

## Influenza Immunization of Staff in British Columbia Residential Care Facilities

### NOTES

Data are submitted by Health Authorities (Annual Influenza Immunization Program Survey). Data for 1997/98 to 2002/03 were compiled by Population Health and Wellness Division, BC Ministry of Health Services. Data for 2003/04 onward were compiled by Epidemiology Services, BC Centre for Disease Control.

For the 2009/10 influenza season priority was placed on the H1N1 vaccination campaign. Coverage of H1N1 vaccine was reported by facilities in the same manner as seasonal influenza vaccination coverage for FHA, NHA and VCH, and was reported through the WHITE system for PHSA, IHA and VIHA. Data from the WHITE system only includes vaccination data on Health Care Workers employed by the Health Authority and not those employed by a private facility and thus are not included in this report.

For the purposes of this analysis, "Residential Care Facilities" are defined as residential facilities that have 50% or more residents aged 65 years and older AND are either (a) licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and provide some health care services, or (b) licensed under the Hospital Act.

For the purpose of this analysis, "Staff" includes all persons who work, volunteer or train on a full time, part time or casual basis in a facility or hospital who have direct or indirect contact with patients or residents, regardless of whether they are health care providers.

Some facilities reported coverage for only staff on payroll, while other facilities included contracted staff, volunteers and/or trainees.

It is common for staff to work in more than one residential care facility, or work in a residential care facility and an acute care hospital. In most situations, these staff members are included in the calculations of influenza immunization statistics for all facilities they are associated with and are therefore accounted for more than once.

Due to difficulties in accurately determining the number of people who meet the definition of "Staff" in each facility, changes in immunization coverage rates may be a result of changes in methods of calculating the denominator (the total number of "staff").

Percent of residential care facilities in each Health Authority providing staff influenza immunization data:

<b>Year</b>	<b>% of Facilities Reporting Immunization Data</b>
2010/11	96%-100%
2009/10	83%-99%
2008/09	91%-100%
2007/08	99%-100%
2006/07	89%-100%
2005/06	95%-100%
Prior to 2005/06	not recorded

Data for 2000/2001 include health care workers in acute care facilities. Data for 2001/2002 include health care workers in acute care facilities for some Health Authorities.

Data may not be comparable by facility and Health Authority from year to year due to ongoing changes in data collection methods, changes in geographic health area boundaries and changes in facility denominators as licensed bed capacity changes. However, assuming consistency in reporting practices, overall trends in immunization coverage can be assessed by examining these data.

In North America, most influenza cases happen in the winter. An influenza season is usually considered to start in October of one calendar year and end in April the following calendar year.

#### Abbreviations:

IHA = Interior Health

FHA = Fraser Health

VCH = Vancouver Coastal Health

For an explanation of BC Health Authorities, please visit:

VIHA = Vancouver Island Health

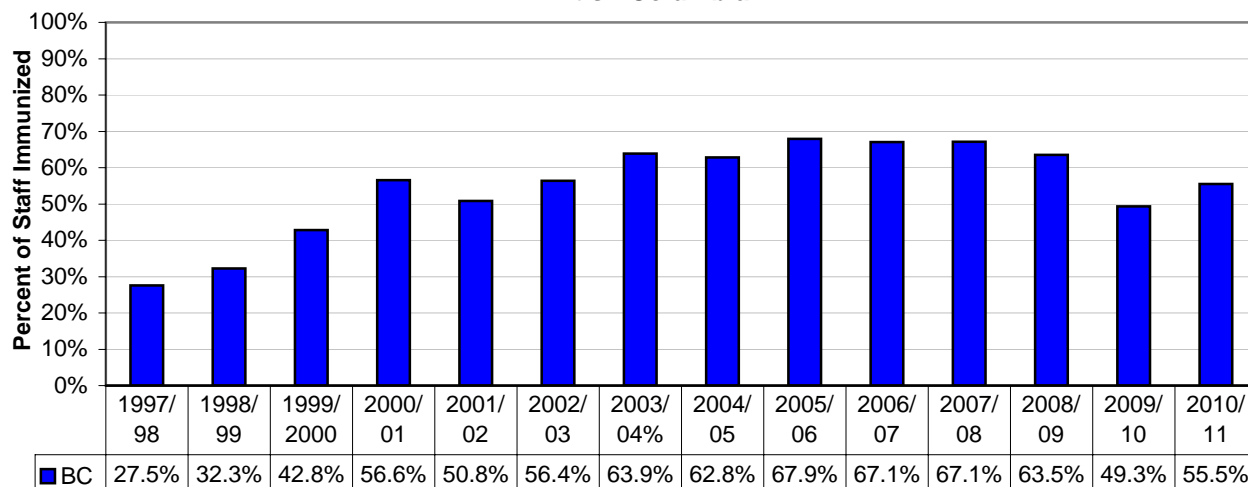
NHA = Northern Health

BC = Province of British Columbia

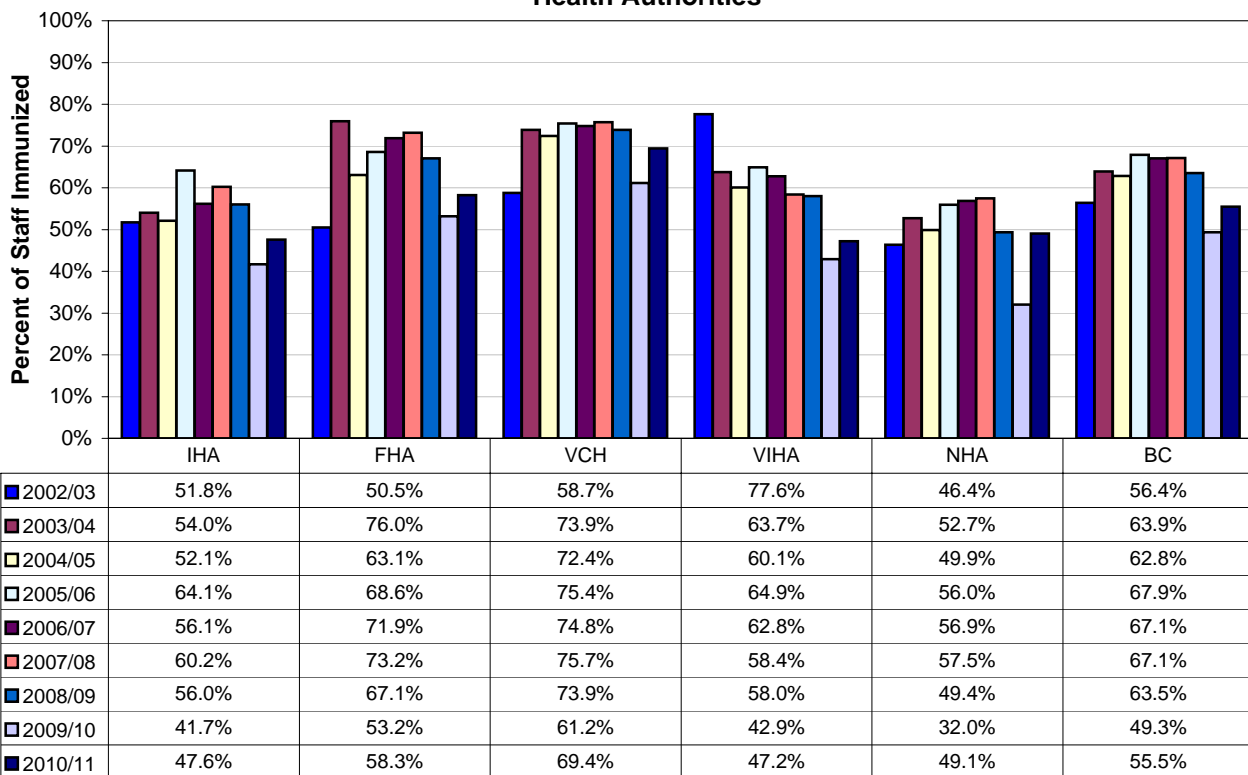
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/socsec/index.html>

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**Influenza Immunization Rates for Staff of Residential Care Facilities  
British Columbia**



**Influenza Immunization Rates for Staff of Residential Care Facilities  
Health Authorities**



Influenza immunization coverage among health care workers in residential care facilities in British Columbia peaked at 67.9% in 2005/06. Since then, coverage rates have gradually declined every year until 2009/10, when there was a sharp decline in seasonal influenza vaccine coverage during the H1N1 pandemic. In 2010/11 seasonal influenza immunization coverage increased over 2009/10 results to 55.5%, which is a continuation of the observed downward trend from 2005/06. Influenza immunization coverage among health care workers in residential care facilities has consistently been lower than the Immunize BC coverage target of 80% for this population. ([Immunize BC Strategic Framework](#)) Rates and trends varied by health region.