

Respiratory infections

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Respiratory infections with particular emphasis on influenza viruses activity in people over 14 years of age in the epidemic season 2016/2017 in Poland

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Influenza viruses cause respiratory infections every epidemic season regardless of the patient's age. The aim of this study was to determine the activity of respiratory viruses in the epidemic season 2016/2017 in Poland, with particular emphasis on influenza viruses, among people aged over 14. More than 2800 of clinical samples taken from patients from four age groups: 15-25, 26-44, 45-64 and ≥ 65 years of age were tested under the SENTINEL and NON-SENTINEL surveillance system. The presence of influenza viruses was confirmed in more than 40% of cases, the predominant type was influenza A virus unsubtype followed by subtype A/H3N2/. The results for 4 age groups indicate that the highest number of confirmed respiratory viruses were recorded in the range ≥ 65 years of age, slightly less in the age groups 45-64 years, 15-25 years and 26-44 years. Influenza type B infections were observed only in individual cases. Given the epidemiological data, epidemic season 2016/2017 was characterized by similar dynamics compared to the previous season both in Poland and in most of the European countries. More than 4.6 million cases and suspected cases of influenza and influenza-like viruses have been reported in Poland, more than 16,000 hospitalizations and 25 deaths, of which 20 cases occurred among people over 65 years of age.