

Washtenaw County Public Health H1N1 Survey Results

H1N1 in Washtenaw County

Rates of illness due to H1N1 were more than double the rates of a typical flu season.

Rates were highest in Oct. and Nov. 2009, when the vaccine supply was severely limited.

H1N1 resulted in 80 hospitalizations and two adult deaths. There were no pediatric deaths in the County.

Younger persons were affected in greater numbers than older persons.¹ Among those hospitalized locally, 94% were under 65 years old.

Ypsilanti residents made up 49% of hospitalized cases, even though only 22% of County residents live in the Ypsilanti area.²

During the vaccine shortage, about 80% of Washtenaw's supply went to health care providers and hospitals for their highest priority patients.

Roughly 20% of County residents were vaccinated.³ As of April 21st, 105,570 people were vaccinated in Washtenaw and 71,233 of those were County residents.



In 2009, a new flu virus, called H1N1 or swine flu, caused mild to severe illness and death in Washtenaw County and worldwide. An H1N1 vaccine was produced and tested with the same methods that are used each year for the seasonal flu vaccine. Local public health departments distributed H1N1 vaccine.

Washtenaw County Public Health conducted a survey about our local response to H1N1. The survey was offered online and at participating community locations. Over 900 individuals completed the survey.

Key Survey Findings

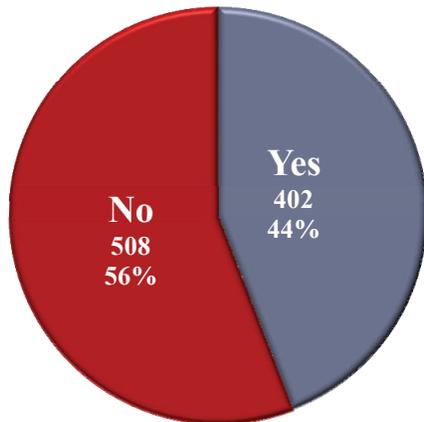
- Among respondents, 44% (402) said they were vaccinated and 56% (508) said they were not.
- Respondents identifying themselves as African American/black were less likely to get vaccinated (26%) than respondents of other races (49% average vaccination rate).
- Women and men had nearly equal vaccination rates, with 44% of women and 45% of men reporting vaccination.
- Among those who reported having health insurance, 46% were vaccinated. In comparison, only 28% of those who reported having no health insurance were vaccinated.
- Ann Arbor respondents were more likely to report vaccination (52%) than Ypsilanti respondents (35%).
- The majority of respondents (61%) said television is their preferred source for emergency health information.

For a full report of the survey findings, visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> or call 734-544-6700.

Note: Survey respondents participated voluntarily and were not randomly selected. Results cannot necessarily be generalized and may not reflect the views of Washtenaw County Public Health.

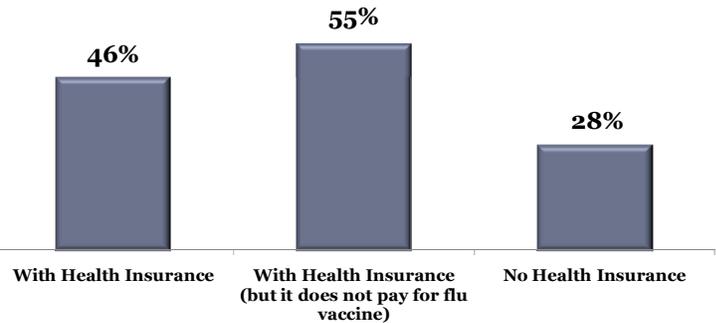
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Did you get an H1N1 vaccination?



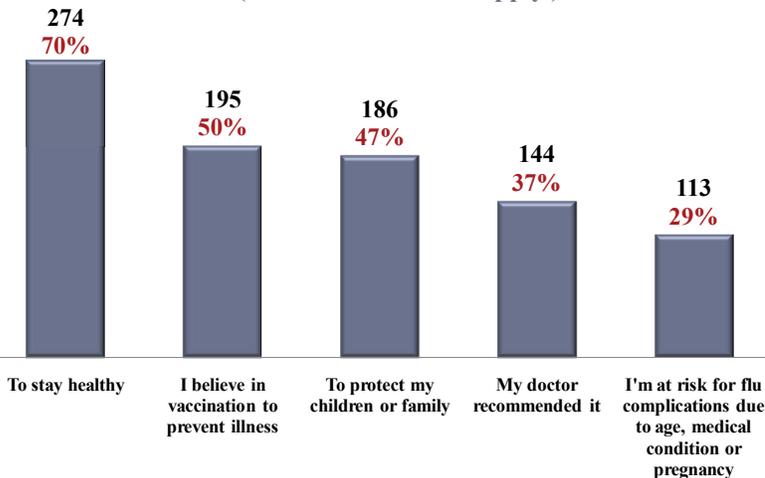
Vaccination by Health Insurance Status

Percent Vaccinated



Why did you get an H1N1 vaccination?

(Please check all that apply.)



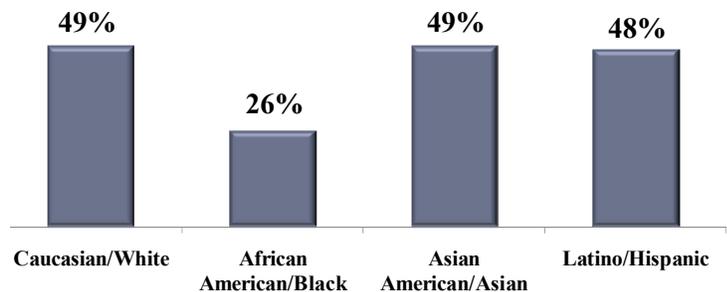
“To stay healthy” was the primary reason cited for receiving a vaccination (70%).

Among those who opted not to vaccinate, 33% said they “never get flu vaccines.” Concern about vaccine safety (19%) and fear that it would cause illness (22%) kept others from being vaccinated. Some respondents (21%) reported they were not at risk for complications from the flu.

Almost half of those vaccinated (47%) received it from their health care provider or at a hospital, while 30% said they received it at a Public Health mass clinic or appointment.

Vaccination by Race

Percent Vaccinated



“I am sure that it is difficult to deal with something like H1N1. If you aren’t successful, people will be upset that you didn’t do more to get people vaccinated. If you are successful, people just assume that nothing would have happened anyway and it was just sensationalism...” - Survey Respondent

¹Nationally, 340 pediatric deaths were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) due to H1N1 (as compared to an average of 100 deaths reported annually due to seasonal influenza). Available at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

^{2,3}Estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, Estimates of Subcounty Population for 2000-2009, released June 2010.