

## ABSTRACT

## Flu Vaccination in Liguria and in Italy: data from the Health Surveillance Systems "PASSI" and "PASSI d'Argento"

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### INTRODUCTION

Influenza (flu) is an important Public Health problem given the possible serious complications in subjects with chronic diseases. 75% of this subset of population at risk is recommended to have vaccination by the Italian Ministry of Health. This is a particularly challenging target, as the number of people suffering from chronic diseases cannot easily be calculated. The Surveillance System "PASSI" proved to be a valid tool in order to estimate vaccination coverage in subjects at risk [1].

### AIMS

- To evaluate the flu vaccination coverage in the high-risk population ageing 18-64 during 2005-2009;
- to determine vaccination coverage in subjects over 64 with different levels of self-sufficiency in a Local Health Unit in Genova (ASL 3 – Genovese);
- to provide an overview of perceptions, attitudes and behaviours of the Italian population as to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

### METHODS

Data were collected through "PASSI – Progressi delle Aziende Sanitarie per la Salute in Italia" as implemented in Liguria [2] – regarding particularly the flu vaccination section.

Data were collected – between 2007 and 2009 – through telephone interviews delivered to a 3811 sample of people ageing 18-69 randomly drawn among the residents of each local health unit in Liguria. The multi-regional survey "PASSI d'Argento" was carried out in seven Italian regions in 2009. In Asl 3 – Genovese, 320 subjects were involved, as a representative sample of the entire over 64 population [3].

During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, "PASSI" investigated the adult population perceptions, attitudes and behaviours as to the pandemic by means of an additional form

in 53 Italian Local Health Units [4]. The collected data were compared with the influenza epidemic curve.

### RESULTS

The vaccination coverage of the population ageing 18-64 affected by chronic conditions resulted to be 28.8% in Liguria.

In 2005-2009 the trend of vaccination coverage was stable and consistent with the national trend (32%).

In 2007-2009, on 198 subjects with at least one chronic condition, 8% were suffering from respiratory diseases (vaccination coverage = 29%), 4% from cancer (37%), 3% from diabetes (42%) and 3% from cardiovascular diseases (41%).

Nearly 66% of interviewees aged over 64 had been vaccinated in the 12 months before the interview. This percentage reached 72% in subjects labelled as "fragile" (non health sufficient for two or more Instrumental Activities of Daily Living – IADL) and over 77% in subjects with disability (people who needs help for one or more Activities of Daily Living – ADL) ("PASSI d'Argento").

During the pandemic period, "PASSI" investigated population perceptions and attitudes towards the H1N1 flu, showing a significant relationship between reduced incidence of new cases and decreased will to be vaccinated.

### CONCLUSIONS

Vaccination coverage for high-risk subjects may be improved by appropriate Public Health interventions.

"PASSI" and "PASSI d'Argento" are effective tools to monitor population health and to highlight both coverage fluctuations and changes in attitudes, even in the short term. Data from "PASSI" are closely matching the actual coverage in Liguria, in connection with the number of doses administered and the number of people with chronic diseases, as estimated by regional surveys. PASSI also provides helpful information in order to monitor and evaluate the vaccination program.

### References

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