

Midlife and Older Adults' Views on Vaccinations

September 2019

Methods

Online, nationally representative survey fielded December 11-21, 2018 via IPSOS's KnowledgePanel®, with sample targeting panelists age 45 or older; n=1,836. Interviews were conducted to achieve 221 Hispanic/Latinos and 195 African Americans ages 45-plus (when weighted).

Data are weighted according to the March 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS) by gender, age, region, metropolitan status, race/ethnicity, household income, education, language proficiency, and Hispanic origin.

Vendor

IPSOS Public Affairs conducted this survey on behalf of AARP.

For further information, please visit their website: www.ipsos.com.

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Main Questionnaire

1. I am going to read you a list of things some people do to protect themselves from germs that may cause them to get sick. For each one, please note whether you do this to protect yourself from germs. (SCRAMBLE ROTATE)

Wash hands more often	80%
Keep hydrated/ drink adequate amounts of water	66%
Take vitamins and supplements	56%
Ensure you get an adequate amount of sleep	51%
Use hand sanitizers	50%
Exercise	41%
Avoid crowded public places	27%
None of these	4%

2. How often do you go to work and/or school when you are sick? Would you say...?

Always	12%
Sometimes	34%
Rarely	20%
Never	32%

3. Have you, or do you plan to get a flu shot this year?

Yes, I have already gotten a flu shot	58%
Not yet, but I plan to	9%
No, and I do not plan to	32%

4. What do you typically do for the flu vaccine?

Get a flu shot every year or almost every year	59%
Get a flu shot some years but not others	8%
Rarely or never get a flu shot	32%

5. Why do you rarely or never get a flu shot? (n=565)

I don't want to get a flu shot	44%
I am concerned about possible side effects	38%
I don't believe in them/ don't think they are safe	38%
I don't think I need one	31%
I never get the flu	28%
I don't like to take medications	18%
My doctor doesn't recommend one	4%
It costs too much	3%
I don't have the time	3%
I don't know where to get the shot	----

6. Have you ever had a shot for pneumonia?

Yes, I have gotten a shot for pneumonia	41%
Not yet, but I plan to	13%
No, and I do not plan to	37%
Don't know	9%

7. What do you think is the recommended age for a healthy adult to get a pneumonia shot? Would you say...?

Less than 45 years	6%
45-54 years	14%
55-64 years	24%
65 or more years	27%
Don't know	29%

8. How often do you think a healthy adult should get a pneumonia shot? Would you say...?

Every six months	----
Once a year	21%
Every other year	10%
When you're sick	1%
Once in a lifetime	21%
Never	6%
Don't know	40%

(Ask of total who have gotten or plan to get a flu shot or have ever gotten a shot for pneumonia)

9. Where do you generally go to get a flu shot (or a pneumonia shot)? (n=1,325)

To my doctor's office	48%
To the local pharmacy	25%
At an employer- or community-sponsored health fair	9%
To a local clinic/hospital/health center	8%
To the local grocery store	4%
To the Veterans Administration	2%
To the local health department	1%
Other community center	1%

10. Who would you say is your most trusted source of information about immunizations, such as the flu or pneumonia shot? (n=1,836)

Doctor or other healthcare professional	70%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	11%
Pharmacist/local pharmacy	4%
Websites (such as WebMD or Mayo Clinic)	2%
Local health department	1%
Local television or radio station	1%
A friend or family member	1%
My employer	1%
AARP	----
I don't trust any sources on this topic	7%

11. As an adult, have you ever gotten a Td or Tdap vaccination [for protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (which is also known as whooping cough)]?

Yes, I have gotten a Tdap vaccination	55%
Not yet, but I plan to	3%
No, and I do not plan to	21%
Don't know	20%

12. And, how about a vaccination for Shingles? Have you ever gotten a vaccination for Shingles?

Yes, I have gotten a Shingles vaccination	27%
Not yet, but I plan to	25%
No, and I do not plan to	36%
Don't know	11%

13. Do you know the recommended age for adults to get a vaccination for Shingles?

Yes	27%
No	73%

14. Are you currently (or have you been in the last year) a caregiver for a family member or friend?

Yes	16%
No	83%

Demographic Characteristics

AGE. How old are you? _____

45-49	14%
50-59	32%
60-69	28%
50+	86%
70+	26%

GENDER. Are you male or female?

Male	47%
Female	53%

HEALTH RATING. In general, when compared to most people your age, how would you rate your health?

Excellent	11%
Very good	37%
Good	36%
Fair	13%
Poor	3%

RACE/ETHNICITY

White, Non-Hispanic	70%
Black, Non-Hispanic	11%
Other, Non-Hispanic	6%
Hispanic	12%
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1%

EDUCATION. Which best describes the highest level of education you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

Less than high school	11%
High school	31%
Some college	26%
Bachelor's degree or higher	32%

REGION.

NorthEast	18%
MidWest	21%
South	38%
West	23%