

Access to Vaccines in Barking and Dagenham

Lessons from the Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme



Introduction

Partners across Barking and Dagenham (B&D) have supported the creation of the Care City Cohort linked dataset. The individual linked dataset brings together information from the NHS and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. We used the dataset to understand the variables associated with higher / lower use of health and social care services across five settings of care (Acute Care, Mental Health, Primary Care, Community Care and Social Care).

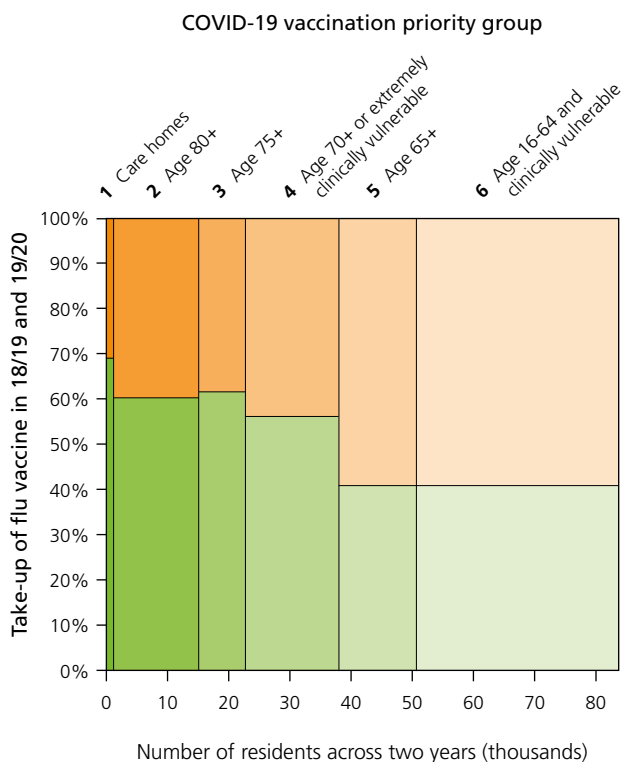
In light of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, we have used the dataset to identify some lessons in the inequalities to accessing the flu vaccine and how this can support the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Key messages

- **The COVID-19 vaccine roll-out may get more challenging as we move down the priority groups.** Take-up of flu vaccines is highest among older residents. Among residents age 65+, those with a long-term condition (about half of residents) are 1.4 times more likely to be vaccinated
- **Take-up varies substantially by ethnicity, and this may relate to health needs as well as cultural factors.** Flu vaccine take-up is low among 'White Other' and older 'Black African' residents. It is high among Asian groups, particularly Bangladeshi residents. This may relate to diabetes, which is associated with high take-up of flu vaccines. Among Bangladeshi residents age 50-64 who are eligible for a flu vaccine, 74% have diabetes, compared to 34% of eligible White British or Irish residents
- **Take up of seasonal flu vaccines appears lower in people with liver disease and those with BMI of 40+.** This may relate to socioeconomic factors, as well as the engagement of this group with health services
- **There is no strong evidence of variation by area.** The lowest take-up for a neighbourhood is 30% for an area within the Gascoigne ward in Barking, though this is partially explained by the area demographics, and average take-up given the local population would be 38%
- **Take-up does not vary by practice size.** Eligible patients at small practice have the same probability of receiving a seasonal flu vaccine as those at large practices.



Vaccine take-up reduces in lower priority groups



Vaccine take-up is low among 'White Other' residents and older 'Black African' residents



Methodology notes

- In the right-hand panel, the size of the circle represents the number of eligible residents, and the error bars represent 95% confidence intervals
- This analysis is based on the 'Care City' cohort. See [here](#). Participants are limited to Barking & Dagenham residents who were eligible for a seasonal flu vaccine in the 18/19 and 19/20 seasons (i.e. residents can be included in the analysis twice)
- Eligibility for a flu vaccine was based on being age 65 or having a relevant long-term conditions listed by NHS England. See [here](#)
- Receipt of a flu vaccine was based on a clinical code or vaccine recorded in primary care. The overall proportion that received the vaccine based on this analysis was 47% across the two years, compared to 54% in official data. See [here](#).
- COVID-19 vaccination priority groups can be seen [here](#). There was limited data to identify 'extremely clinically vulnerable' residents (for priority group 4) and only COPD was included.



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