

Adult Vaccines in New Hampshire

An New Hampshire Insurance Department analysis of usage and expense

January 23, 2020



Background Information

The New Hampshire Vaccine Association, a non-profit organization formed pursuant to RSA 126-Q, funds a specific list of child vaccines through an assessment paid by carriers. This assessment extends to carriers providing stop loss coverage in order to use a comprehensive assessment base that includes self-funded employer accounts. The funds raised through the assessment are used to purchase vaccines in bulk to take advantage of group purchasing, better economies of scale, and improved access to vaccines for children.

The NH General Court, during its 2020 session, is considering expanding the Vaccine Association to include purchasing vaccines for adults.

This analysis was performed to better understand the patterns of vaccine use and membership distribution so that policymakers can be more informed as alternatives for funding adult vaccines are considered. Using the New Hampshire Comprehensive Health Information System (NHCHIS), the NHID can identify vaccine use and insured membership data.

Findings

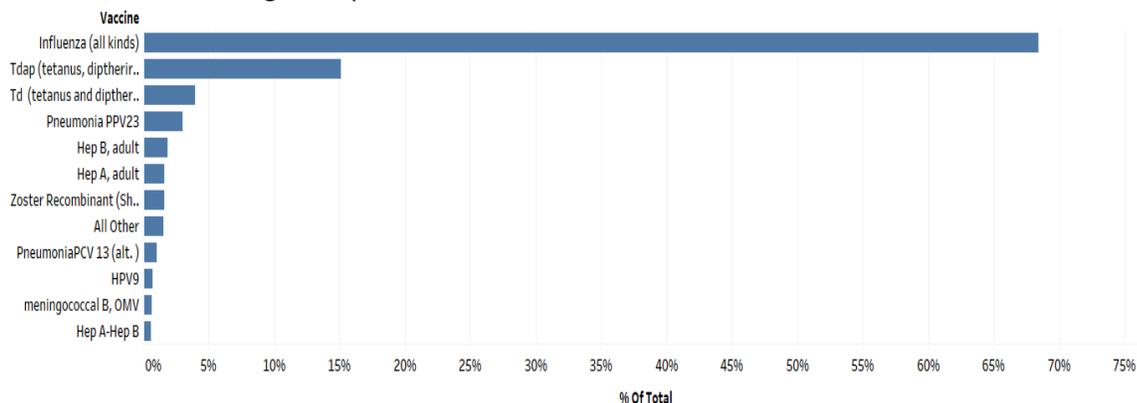
Nearly half of all adults, on average receive at least one vaccine per year. People are more likely to receive a vaccine as they age, with about 78 percent of all adults age 55-64 receiving at least one vaccine.

Table 1 - Adult Vaccine usage in NH

Age	Percent Vaccinated	Average Vaccines per Person Vaccinated
19-25	44%	1.5
26-34	48%	1.4
35-44	53%	1.3
45-54	60%	1.4
55-64	78%	1.4
Total	59%	1.4

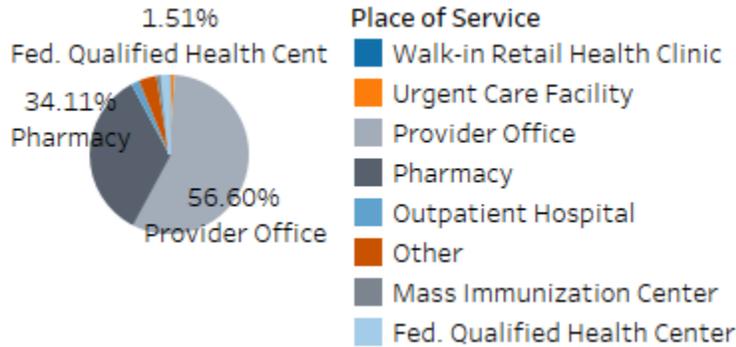
The most common vaccine received by adults in New Hampshire was the flu vaccine. The top three vaccines by volume accounted for 87 percent of all adult vaccines.

Table 2 – Vaccine usage as a percent of total



New Hampshire consumers primarily receive vaccines at doctor offices and pharmacies but also at many other location types.

Table 3 – Distribution by place of service of vaccines received



In 2018, the billed amount for adult vaccines in New Hampshire was \$13.5 million and with an average discount of nearly forty percent, the amount allowed was \$8.2 million. Claim records are submitted separately for the vaccine material and for the administration of the vaccine. These data only consider the amounts paid for the vaccine material.

Table 4 – Observed billed and paid amounts in NH claims



The four most common vaccines accounted for 70% of total billed and allowed amount spending on vaccinations.

The purchase price of vaccines varies by purchaser type according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC maintains public information on current and historical prices of vaccines. A summary of the pricing information is shown below highlighting the differences between the typical prices reported from manufacturers for sale to private sector buyers and estimated prices available to immunization programs.

Table 5 – Variation in the price of vaccines

Vaccine	% of total	Average Paid per Vaccine	**Private sector vaccine prices reported to CDC	***CDC Contract Vaccine Price
Influenza (all kinds)	68.45%	\$ 24.81	\$ 17.79	\$ 12.31
Tdap (tetanus, diptherira and pertussus)	15.12%	\$ 45.77	\$ 44.24	\$ 25.04
Td (tetanus and diptheria)	3.96%	\$ 28.55	\$ 23.93	\$ 13.96
Pneumonia PPV23	3.02%	\$ 106.98	\$ 100.19	\$ 55.27
Hep B, adult	1.83%	\$ 71.01	\$ 57.25	\$ 27.73
Hep A, adult	1.60%	\$ 69.20	\$ 66.28	\$ 28.46
Zoster Recombinant (Shingles)	1.56%	\$ 158.99	\$ 140.00	\$ 102.19
All Other	1.50%	\$ 118.07		

*Estimated using dollars paid for vaccine by insurance carriers

** Private sector prices are those reported by vaccine manufacturers annually to CDC

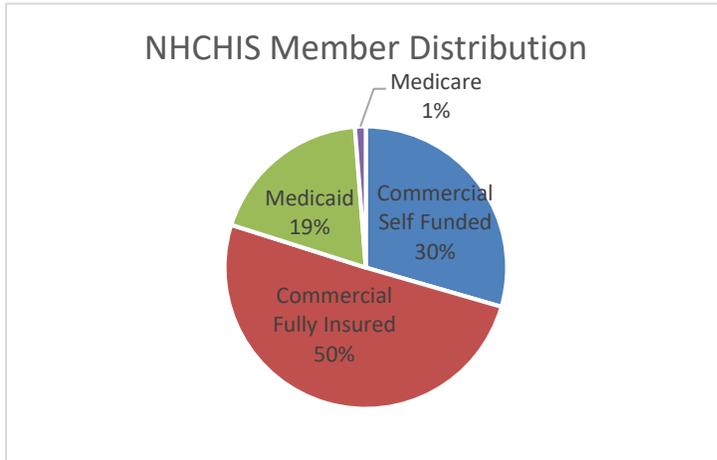
***Contract prices are those for CDC vaccine contracts that are established for the purchase of vaccines by immunization programs that receive CDC immunization grant funds (i.e., state health departments, certain large city immunization projects, and certain current and former U.S. territories).

NHCHIS explained

The information in this report was created using 2018 claims data from the New Hampshire Comprehensive Health Information System (NHCHIS)ⁱ. NHCHIS is often referred to as an all-payer claims database. NHCHIS contains claims and membership information collected per INS4000. The information presented in this report is based on the information available which does not represent claims data for all NH residents.

As a result of the US Supreme Court Gobeille decisionⁱⁱ in 2016, and the NH General Court's response to the same, self-funded private employers may elect to have their third party administrator provide NHCHIS data to the State. Not all self-funded private employer plans have exercised this option. As a result, the data from self-funded private employers are not complete.

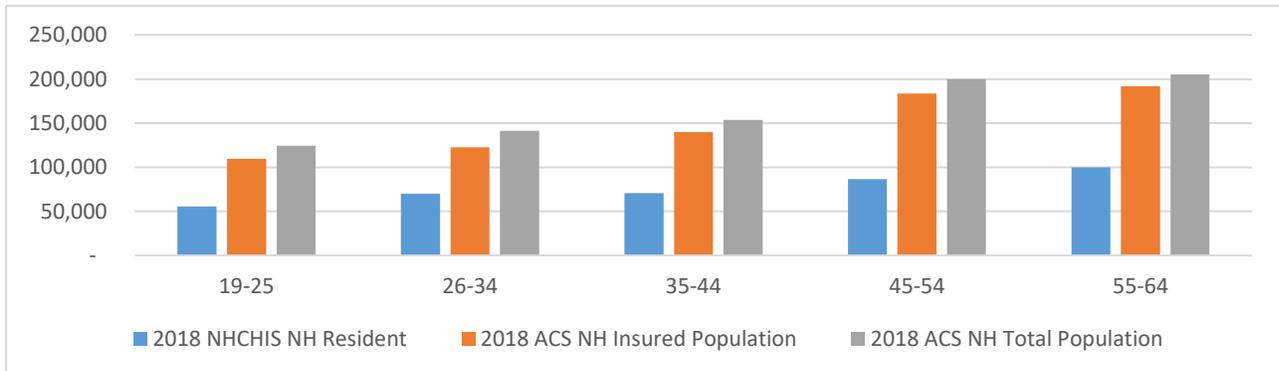
Table 6 – Membership Distribution



The NHID does not collect Medicare data where Medicare is primary. The NHCHIS does not contain uninsured data or Federal claims data, including data on Federal employees and Tricare.

The American Community Survey 2018 population dataⁱⁱⁱ are included for comparison purposes to highlight the relative size of the population included in NHCHIS.

Table 7 – Comparison of NH census data and NHCHIS membership



Conclusion

Half of all adults and nearly 80 percent of those over age 55 included in the NHCHIS data are receiving at least one vaccine per year representing over \$8 million in claims paid. CDC contracted prices for state vaccination programs are on average half that of the estimated prices paid for the same vaccines in the claims data. A bulk-purchasing program may result in lower vaccine costs and may also result in increased vaccination rates. An increase in vaccine use may offset the overall vaccine savings, but reduce health care expenditures overall.

ⁱ New Hampshire Comprehensive Healthcare Information System <https://nhchis.com/>

ⁱⁱ Learn more about the Gobeille decision <https://nashp.org/gobeille-v-liberty-mutual-everything-you-need-to-know/>

ⁱⁱⁱ The United States Census Bureau Reports 2018 <https://www.census.gov/en.html>