

**Influenza Vaccination Among Adults and Children  
During the 2004-05 Influenza Season**



Analysis from the  
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE

BUREAU OF HEALTH POLICY AND VITAL STATISTICS

## Table of Contents

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Methodology.....	3
Influenza Vaccination Rates, Idaho Adults.....	4
Where Received Flu Vaccination, Idaho Adults.....	5
Reasons for Not Receiving Vaccine, Idaho Adults.....	6
Influenza Vaccination Rates, Idaho Children.....	7
Reasons for Not Receiving Vaccine, Idaho Children.....	8
Appendix.....	9
<i>Flu Vaccination Report Data tables:</i> November 2004	
December 2004	
January 2005	
February 2005	

## Methodology

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This report provides an update of 2004-05 influenza vaccination coverage based on results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. Information from this report includes persons interviewed during November 2004 through February 2005. Results are reported by survey month.

The BRFSS is a monthly state-based survey. An average of 5,000 households per week and 20,000 households per month are interviewed nationwide. In Idaho, 4,900 households are interviewed each year, or approximately 400 interviews per month. Idaho used disproportionate stratified sampling for 2004 and 2005 BRFSS. The sample was stratified by Idaho's seven public health districts. Interviews were conducted by telephone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) software to record responses.

Additional information regarding BRFSS methodology is available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>.

As of November 1, 2004, new questions were temporarily added to obtain information on vaccine use in all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months, including month and year of vaccination, whether or not the respondent was in one or more of the groups prioritized to receive vaccine this season (persons aged  $\geq 65$  years or 6-23 months; high-risk persons aged 2-64 years; health care workers with patient contact; and household contacts of infants aged  $< 6$  months) and the reason for not having received vaccine. Persons were included in the high-risk group if they had any of the following conditions: diabetes, asthma or other lung disease, heart disease, weakened immune system, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia or other anemia, pregnancy (asked of adults only), or use of chronic aspirin therapy (asked for children only).

Information is obtained for one sampled adult and one sampled child (if a child or children live in the household). Questions pertaining to the sampled child were asked of the sampled adult. In past years, reports of influenza vaccination among adults have been based on the question: "During the past 12 months, have you had a flu shot?" Limited information was collected on conditions that place adults at high risk of complications from influenza infection, and no information was collected on specific date of vaccine receipt or on influenza vaccination coverage among children.

Vaccination coverage in this report reflects vaccination received September 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005 for either inactivated or live influenza vaccine.

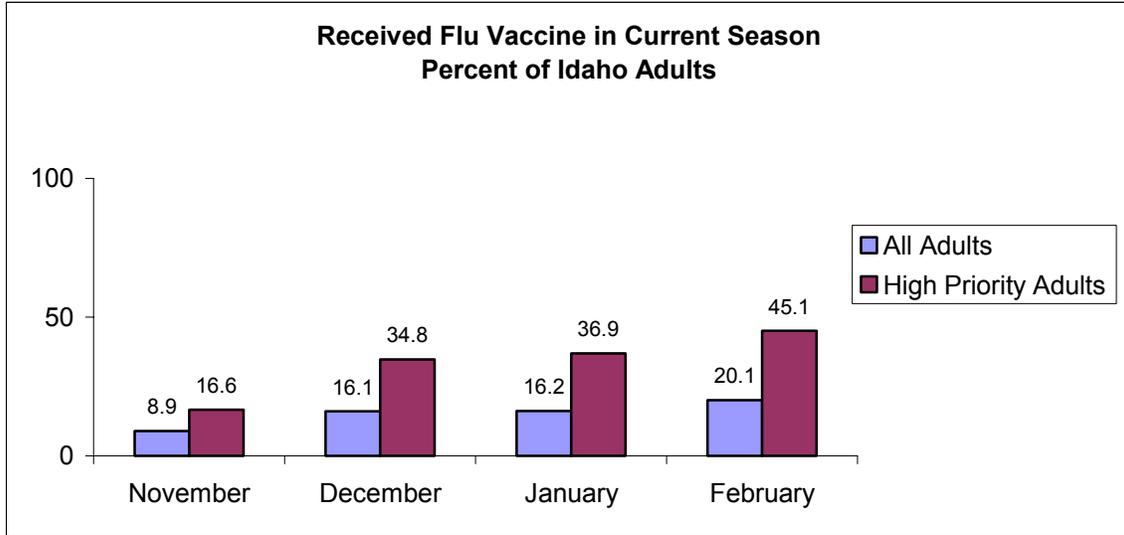
Additional detail from the 2004-05 BRFSS survey questions on influenza vaccination coverage are included in the data tables, in the appendix of this report.

# Influenza Vaccination Rates, Idaho Adults

## **Influenza Vaccination Rates: Idaho Adults Compared With High Priority Adults**

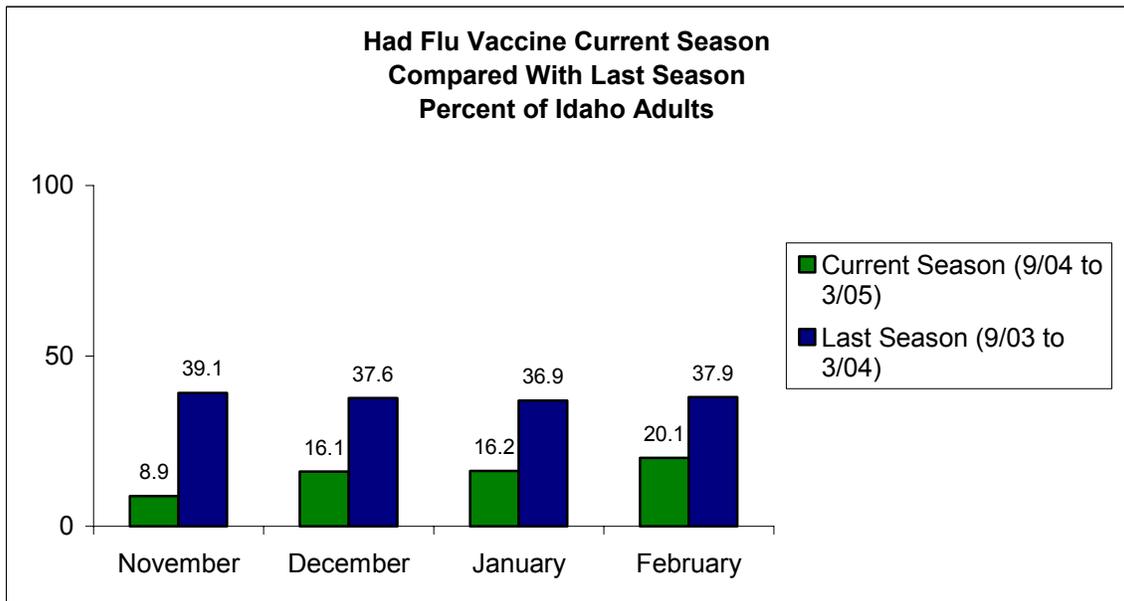
While 8.9 percent of Idaho adults interviewed in November 2004 had received the flu vaccine in the current season, the number had more than doubled to 20.1 percent by February 2005.

Adults in high-priority groups (those who reported having any of the following conditions: diabetes, asthma or other lung disease, heart disease, weakened immune system, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia or other anemia, or pregnancy) were significantly more likely to have received the flu vaccine in the current season.



## **Adult Influenza Vaccination Rates: Current Season Compared With Past Season**

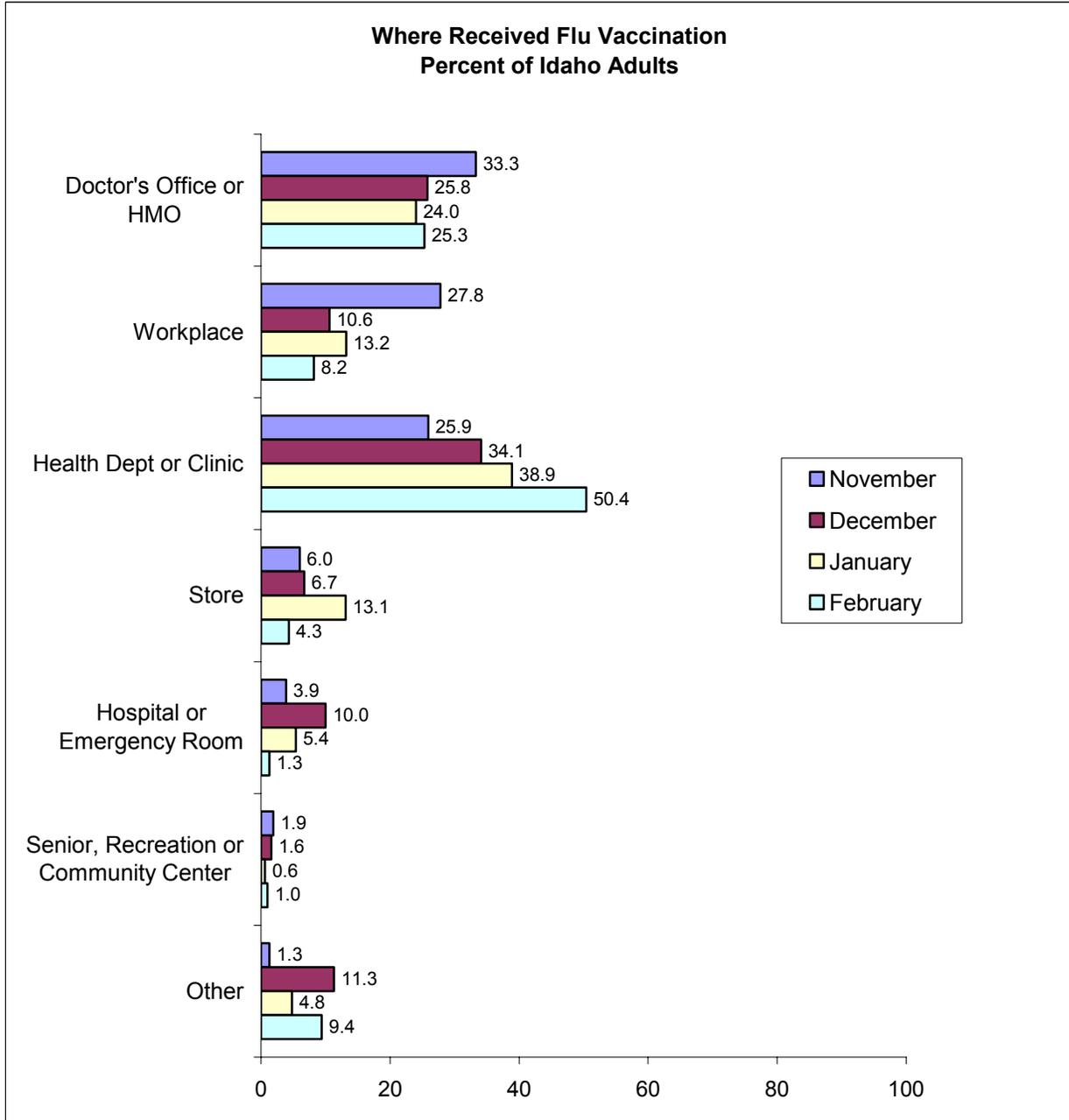
Idaho adults were significantly less likely to report receiving the flu vaccine during the 2004-2005 influenza season than during the 2003-2004 season. Over 1-in-3 (37.9%) of those surveyed in February reported receiving the vaccine during the prior flu season compared with about 1-in-5 (20.1%) in the current season.



# Where Received Flu Vaccination, Idaho Adults

## Where Received Flu Vaccinations: Idaho Adults

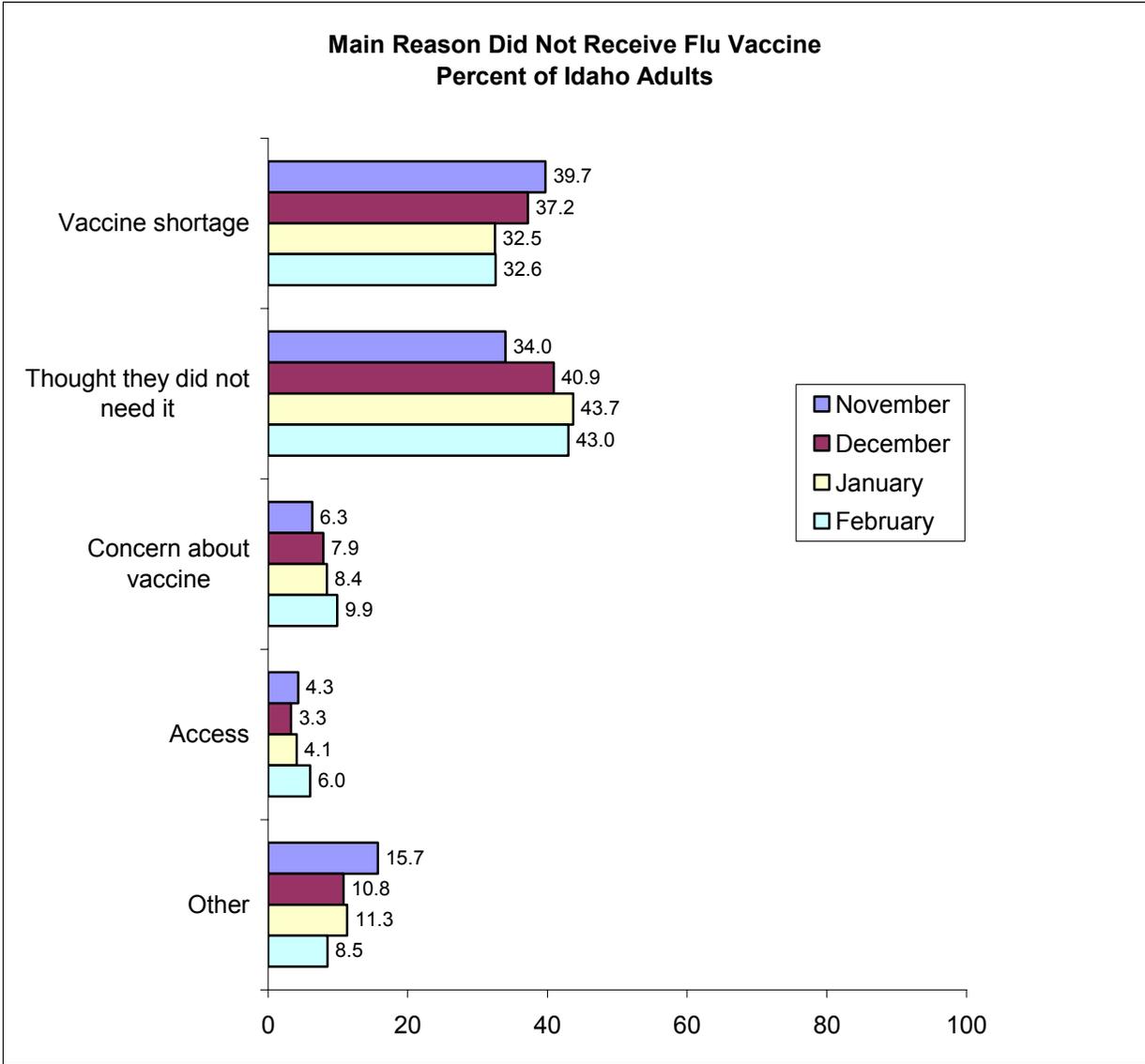
Doctor's offices, health departments and clinics were the most commonly reported sources of the flu vaccine for Idaho adults. Although over 1-in-4 (27.8%) of those surveyed in November reported receiving the vaccine in the workplace, this figure dropped off considerably in the months following the announced flu vaccine shortage (to 8.2% in February).



# Reasons for Not Receiving Vaccine, Idaho Adults

**Adult Influenza Vaccinations: Stated Reasons For Not Receiving**

In each survey month, the majority of adults who had not received the flu vaccine in the current season cited the vaccine shortage as the reason or “thought they did not need it.”



Note: Response categories for this item were determined by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The response category “Thought they did not need it” includes responses of “Do not need it”, “Doctor did not recommend it”, “Did not know I should be vaccinated”, “Flu is not that serious”, and “Had the flu already this flu season”.

“Concern about vaccine” includes responses of “Side effects/can cause the flu” and “Does not work”.

“Access” includes responses of “Plan to get vaccinated later this flu season”, “Costs too much”, and “Inconvenient to get vaccinated”.

“Vaccine shortage” includes those that responded “Saving vaccine for people who need it more”, “Tried to find vaccine, but could not get it” and “Not eligible to receive vaccine”.

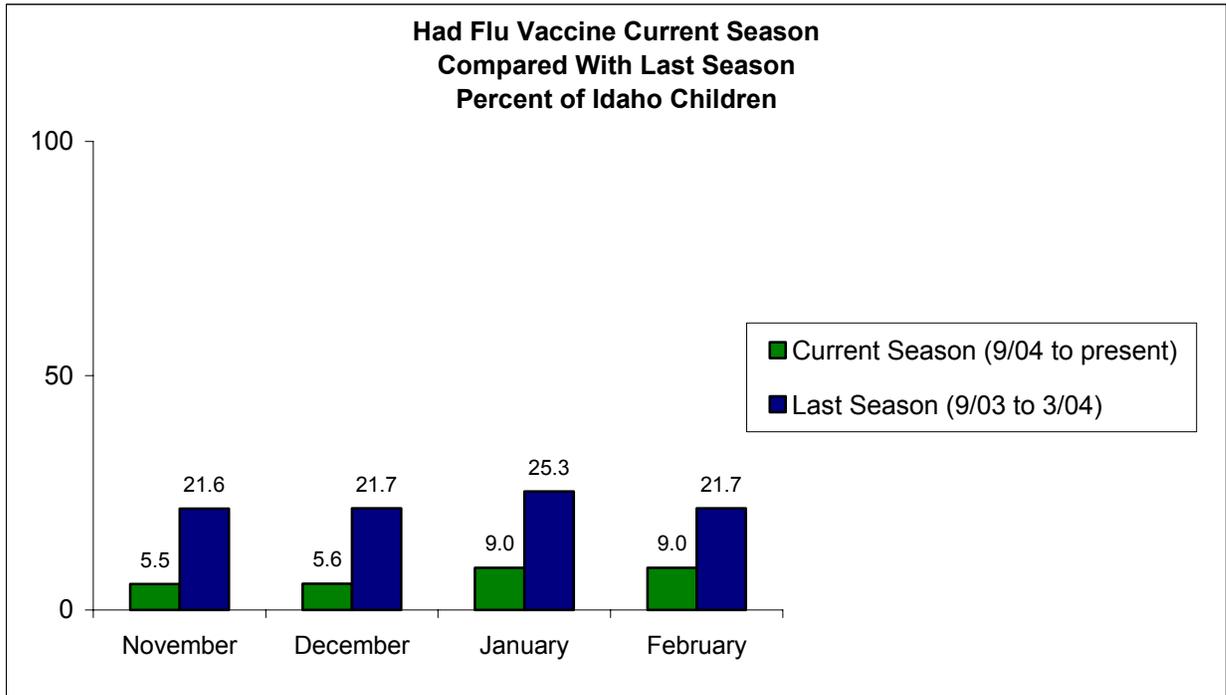
# Influenza Vaccination Rates, Idaho Children

## Child Influenza Vaccination Rates: Current Season Compared To Past Season

By February, just under 1-in-10 Idaho children had received the flu vaccine in the 2004-2005 season. Reported vaccination rates in the previous season were significantly higher (21.7 percent among February respondents).

While this survey did attempt to monitor children in high priority groups, the resulting sample size is too small for analysis and reporting (fewer than 50 responding).

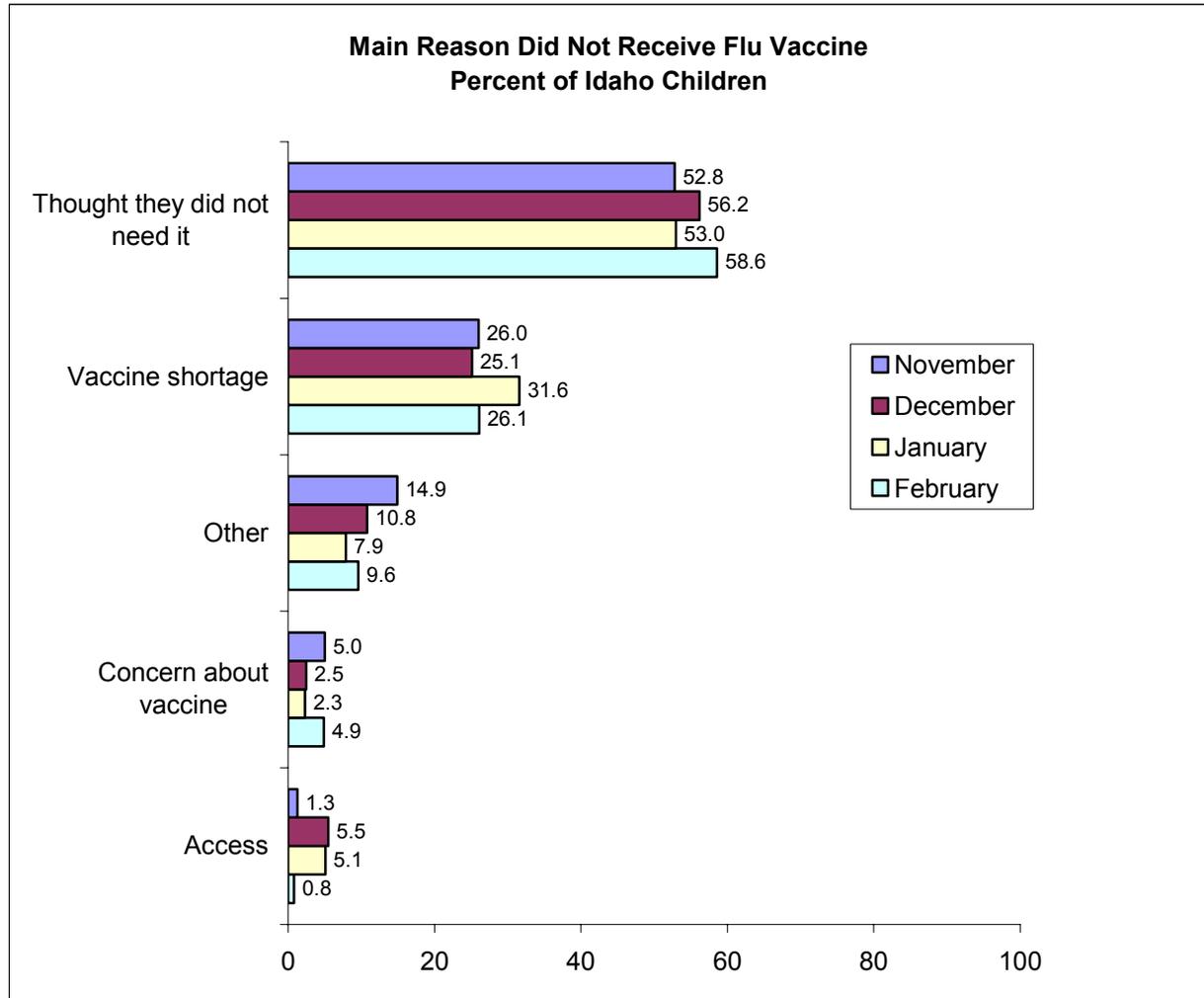
Note that information pertaining to children was reported by the sampled adult in the household.



## Reasons for Not Receiving Vaccine, Idaho Children

### Child Influenza Vaccinations: Stated Reasons For Not Receiving

The most commonly reported reason that adult respondents gave for their children not receiving the flu vaccine was that they “thought they did not need it” (between 52.8% and 58.6%). In each survey month, around 1-in-4 (between 25.1% and 31.6%) cited the “vaccine shortage” as the reason the child did not receive the vaccine.



*Note:* Response categories for this item were determined by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The response category “Thought they did not need it” includes responses of “Do not need it”, “Doctor did not recommend it”, “Did not know I should be vaccinated”, “Flu is not that serious”, and “Had the flu already this flu season”.

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“Vaccine shortage” includes those that responded “Saving vaccine for people who need it more”, “Tried to find vaccine, but could not get it” and “Not eligible to receive vaccine”.

# Appendix

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*Flu Vaccination Report Data Tables:*

November 2004  
December 2004  
January 2005  
February 2005