

Diabetes

MICHIGAN MEDICAID



Diabetes and Influenza Vaccination

The 2015 Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes, published by the American Diabetes Association (ADA), recommend an annual influenza vaccine for all persons with diabetes (PWD) who are six months and older.¹ Because diabetes can make the immune system less able to fight infections, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that people with diabetes, even those whose diabetes is well-managed, are at high risk of serious complications from influenza, such as hospitalization or death.² The influenza vaccine is approved for use in PWD and has long, established safety record for PWD.²

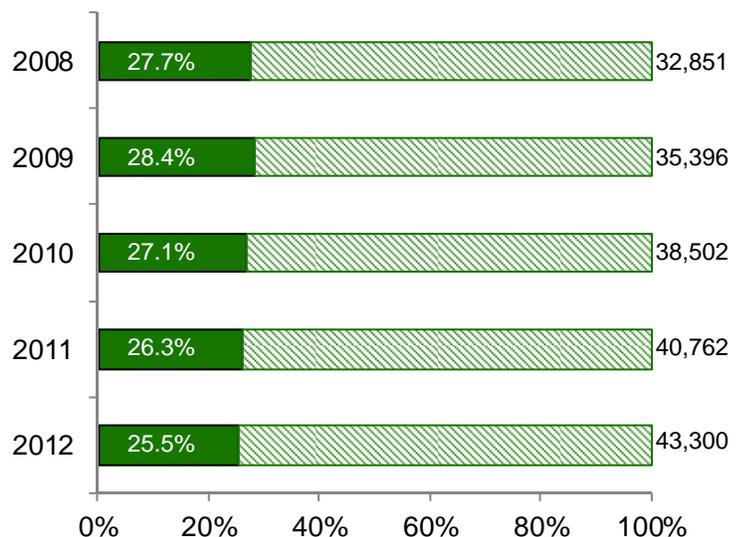
This brief, presented by the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program in conjunction with Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, reports on the percentage of adults with diabetes (18-64 years) insured by Medicaid who had the influenza vaccine for influenza seasons 2008 to 2012. A potential opportunity is identified to increase influenza vaccine through improved identification and counseling of patients with diabetes who are unvaccinated and visit their primary care physicians during influenza season.

Influenza season was defined as occurring August 1st to March 31st of the following year, with height of the season between the months of October and February. Percent of adult persons with diabetes who had a vaccination that was billed to and paid by Medicaid during the influenza season or a missed opportunity at an office visit between October and February was based on Medicaid health care utilization. Adult PWD who did not meet the diabetes case definition or have continuous Medicaid coverage during the eight months designated as influenza season were not represented.

Influenza vaccination is covered by Medicaid and therefore free to beneficiaries. Michiganders can receive the influenza vaccine during influenza season at primary care offices, pharmacies, and local health departments. Still, the percentage of adults affected by diabetes with Medicaid, who received the influenza vaccine, showed no improvement 2008-2012 (Figure).

Among those with diabetes, about 30% of non-Hispanic White adults, women, and adults 45-64 years received influenza vaccinations each influenza season, and vaccination prevalences among these demographic groups were higher than those of their counterparts, i.e., other racial/ethnic groups, men, and adults 18-44 years for all five

Adult Michigan Medicaid Beneficiaries with Diabetes (18-64 yrs) Who Received Influenza Vaccine August 1 to March 31 Annually, 2008-2012

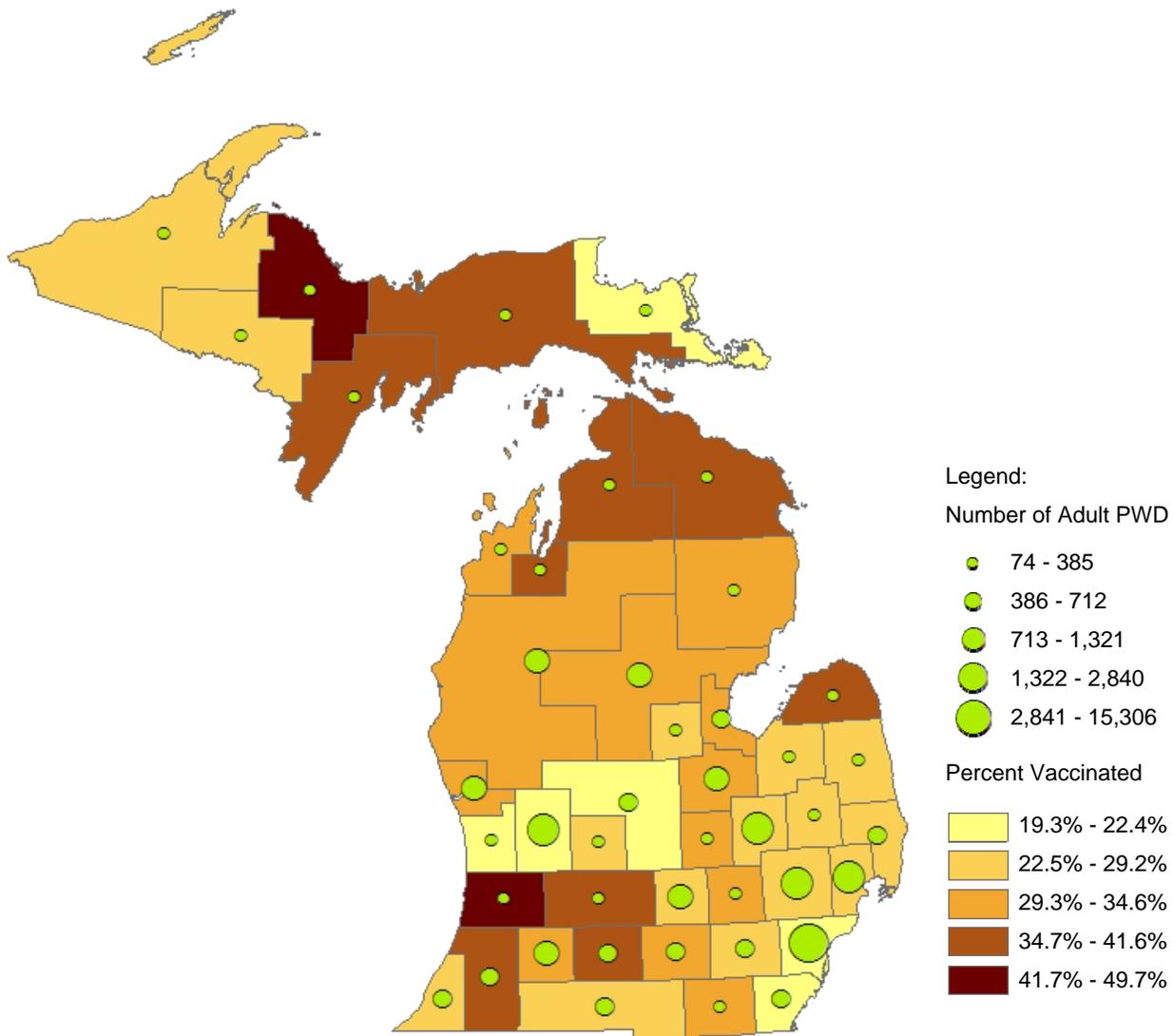


Influenza season was defined as August to March (e.g., the 2012 influenza season was from 8/1/2011 to 3/31/2012).

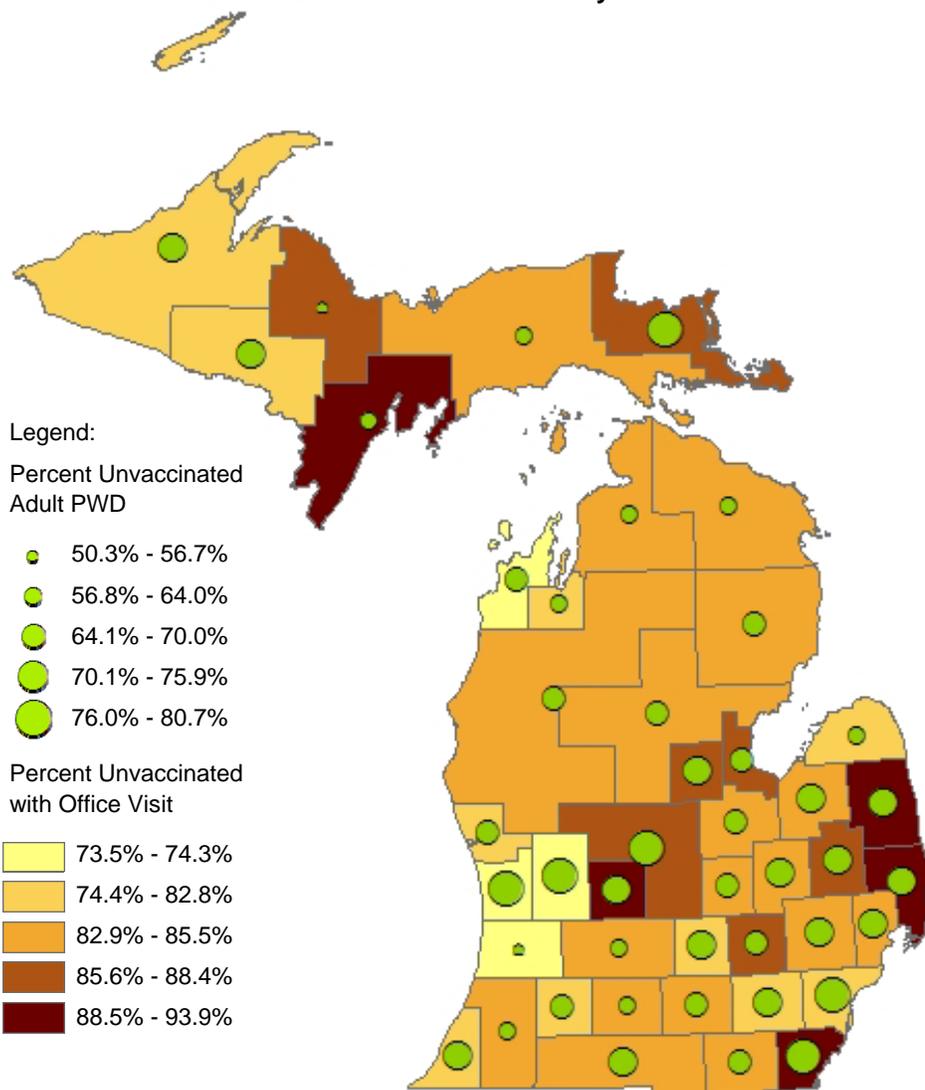
influenza seasons. African American adults with diabetes consistently had the lowest percent vaccinated (about 20%).

Access to care is an important issue in rural Michigan communities. Still, a higher percentage of adult PWD residing in rural areas received annual influenza vaccines compared to those living in urban areas (33% vs. 24%, 2012). The map below provides the percent of adult PWD who received an influenza vaccination during 2012 influenza season by local health department (LHD). Several jurisdictions show only one in five adults with diabetes receiving a vaccination, and there is a significant number of adults with diabetes residing in these regions. This surveillance of influenza vaccination rates among adult Medicaid beneficiaries with diabetes can further the awareness of LHDs about this socio-economically vulnerable population.

**Local Health Department
Number of Adult Michigan Medicaid Beneficiaries with
Diabetes (18-64 yrs) and Percentage of Those Who Received Influenza Vaccine
August 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012**



**Local Health Department
Percent of Unvaccinated Adult Michigan Medicaid Beneficiaries with
Diabetes (18-64 yrs) Who Had a Primary Care Office Visit
October 2011 to February 2012**



More than 32,000 adult beneficiaries with diabetes insured by Medicaid did not have paid claims/encounters indicating that they received the influenza vaccine during 2012 influenza season. About 83% had an office visit during the peak of the season (October 2011 - February 2012). The map (left) indicates that at least half of adult beneficiaries residing in Michigan LHD jurisdictions were unvaccinated during 2012 influenza season, but a predominant percentage (> 73%) had visited a health professional during the height of the season.

Opportunity exists for health professionals to counsel patients with diabetes on risks associated with influenza and press the need for patients to receive a vaccination at time of visit.

To learn more about Michigan adults with diabetes insured by Medicaid, visit www.michigan.gov/diabetesstats

To find literature, resources, and statistics about influenza and immunization in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/immunize or www.michigan.gov/flu.

Methods and Notes

Percentages of adult persons with diabetes who had a vaccination or a missed opportunity at an office visit during the influenza season were based on Medicaid health care utilization. Influenza season was defined as August 1st to March 31st of the following year (e.g., the 2012 influenza season was from 8/1/2011 to 3/31/2012). The diabetes definition was based on 2012 Health Plan Employer Data Information Set (HEDIS®) criteria of paid claims or encounters with ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes (250, 357.2, 362.0, 366.41, 648.0) in either calendar year encompassed by influenza season. Adults were 18-64 years, fully covered by Medicaid, but no other insurance during at least the 8-month time period of influenza season. Receipt of influenza vaccine was based on paid claims/encounters indicating the administration of vaccination during influenza season. Office visit was based on 2012 HEDIS®-adapted definition for visits between October of previous year and February of following year. These results cannot be generalized to adult PWD with other insurance, uninsured, or not continuously enrolled in Medicaid during the eight month period.

References

- ¹American Diabetes Association: Clinical Practice Recommendations 2015. Standards of medical care in diabetes—2015. January 2015 38 (Supplement 1):S17-S85.
- ²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia: Flu and People with Diabetes: Seasonal Influenza (Flu). Available on-line at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/diabetes/index.htm>.