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ATTITUDES OF ESTONIAN PHARMACISTS ABOUT PHARMACY-LED VACCINATION PROGRAMS

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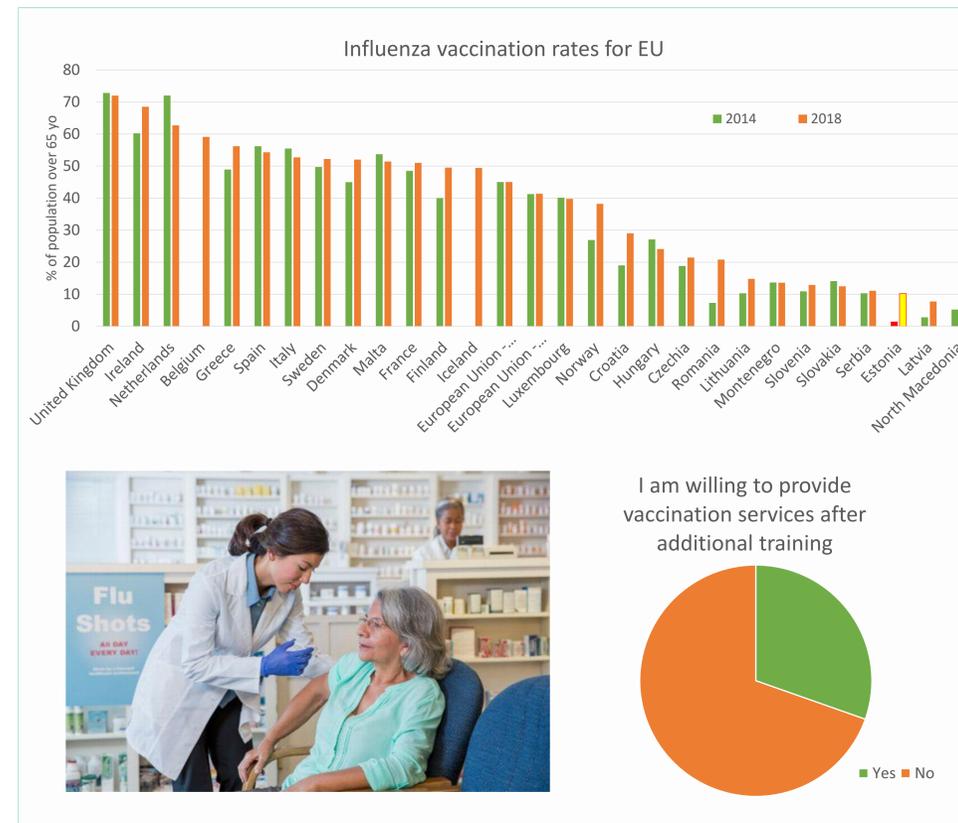


INTRODUCTION

According to the WHO estimation, vaccination is the most effective way to prevent influenza and 75% of people, who are at higher risk, should be vaccinated. Estonia has the lowest flu vaccination coverage in the European Union. Many countries, e.g. UK, USA, Canada, Portugal, and Australia, have improved the vaccination coverage by including pharmacists as immunization providers.

METHOD

The survey was conducted 2 months after the “Vaccination pilot project at pharmacies” among employees of the four largest pharmacy chains in Estonia. The questionnaire was conducted in an online environment e-Formular, participation in the survey was voluntary and anonymous. The questionnaire consisted of 29 questions: multiple-choice, open-ended or scaled questions. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data and the e-Formular environment was used for the primary statistical analysis of the characteristics. Analyzing the data describes the association with background variables such as age, sex, length of service, vaccination attitudes, etc.



AIM/S

The aim of the study was to

- ❖ determine the Estonian pharmacists’ readiness to provide vaccination services in pharmacies;
- ❖ to identify the needs of self-reported in-service training of pharmacists.

RESULTS

313 pharmacists participated in the survey. Most pharmacists were not ready to provide vaccination services at the pharmacy themselves.

Reasons provided by the pharmacists who were opposed to the vaccination were:

- ❖ lack of appropriate training;
- ❖ lack of time and/or available space;
- ❖ unwillingness to touch patients or to be in contact with blood;
- ❖ excessive workload and responsibility;
- ❖ lack of interest and competence.

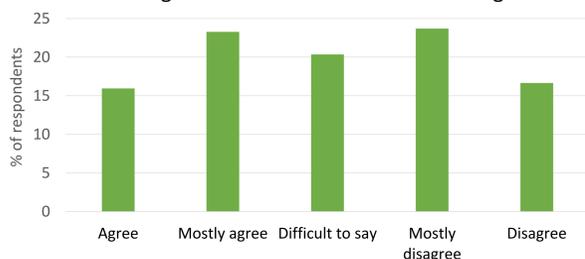
At the same time, several respondents noted that the availability of adequate training programs would encourage them to provide vaccination services.

CONCLUSION

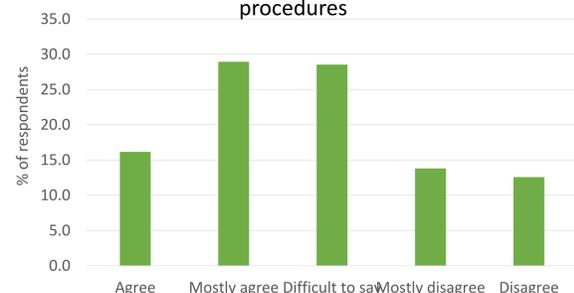
It is necessary to develop a training program that provides the required knowledge and skills for immunization to involve pharmacists in the provision of vaccination services in pharmacies.

The availability of private counseling rooms at pharmacy establishments and enabling pre-assigned schedule for vaccinations would increase the pharmacists’ readiness to become vaccinators.

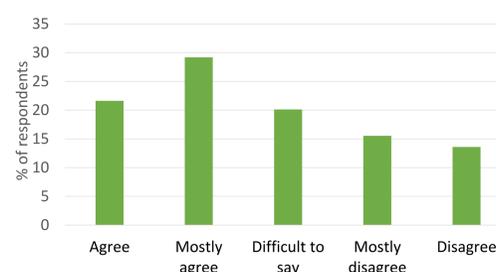
Pharmacists have sufficient medical education for administering vaccines after vaccination training



A pharmacist should not intervene in medical procedures



Pharmacy is a convenient and suitable place for people to get vaccinated



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