



# Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Pregnant Women toward Influenza Immunization

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## Introduction

- Pregnant women are susceptible to developing serious complications related to influenza (Healthy People, 2020).
- Estimates provided from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document influenza accounting for 35.6 million illnesses, 16.6 million medically attended visits, 710,000 hospitalizations and 56,000 deaths (CDC, 2018).
- To protect pregnant women from influenza, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the CDC and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), recommend all pregnant women to have the influenza vaccination at any time during pregnancy (ACOG, 2018; CDC 2018).
- Data analyzed from 2010-2017 CDC survey, concluded the vaccination rate among pregnant women was between 43.9% - 52.2% (CDC, 2018).
- Maternal prenatal vaccination data falls below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 80% influenza vaccination coverage for pregnant women.
- Influenza immunization can reduce morbidity and mortality among pregnant women and also reduces risk to neonates (CDC, 2018)
- Strategies must be employed to address knowledge deficits that prevent pregnant women from being immunized, to increase their confidence regarding the safety, effectiveness, and acceptance of influenza immunization during pregnancy.
- It is vital for pregnant women to receive correct information that encourages immunization for the prevention of influenza.

## Objectives

- Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to see what percent of women agreed to vaccination and what barriers existed to vaccine acceptance.
- Research question:** Is there a relationship between a health care provider to offer and recommend immunization on influenza vaccination coverage rates among pregnant women?
- Hypothesis:**
  - H01 – A healthcare provider offer and recommendation to immunize will improve vaccination coverage among pregnant women.

## Methods

### Research Method/Design

- This descriptive study utilized a self-administered questionnaire.
- The questionnaire survey design consisted of:
  - Descriptive statistics
  - Receipt of influenza immunization, and if no, the reason for not receiving the immunization
  - Participant's attitudes about influenza immunization including vaccine safety and effectiveness that were adapted from the CDC (2011) survey.
  - Health Care Provider offer and recommendation of influenza immunization.

### Sampling Technique

- The purposive, convenience sample was comprised of 100 pregnant women who were recruited from an office in a private obstetric and gynecology practice in Northern New Jersey

## Data Collection

- The pen and paper questionnaire was distributed and collected in January to April 2018.
- Participants anonymously and confidentially completed the questionnaire.
- Demographics on each participant were collected (age, race/ethnicity, education, and health insurance).
- Demographics, attitudes, healthcare provider offer and recommendation, and influenza vaccination coverage was aggregated, with no participant's identifiers.

## Data Analysis

SPSS 25 was used to perform the following statistical analysis:

- Descriptive statistics were reported as frequencies or percentage's.
- Multiple correlations tested the relationship between attitudes toward influenza immunization and vaccination coverage among pregnant women.
- Healthcare Provider recommendation and offer of influenza immunization were reported as frequencies or percentage's

## Results

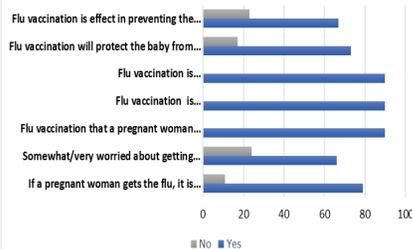
### Demographic characteristics

- Ninety-seven percent of the women were between the ages of 25-49.
- Seventy-three percent of the respondents were white.
- Ninety-four percent had completed a college degree or more than college degree.
- Ninety-eight percent had health insurance.

### Vaccination coverage

- Eighty-five percent of pregnant women participating in the survey choose to be immunized.

### Attitudes about Influenza Immunization

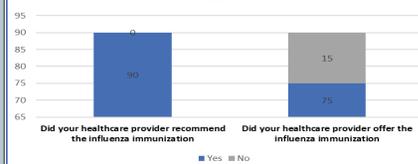


### Reason for Declining Influenza Immunization



## Provider Recommendation and Offer

### Healthcare Provider Recommendation and Offer Influenza Vaccine



## Implications for Practice

- Pregnant women and infants aged 0 to 6 months have an increased risk for developing serious complications as a result of influenza infection (CDC, 2018).
- Influenza immunization can reduce morbidity and mortality among pregnant women and also reduce risk to her neonate (CDC, 2018).
- Understanding pregnant women's knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to influenza immunization can help to improve vaccination coverage rates.
- Reducing barriers and increasing benefits are effective methods of changing preventive behaviors in large populations.
- Implementation of interventions such as healthcare provider recommendation and offer, target-based poster on influenza immunization, and ACOG tool kit may help improve vaccination coverage rates among pregnant women
- Advanced practice nurses can take a lead role in understanding how and why women make decisions to accept or refuse the influenza immunization, employ cues to action, and educate accordingly.

## DNP Essentials

- Essential III: Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice
- Essential VI: Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes
- Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health
- Essential VIII: Advanced Nursing Practice

## References

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