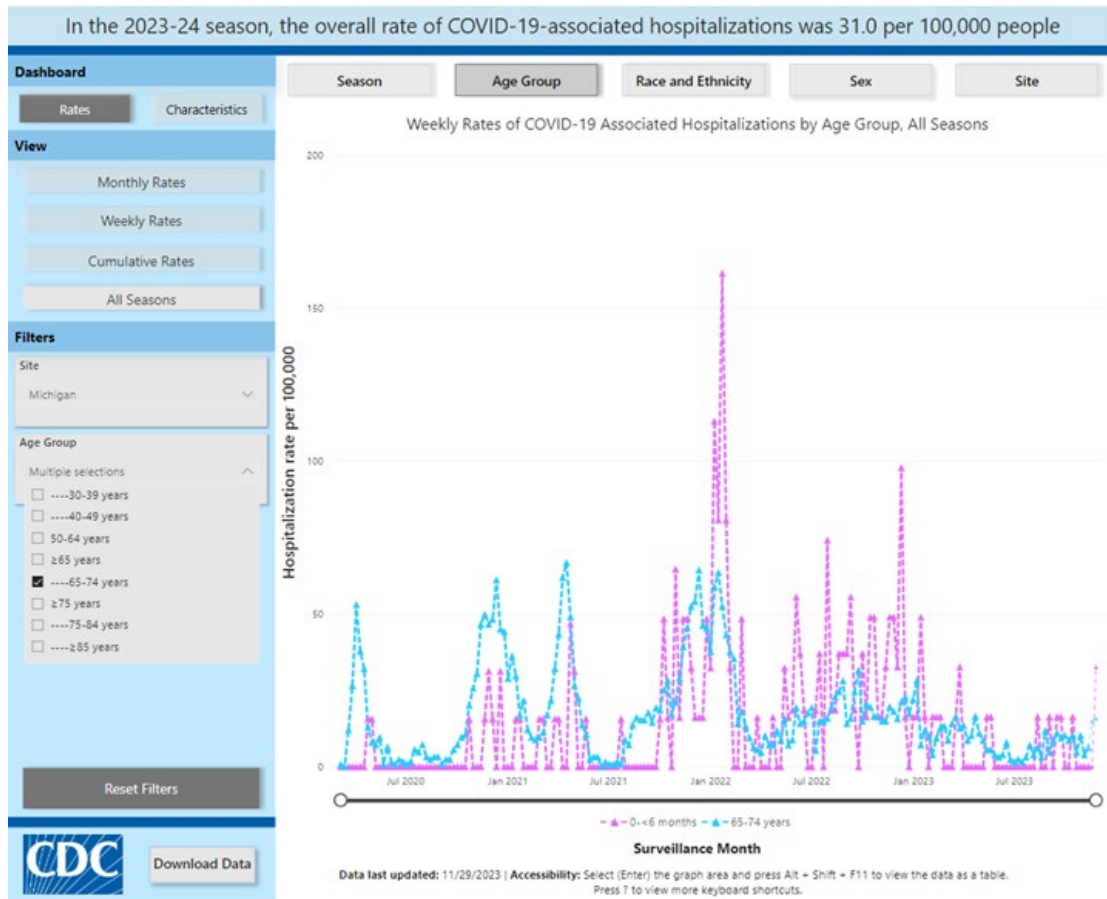


Important MIHP Update--December 12, 2023



Call to Action: Get Pregnant People Vaccinated for COVID-19



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.¹ Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention, while others will sadly succumb to the virus.

The COVID-19 global pandemic continues to impact healthcare services beyond those directly related to the management of SARS-CoV-2 transmission and disease. Widespread global decline of vaccination rates has impacted a majority of regions and countries. While data indicates subsequent recovery in immunization rates, a substantial number of vulnerable people remain unvaccinated.²

Above is a snapshot of real time data trends from the CDC COVID-NET Interactive Dashboard³ recorded December 6, 2023. This *Michigan-specific data* trend is highlighted to show the stark comparison of weekly rates of COVID-19 associated hospitalization between infants under 6 months of age and individuals 65-74 years of age.³

The data above portrays an eerily similar trend for two of the many vulnerable populations. Data suggests that infants under 6 months of age have similar weekly hospitalization rates when compared to individuals 65-74 years of age, according to the CDC.³ Many are aware of the risk of complications from COVID-19 for older adults, but those risks remain the same for infants.

To view the data presented, and explore more, please visit [COVID-NET Interactive Dashboard | CDC](#).

Vaccination remains the best protection against COVID-19-related hospitalization and death, however only one of those vulnerable populations highlighted can be vaccinated. CDC recommends everyone *6 months and older get* an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness¹, but what about infants under 6 months of age?

This is where the call to action to get pregnant people vaccinated is critical!

Did you know an infant can receive disease immunity (protection) from the pregnant person during pregnancy?

This immunity can protect infants from diseases, specifically COVID-19, during the first few months of life. Since infants are unable to be vaccinated themselves, until 6 months of age, it is important to ensure the pregnant person is able to be vaccinated to provide the maximum amount of protection during the infant's vulnerable timeframe immediately after birth.

Studies including hundreds of thousands of people around the world show that COVID-19 vaccination before and during pregnancy is safe, effective, and beneficial to both the pregnant person and the baby.¹

The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) has prioritized this call to action to ensure pregnant people are vaccinated!!!

Over the last year MIHP has created and shared numerous resources and research to support Home Visitors in delivering the message that all families need to be aware of the risks to children under 6 month and the importance of vaccination for all.

CHECK OUT the links below that outline the resources and links that MIHP uses to promote and ensure all pregnant people and their families are vaccinated.

- **Immunization Communication for Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) Providers online training course.**
 - Available on the [mihealth training website](#)
 - Course ID: M0102
 - Course Title: Immunization Communication for Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) Providers

Available January 2024 MIHP will be providing an **immunization specific toolkit**. The toolkit will have additional resources to support immunization education and promotion.

- The toolkit will be located on the MIHP website, under the [MIHP Initiatives Tab](#)
- [MDHHS- Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [COVID Vaccines While Pregnant \(cdc.gov\)](#)

If you have any questions or concerns related to the above messaging, please email mihp@michigan.gov for clarification. Thank you!

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19)*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
2. Razzaghi H, Meghani M, Pingali C, et al. COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women During Pregnancy — Eight Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 14, 2020–May 8, 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2021;70:895–899. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7024e2>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *COVID-NET Interactive Dashboard*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covidnetdashboard/de/powerbi/dashboard.html>