

**STAGNATING LOW INFLUENZA VACCINE COVERAGE RATES AMONG POLISH ELDERLY IN 2008-2013**

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Although annual vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the disease and its severe outcomes, influenza vaccine coverage rates have been at suboptimal levels in many countries, including Poland. The retrospective analysis of influenza vaccine coverage rates among patients older than 65 years at the local and the national level was conducted. The influenza vaccine coverage rates among the elderly in Warsaw ranged from 20,5% (in 2013) to 31,5% (in 2010) and they were higher than these ones reported at the national level (from 7,6% in 2012 to 11,3% in 2009). The proportion of vaccines given to the elderly compared to all vaccinated individuals varied from 40% to 52% at the local level and it was comparable to proportions reported at the national level (37% - 48,5%). 69% of the elderly were vaccinated only once during the observation period, 0,5% of them repeated a vaccination in each consecutive year. The chance of being vaccinated against influenza more than once was statistically higher among women than man (OR 4,9 95%CI 4,155-5,797). Influenza vaccine coverage rates, both at the local and national level, are low and must be improved in the near future. Higher influenza vaccine coverage rates among the elderly observed at the local level may be explained by providing a reimbursement of vaccines and an effective popularization of vaccination among patients.