36.7%	2,659	510	30.9%	1,651
Orange	803	63.0%	1,274	1,331	49.6%	2,682	672	40.4%	1,663
Orleans	528	42.6%	1,239	820	31.3%	2,616	494	29.9%	1,651
Rutland	1,277	53.0%	2,408	1,895	36.5%	5,191	1,009	30.2%	3,336
Washington	1,651	62.5%	2,641	2,563	46.8%	5,476	1,284	36.7%	3,496
Windham	877	50.7%	1,729	1,357	34.2%	3,964	685	27.7%	2,477
Windsor	1,310	55.3%	2,368	1,927	36.2%	5,321	1,028	30.9%	3,329
Statewide	16,518	59.1%	27,963	25,292	42.6%	59,413	13,362	35.5%	37,653

Persons 18 years through 64 years and 65 years and older, by County

Influenza Vaccine Coverage 2019-20 Season

	18 through 49 years			50 through 64 years			65+ years		
	Had vax	Percent	Count	Had vax	Percent	Count	Had vax	Percent	Count
Addison	3,610	29.3%	12,327	3,451	49.0%	7,045	4,527	61.7%	7,339
Bennington	2,666	23.1%	11,533	2,879	41.2%	6,993	4,218	53.1%	7,941
Caledonia	2,656	24.8%	10,714	2,577	46.9%	5,499	3,581	60.8%	5,886
Chittenden	22,791	31.1%	73,304	15,990	49.2%	32,505	17,547	65.1%	26,968
Essex	345	20.5%	1,684	422	38.8%	1,089	480	42.6%	1,126
Franklin	4,825	28.1%	17,173	4,379	48.1%	9,108	4,965	64.7%	7,668
Grand Isle	679	27.7%	2,452	877	49.5%	1,771	1,144	59.5%	1,923
Lamoille	2,349	25.5%	9,194	2,179	43.4%	5,016	2,868	61.1%	4,697
Orange	2,788	29.2%	9,547	2,771	48.0%	5,769	3,413	58.3%	5,856
Orleans	2,149	24.1%	8,900	2,177	41.8%	5,207	3,495	57.6%	6,067
Rutland	3,969	21.0%	18,930	4,788	40.4%	11,849	6,979	56.2%	12,413
Washington	5,991	27.2%	22,012	5,652	45.5%	12,428	7,210	60.2%	11,976
Windham	2,647	20.2%	13,131	2,836	35.8%	7,924	4,392	49.3%	8,909
Windsor	5,472	27.2%	20,127	5,247	43.9%	11,941	7,327	55.3%	13,244
Statewide	62,937	27.2%	231,028	56,225	45.3%	124,144	72,146	59.1%	122,013

Appendix B: Definitions and Limitations

Definitions:

Vermont Immunization Registry: is a secure health information system that contains immunization records for persons living in Vermont. It has been live since 2004 and is connected with Vermont's Electronic Births and Deaths Registries. Medical provider offices, hospitals, pharmacies, and nursing homes report to the registry. As of January 1, 2020, there were 815,488 patients and over 9 million immunizations in the system.

Flu Season: 2019-2020 Flu Season includes doses received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Limitations:

While VT law requires that all immunizations be reported to the Vermont Immunization Registry, some doses may have not been reported – and Vermont rates may in fact be higher. Known non-reporters include the Veterans Administration Hospital, some small independent pharmacies, and employee health clinics including some employee health clinics at a few Vermont hospitals.