



Snapshot: France

Assessing the impact of the 2024/2025 influenza season
on France's people, health system and economy

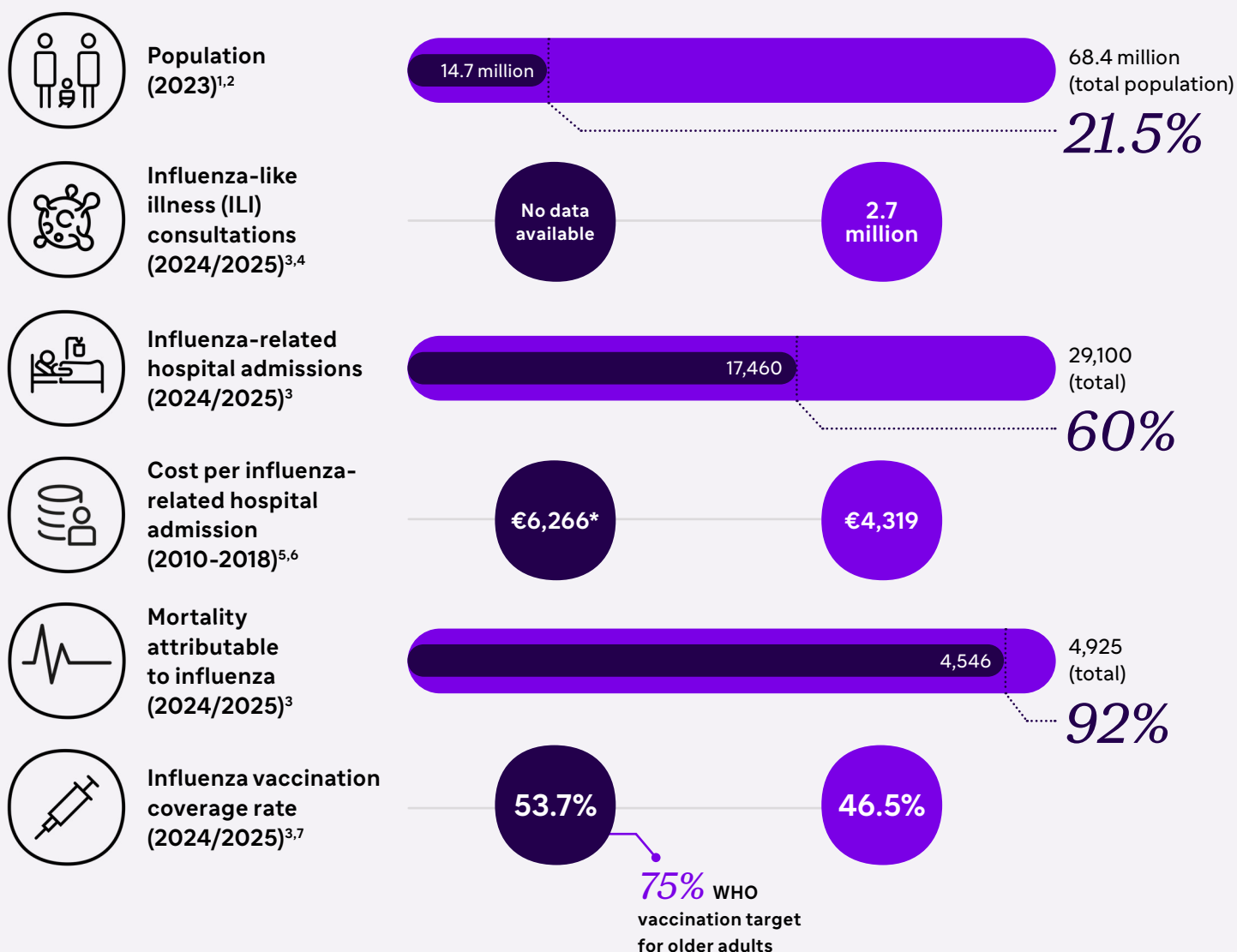
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France experienced a *high-intensity 2024/2025 influenza season*, marked by significant hospital burden, elevated mortality among older adults, and renewed policy efforts to strengthen vaccination access. Notably, people aged 65 and older made up approximately *92% of all influenza-related deaths*.

Estimated influenza burden

● Adults aged 65+ ● Total population



*Mean cost of hospitalizations for influenza and pneumonia in people over the age of 65 over the course of six seasons (2012-2017). Hospitalization costs were inflated to 2022.

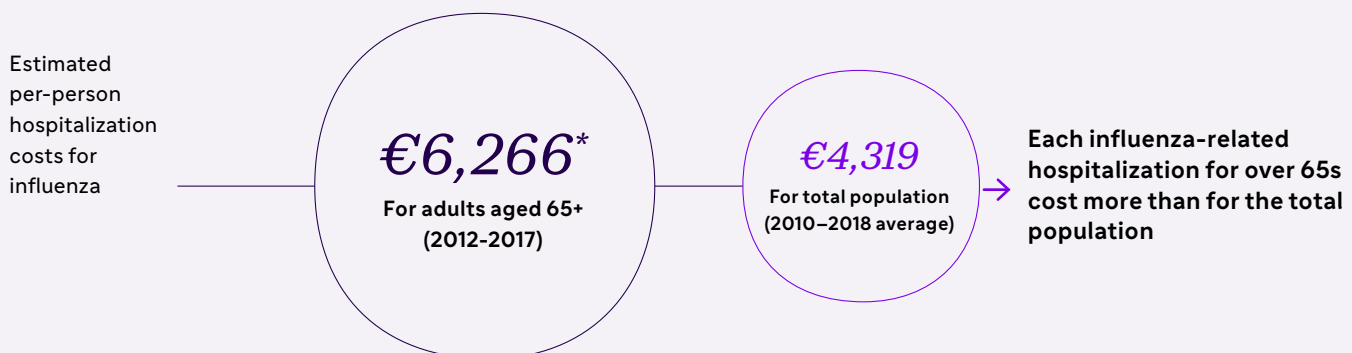
Data and *Limitations*

The Sentinelles surveillance network in France, a research and monitoring network made up of 1,142 private GPs and 129 private pediatricians in metropolitan France, recorded approximately 2.7 million consultations for influenza-like illness during the 2024/2025 season, but age breakdowns were not available.^{3,4} Additionally, the GPs in the Sentinelles network make up approximately 2.1% of the total GPs in metropolitan France.⁴ This greatly limits insight into how heavily the burden fell on older adults, as this is likely a severe underestimation of the true value.

Santé Publique France, the national public health agency for France, reported 29,100 influenza-related hospitalizations between weeks 49/2024 and 08/2025.³ Reported influenza-attributable mortality reached 4,925 deaths.³ Again, this is likely an underestimation of the true value due to the limited scope of the Sentinelles network. Adults aged 65 and older make up a significant proportion of these mortalities, accounting for *92% of influenza-related mortalities*.³

The Economic *Impact*

The mean cost of hospitalizations for influenza and pneumonia among adults aged 65 and older over six seasons (2012–2017) was estimated at €6,266, adjusted to 2022 values.⁵ For reference, the mean cost for influenza-related hospitalizations for the total population was estimated to be €4,319 between the 2010/2011 and 2017/2018 influenza seasons.⁶ The direct economic burden of influenza in France has varied considerably with seasonal severity — from €26.4 million in 2011/2012 to €209.8 million in 2017/2018 — representing nearly an eightfold increase.⁸ During severe epidemic seasons between 2010 and 2018, the average total cost of influenza-related hospitalizations across all age groups was €145.5 million.⁸ Adults aged 65 and older accounted for more than 67% of this amount, representing an average cost of €98.3 million.⁸ It is important to note that the increased economic burden may also be due to improved reporting of data.



*Adjusted to 2022 values.

Policy *Landscape*

In response to a high-burden 2024/25 season, French health authorities extended the influenza vaccination campaign through February 2025.⁹ At the time, only standard-dose vaccines were included in national recommendations for adults aged 65 and over.¹⁰ In May 2025, new guidance from the Haute Autorité de Santé introduced an update for the 2025/2026 season, recommending the use of age-appropriate vaccine formulations offering enhanced protection for this population.¹⁰ As this guidance had not yet been implemented during the 2024/25 season, no data are available on its uptake or impact

Despite the severity of the season, *vaccination coverage among adults aged 65 and older declined to 53.7%* — continuing a downward trend from previous years.³ This divergence — between rising system demand and falling coverage — underscores the need for stronger outreach, clearer public messaging, and more consistent delivery mechanisms to reach those at highest risk.

In France, the system need and public protection are moving in opposite directions.



System pressure

*Cases, hospitalizations,
ICU demand*



Vaccination coverage in 65+

to 53.7%



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