



School of Public Health and Community Medicine

## Vaccination coverage among Indigenous adults – no improvement in 8 years

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### Background:

- Coverage for vaccines specifically aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is substantially lower than for universal programs

### Aims:

- To compare coverage for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines among Indigenous adults between 2004-05 and 2012-13
  - Did the national funding of influenza vaccine for all Indigenous adults from 2010 result in increased coverage?

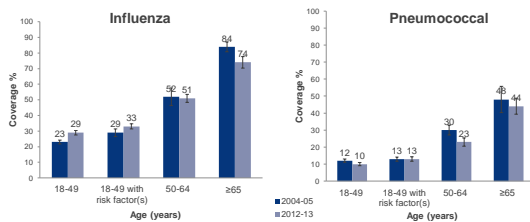
### Methods:

- Coverage rates calculated from the 2012-13 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey were compared to published figures from the 2004-05 survey
  - By age group and geographic remoteness
  - For whole of population and those with one or more risk factors (e.g. renal disease, diabetes and cardiac disease)

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### Results: Indigenous vaccination coverage rates



- despite expanded funding of influenza vaccine in 2010 to cover all Indigenous adults, no increase in coverage seen except 18-49 years
- declines in pneumococcal vaccination coverage across all age groups



### Conclusions:

- Indigenous adult vaccination coverage remains at unacceptably low levels
- Difficult to monitor as no national data in the 8 years between surveys and subsequently
- Regular, frequent and reliable coverage data are urgently needed for monitoring and to assist targeted program delivery efforts
- Greater attention to this issue is required from both governments and service providers

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