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Influenza vaccination coverage in health care workers. Valencia Region, Spain. Seasons 2011/12 to 2015/16

*AM Alguacil-Ramos, Jose Antonio Lluch-Rodrigo, A Portero-Alonso, E Pastor-Villalba
Dirección General de Salud Pública, Valencia, Spain*

Corresponding author: Dr Jose Antonio Lluch-Rodrigo, Conselleria de Sanidad Universal y Salud Pública, Dirección General de Salud Pública, Valencia, Spain. E-mail: lluch_jos@gva.es

Background & Aim: One of the influenza vaccination target groups is all the healthcare workers (HCW). Influenza vaccine is recommended in this group in order to prevent the transmission and the disease. The aim of the study was to analyze the trend in influenza vaccination coverage among this group from season 2011/12 to 2015/16.

Method: We conducted a descriptive study on influenza vaccination coverage in HCW using data from Vaccination Information System of Valencia Region (Comunidad Valenciana - CV)(Spain).

Results: CV population is around 5 million inhabitants and a mean of 57,500 HCW are target for influenza immunization each season. A mean of 680,000 influenza doses were administered in each season and the 3% corresponded to HCW (18,304 doses in 2011/12 and 26,213 in 2015/16). The 70% of the doses administered in that group corresponded to women (68% in 2011/12 and 70% in 2015/16). An increase of influenza coverage was registered in HCW during the study period from 26.1% in 2011/12 to 45.6% in 2015/16.

Conclusions: the number of doses administered in this group has increased during the period. The higher percentage of doses administered in women is according to the distribution of HCW by sex that works for the health system. In spite of the fact that influenza vaccination coverage has improved in HCW, the value remains low. It is necessary to be more effective in the influenza immunization strategies target to HCW.