



## Most Pregnant Women Aren't Getting Vaccinated

Dear EZIZ User,

We wanted to reach out to share CDC's latest Vital Signs report on maternal immunizations (see below). Unfortunately, rates of maternal immunizations continue to be low among women across the U.S., including California where we observe lower prenatal immunization rates among women on Medi-Cal compared to those who are privately-insured ([MIHA](#)).

Please share this communication with other immunization stakeholders and providers and encourage them to continue promoting prenatal immunizations—we have lots of room for improvement!

Thank you for your continued efforts to help mitigate infant pertussis morbidity and mortality. As always, please refer to our [Prenatal Tdap Toolkit](#) for the latest resources.

Thank you.

### CDC's Vital Signs Report

We would like share with you this month's *Vital Signs* report: "*Burden and Prevention of Influenza and Pertussis Among U.S. Pregnant Women and Infants.*" This edition presents our latest findings on rates of influenza and Tdap (whooping cough) vaccination among pregnant women.

**Currently, the rates for these vaccines are too low—only 1 in 3 pregnant women in the United States receives both flu and Tdap vaccines.**

We don't want to miss any opportunity for pregnant women to protect themselves and their newborns from these devastating illnesses. Flu vaccination lowers risk of influenza hospitalization in pregnant women by an average of 40%. It also reduces the risk of her baby needing hospital care for influenza. When an expecting mother gets Tdap in the third trimester, it is 78% effective in preventing cases of whooping cough in babies less than 2 months old. Tdap vaccination during pregnancy is even more effective at preventing hospitalization due to whooping cough in newborns.

**Our data found education, referring patients to a vaccine provider, and the offer of vaccination by a provider play a significant role with getting vaccinated.** Among women whose healthcare providers offered vaccination or provided referrals, 65.7% received a flu vaccine and 70.5% received Tdap. By encouraging vaccinations during pregnancy, mothers can make an informed choice to protect themselves and give their babies early protection.

Below are other key points from the report:

- Women with influenza are more than twice as likely to be hospitalized if they are pregnant, and babies less than 6 months old are at the highest risk of all children for influenza-associated hospitalization.
- The majority (69%) of reported whooping cough deaths are in babies less than 2 months old.
- Reported maternal flu and Tdap vaccination coverage rates were 54% and 55%, respectively.
- Provider recommendations are vital—among women whose healthcare providers offered vaccination or provided referrals, 65.7% received a flu vaccine and 70.5% received Tdap—but many pregnant women do not receive the vaccines recommended to protect themselves and their newborns, even when offered vaccination. The most commonly reported reasons for non-vaccination were belief that the flu vaccine is not effective (17.6%) and not knowing that Tdap vaccination is needed during each pregnancy (37.9%).
- Providers should start discussing the benefits of vaccination with women early in pregnancy, strongly recommend flu and Tdap vaccines to all pregnant women, and address women’s questions and concerns about getting vaccinated during pregnancy.

In addition to the *Vital Signs* report, we have included our *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* article and a two-page consumer fact sheet. We encourage you to share the information with your colleagues and partners.

*Vital Signs* is not just about data, it is about action. If you’re interested in receiving updates of future releases or would like to syndicate your webpage, please go to [www.cdc.gov/syndication](http://www.cdc.gov/syndication) (search term: “Vital Signs”) and refer to our [social media toolkit](#) for buttons and badges.

We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure that pregnant women receive flu and Tdap vaccines as recommended to protect themselves and their newborns from these deadly diseases.