

Respiratory infections

Flu in Poland in 2008 - 2014 [1]

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Influenza is an acute viral infection of the respiratory tract. The risk of developing a serious illness from influenza is higher amongst children, older people and those with underlying health conditions.

Material and methods: The analysis was submitted to the database of the National Health Fund in order to extract data on influenza-related patient identifier codes, ICD-10: J10 and J11 (J10-caused by an identified influenza virus; J11-influenza caused by an unidentified virus). The analyses were made based on the subjects' individual patient identifiers (social security numbers).

Results: In the period of 7 years, 11763 patients were hospitalized with a diagnosis of influenza or suspected influenza in Poland. 3582 patients were hospitalized with a diagnosed influenza (J10) and 6091 patients with a suspected influenza (J11). Most cases of influenza (J10) occurred in January/February and December/March/November. A smaller number of cases occurred in the months of May to October. In 2009, as well as in 2011 and in 2013, significantly more cases were reported than in other years. However, in 2009 the significant increase in the number of influenza cases took place in December and November, while in 2011 and 2013 it appeared in February and January. Hospital admissions due to influenza (J10) occurred most often in children under six years of age and in adults aged 55-65. Significant differences were observed in the number of diagnoses of influenza among the provinces.

Conclusion: The percentage of vaccinated population in Poland is outrageously low (3.75%). Such low awareness of flu prevention may be caused by poor knowledge about the disease itself, which proves that in Poland less than 0.01% cases of influenza are recognized.