



Trends in seasonal Influenza vaccine uptake over time in Ireland



Report prepared: 03/07/2026



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This short report presents seasonal Influenza vaccine uptake by season over time in:

- Children
- Older adults

Vaccine uptake in children

- Seasonal Influenza vaccine was not recommended for all children aged 2-17 year before the 2020/21 season.
 - In 2020/21, Influenza vaccine was offered to those aged 2-12 years old (extended in December 2020 to children up to and including 17 years).
 - In 2021/22 to 2025/26, Influenza vaccine was offered to those aged 2-17 years old.
- The current HSE target uptake is 50% for those aged 2-17 years.

Vaccine uptake in older adults

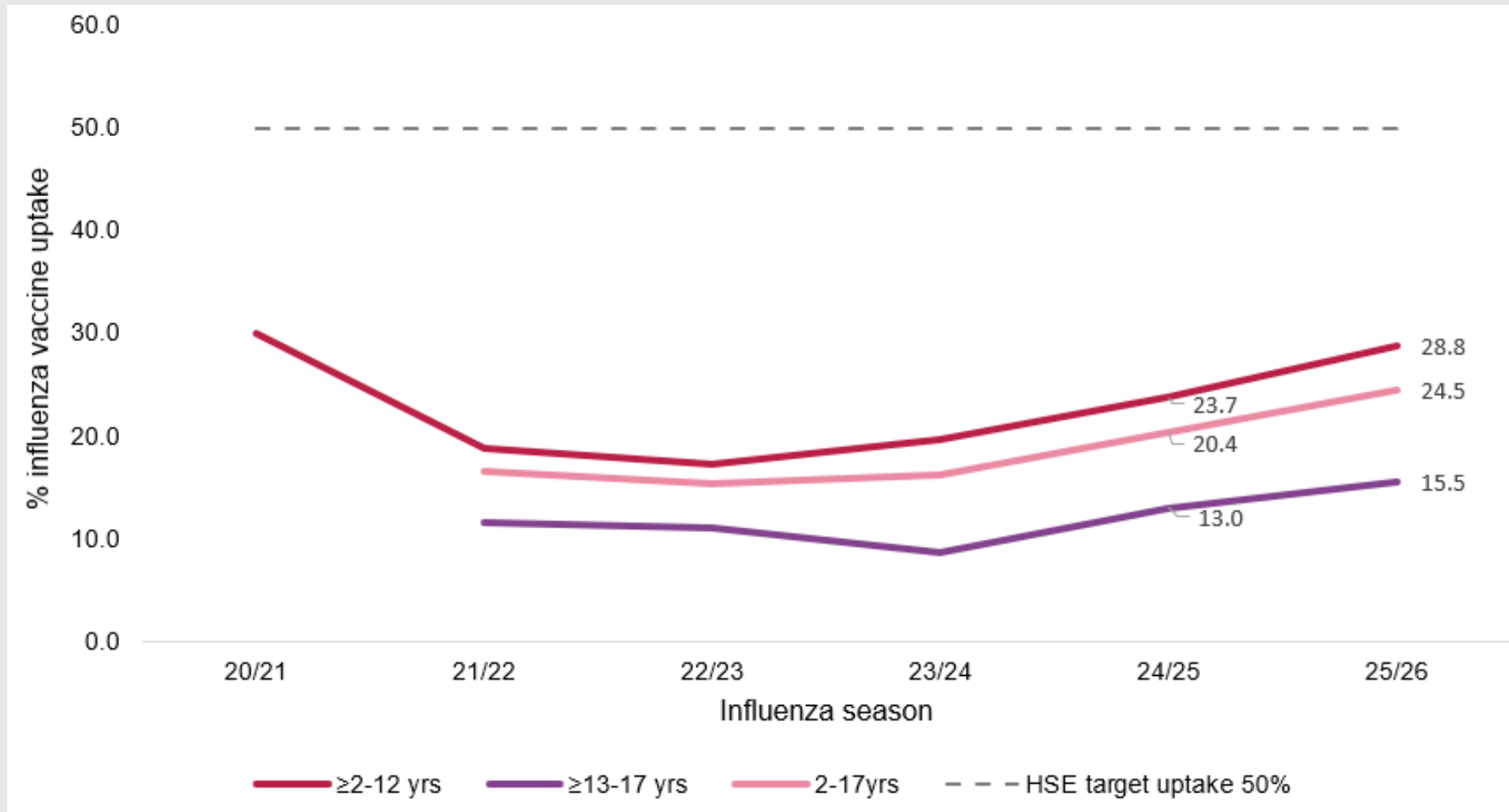
- The WHO recommends a target uptake of 75% for older adults.
- Influenza vaccine uptake are available since the 2004/05 season, though methodology and target groups have changed over time.
- Seasonal Influenza vaccine uptake has predominantly been monitored in those aged 65 and over. However, the vaccine was funded for those aged 60 and over in 2024/25 Influenza season.
- Therefore, vaccine uptake is monitored in both age groups since 2024/25.
- The current HSE target uptake is 75% for those aged 60 years and older.

Trends in Influenza vaccine uptake in children over time

National Influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 2-17 years was **24.5%** in the 2025/26 season.

National Influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 2-17 years has increased in recent seasons, though uptake is below the national target.

The current HSE target uptake is 50% for those aged 2-17 years.



Trends in Influenza vaccine uptake in older adults over time

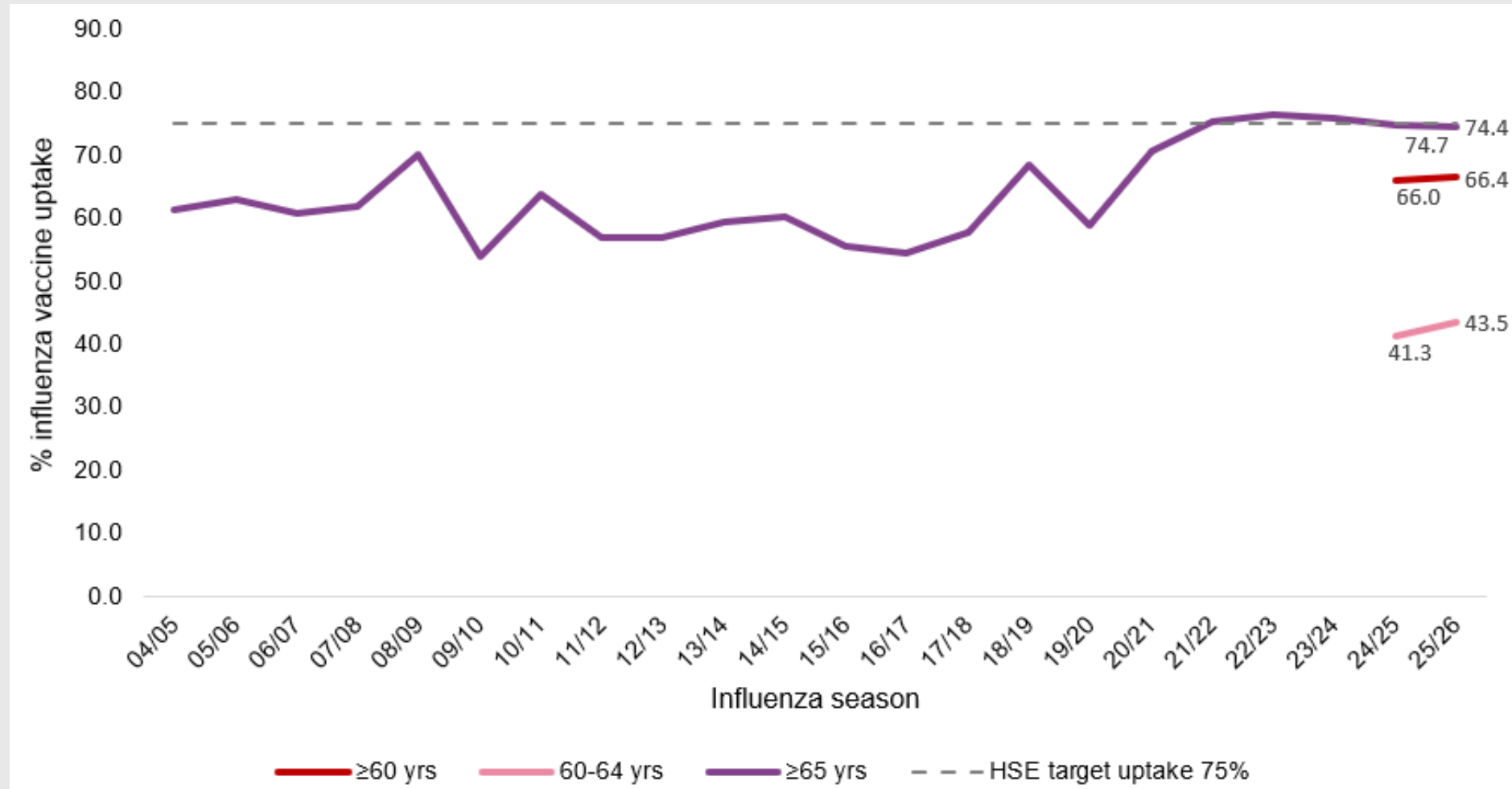
National Influenza vaccine uptake in those aged 60 years and older was **66.4%** in the 2025/26 season.

National Influenza vaccine uptake in older adults have remained at a high, stable rate since the COVID-19 pandemic, though uptake in those aged 60 years and older is below the national target.

The current HSE target uptake is 75% for those aged 60 years and older.

In 2025/26, the HSE KPI target group being monitored for older adults decreased from ≥ 65 years to ≥ 60 years.

Those aged 60-64 are a newly eligible age cohort for HSE funded vaccination.



Caveats

Target population for seasonal Influenza vaccine:

- Each season, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) issue recommendations for seasonal vaccination, though Influenza vaccine uptake per season is typically calculated in accordance with groups that are eligible as part of the HSE seasonal Influenza vaccination programme. For many years, seasonal Influenza vaccination was predominantly monitored for individuals aged 65 years and older.
- For the 2024/25 Influenza season, the vaccine was funded by HSE and provided free of charge to individuals aged 60 years and over.
- In 2025/26, the HSE KPI target group being monitored for older adults decreased from ≥ 65 years to ≥ 60 years.
- Consequently, uptake calculations for the Influenza vaccine differ across years and age cohorts, reflecting changes in eligibility for publicly funded vaccination rather than changes to national clinical recommendations.
- Seasonal Influenza vaccine was not recommended for all children aged 2-17 year before the 2020/21 season.

Numerators:

- The source and format of numerator data have changed over time.
- Numerator data for the 2025/26 season are based on pseudonymised HSE National Immunisation Information System (NIIS) data.

Denominators:

- Denominators have been updated over time. For example,
 - For the 2025/26 season, denominator data used were Census 2022.
 - For the 2021/22 to 2024/25 seasons, denominator data used were HIU 2021 Population Projections.