

Vaccinations among Adults with Disability in South Carolina

2019

Adults with Disability in South Carolina

People with disability are identified as a possible health disparity group; therefore, to reduce these disparities, it is important to understand the health status of those with and without disability. The data presented here are from the 2017 South Carolina (SC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). More details about SC BRFSS data and the definition of disability can be found on the back under 'Data Details.'

A table comparing the demographics of adults with and without disability in SC is given below.

Table 1. Demographic differences between adults in SC with and without disability (2017 SC BRFSS); % ± 95% confidence limit

	WITH DISABILITY	WITHOUT DISABILITY
Prevalence	28.0 ± 1.1	72.0 ± 1.1
Age		
<65	65.7 ± 1.9	82.4 ± 0.9
65+	34.3 ± 1.9	17.6 ± 0.9
Race/ethnicity*		
NHW	66.1 ± 2.3	67.1 ± 1.6
NHB	26.6 ± 2.1	24.3 ± 1.4
Hispanic	3.7 ± 1.1	5.5 ± 0.9
NHO	3.6 ± 0.8	3.1 ± 0.5
Sex		
Male	45.0 ± 2.3	49.1 ± 1.6
Female	55.0 ± 2.3	50.9 ± 1.6
Educational attainment		
≤High school	56.2 ± 2.3	39.3 ± 1.6
>High school	43.8 ± 2.3	60.7 ± 1.6
Annual household income		
<\$50K	77.6 ± 2.1	48.3 ± 1.8
\$50K+	22.4 ± 2.1	51.7 ± 1.8

Bold: significantly different; *NHW: Non-Hispanic White; NHB: Non-Hispanic Black; NHO: Non-Hispanic Other, includes multi-racial

Among adults with disability in SC in 2017, there was a significantly higher prevalence of older adults, females, those with low educational attainment, and those with low annual household income, when compared to those without disability (Table 1).

Importance of Vaccinations

Vaccinations are forms of primary disease prevention, which can stop you from ever getting sick or can reduce the severity of the disease if you do get sick. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccinations at certain frequencies based on age (Table 2).¹ There are national goals for meeting these recommendations known as Healthy People (HP) 2020.² Table 2 shows the HP 2020 targets and recommended ages and frequencies for receiving the flu, shingles and pneumonia vaccines.

Table 2. CDC recommendations for flu, shingles, and pneumonia vaccination¹

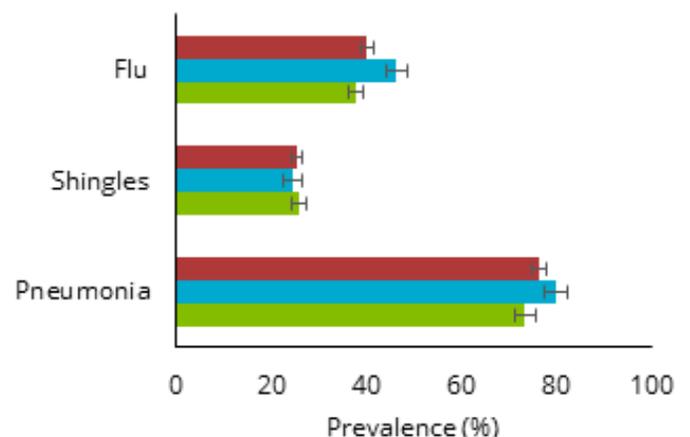
VACCINATION	AGES	FREQUENCY	HP2020 ²
Flu	18+	Annually	70%
Shingles	50+	Once ever	30%*
Pneumonia	65+	Twice ever	90%

*HP2020 goal is for ages 60+

There is a Higher Prevalence of Meeting Flu and Pneumonia Vaccine Recommendations among Those with Disabilities

Overall, in 2017, adults in SC did not meet the Healthy People 2020 goals for vaccines. Those with disability had a significantly higher prevalence of meeting the recommendations for flu and pneumonia vaccinations, and there was no significant difference between those with and without disability in terms of meeting the recommendation for shingles vaccination (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The prevalence of meeting the vaccine recommendation among all adults and those with or without disability in SC (error bar: 95% confidence limit)



After accounting for demographic differences (Table 1), significant differences between people with and without disability remained in the odds of being vaccinated for flu and pneumonia. Compared to those without disability, those with disability had:

- 30% higher odds of meeting the flu vaccine recommendation.
- 60% higher odds of meeting the pneumonia vaccine recommendation.

There was no difference between those with and without disability in terms of meeting the shingles vaccine recommendation.

Importance of Vaccinations

Regardless of disability status, adults in SC are not being vaccinated at the CDC's recommended rates. Vaccines for flu, shingles and pneumonia are available from health care provider offices, pharmacies, and/or county health departments. To see if you are eligible for the DHEC vaccination program for adults and children, visit scdhec.gov/health/vaccinations/dhec-vaccine-programs-eligibility.

Data Details

The SC BRFSS is administered by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. It is a random digit-dialing, telephone-based survey of non-institutionalized adults (ages 18+) in the state. It is funded through a cooperative agreement with CDC. For more information, visit cdc.gov/brfss.

The 2017 SC BRFSS survey included six questions relating to disability:

- Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?
- Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
- Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
- Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?
- For this report, the criteria to determine disability status was as follows:
 - Individual with disability: They answered "Yes" to any one of the six questions.
 - Individual without disability: They answered "No" to 4 questions and had 2 missing responses; "No" to 5 questions and had 1 missing response; or "No" to all 6 questions.
 - Individual excluded from analysis, disability status undetermined: 3 or more questions were missing a response.

References

1. "Attention Adults: You Need Vaccines Too!" CDC. Accessed 25 Jun 2019. [URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/adultimmunizations/index.html>].
2. "Immunization and Infectious Diseases." Healthy People 2020. Accessed 25 Jun 2019. [URL: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/immunization-and-infectious-diseases>].

For more information about SC BRFSS,

visit <https://scdhec.gov/health/sc-public-health-statistics-maps/behavioral-risk-factor-surveys>

