

# Influenza Vaccination Coverage Rates in Czech Republic during the winter of 2006/2007

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

**Methodology:** A telephone- based household survey (using CATI system) was conducted among 2000 non-institutionalised individuals representative of the population aged 16 years old and over. The research was carried out in January and February 2007.

**Results:** In 2006/2007, influenza vaccination coverage rate (VCR) in the population was 14% and 5% got vaccinated for the first time. The highest vaccination coverage (30%) was achieved in the age-recommended population, which is defined as the people aged over 65 years. Additionally, the elderly represent the highest level of vaccination intention (47%).

In 2006/2007, 70% of the population had never been vaccinated.

84% believe 'you can still catch flu even though you have been vaccinated'.

Perception of the seriousness of the flu illness (30%), advice from family doctor/nurse (24%) and not being in very good health (20%) were the primary motivations for getting inoculated.

The main reasons for non-vaccination among the population never vaccinated before were: not feeling likely to catch the flu (28%), not having considered vaccination (20%) and the absence of trust in the effectiveness of the vaccine (15%). Among the people previously vaccinated but not this year, forgetfulness (30%) was the major reasons for dropping out this year, followed by the lack of trust in the flu vaccine (24%: having caught the flu despite vaccination (14%) and the vaccine is not effective enough (10%)).

The intention of the population to get a flu jab in the following winter season (2007/2008) was 31%.

55% of the survey population reported that the major encouragement to vaccination was a recommendation from a healthcare worker.

**Conclusion:** During winter 2006/2007, VCR was 14% in the population over 16 years of age, with 30% for the elderly-aged population. Our findings underline the lack of trust in the vaccine and suggest that the advice of the family doctor plays a key role in improving vaccine uptake.