

Influenza Vaccination Coverage Rates in Spain during the winter 2006/2007

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Objectives: The objectives of the survey were to identify the level of influenza vaccination coverage in Spain in 2006/2007, to understand the drivers and barriers to vaccination, to find out vaccination intentions for next winter as well as the major encouraging factor to vaccination.

Methodology: A telephone omnibus survey (using CATI system) was conducted among 2000 non-institutionalised individuals representative of the population aged between 14 and 74. The research was carried out in December 2006 and January 2007.

Results: In 2006/2007, influenza vaccination coverage rate (VCR) in the population decreased by 2 points in comparison with 2005/2006 to 22%. This decrease was due to a 1 point loss in both repeat vaccinations and new vaccinations but was non-statistically significant.

In the elderly age-recommended population (defined as the people aged 65 and over), VCR increased to 71% (from 70% in 2005/2006), with 8% people being vaccinated for the first time.

In 2006/2007, 64% of the population had never been vaccinated.

Advice from the family doctor/ nurse (44%), considering flu as a serious illness (37%) and older age (30%) were the principal motivations for being vaccinated. Considering flu as a serious illness was a reason mentioned by notably more people than in 2005/2006 (+9%), together with preventing flu from interrupting professional activities (+8%). The main reasons for non-vaccination among people never previously vaccinated were feeling unlikely to catch the flu (63%), not having considered vaccination (43%) and absence of family doctor's recommendation (25%). Among the people previously vaccinated, the major reasons for dropping out this year were forgetfulness (32%), absence of family doctor's recommendation (22%) and not feeling concerned (22%).

For the 2007/2008 winter, 30% of the surveyed population intended to get a flu jab.

73% of the surveyed population mentioned that the major encouragement to vaccination was a recommendation from the family doctor.

Conclusion: During winter 2006/2007 in Spain, VCR in both the population aged between 14 and 74 and the age-recommended elderly population remained quite stable compared to 2005/2006. Our findings strongly suggest that the family doctor plays a major encouraging role in improving vaccine uptake.