

Comparison of vaccine opinion of parents in 5 key European countries. Learnings from Vaccinoscopie Europe

Submission category :

10. Immunology & Vaccinology, c. General vaccinology (incl. policy, social aspects)

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J-P. Stahl¹, R. Cohen², J. Gaudelus^{3,4}, B. Leboucher⁵, D. Subtil⁶, P. Pujol⁷, V. Picquet⁷, H. Lepetit⁸, L. Longfrier⁸, A. Martinot⁹

Nombre de mots : 340 (max= 350)

Background

Suboptimal vaccination coverage rates have led to vaccine-preventable disease resurgence and epidemics, such as measles in Europe these last years. Growing vaccine hesitancy is one of the key explanations of this situation. We aimed to compare vaccine opinion of parents, key target for vaccination, in 5 big European countries.

Methods

Vaccinoscopie Europe is a web-based survey conducted in 2019 on a representative sample of 1,500 parents of 0-2 years old infants based in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United-Kingdom (300 per country).

Results

Vaccination positive opinion of parents varied according to countries (from 73% for France to 94% for Spain). UK and Germany had 3% of opponents to all vaccinations versus <1% in the other countries. In all countries, more than 90% of parents were favorable to mandatory vaccination for at least certain vaccines. German and British parents were the most refractory.

In terms of vaccination knowledge, French parents felt significantly less well informed (77% of well informed) than parents from the other countries (90-94%) with less web consultations about vaccination (respectively 58% versus 70-81%). Trust level in Health authorities was highest in Spain and lowest in France (on a 10-point scale, respectively 88% and 68% with a score of 7 to 10).

Although the first source of information to decide to vaccinate their child was a health care vaccinator, the latter differed in each country based on health care system. The second source of information was Internet, with Health authorities websites the most consulted by all countries, followed by friends and families. Influence of these last two sources varied according to countries (respectively from 14 to 40% and from 9% to 30%).

Conclusion

Parents' vaccination favorable opinion seemed to be linked with a better perceived vaccination knowledge. If the health care vaccinator was the first source of information, Internet was a valuable resource and friends and families might be influential. Local characteristics should be taken into account

to increase confidence into vaccination. Evaluation should be harmonized at an European level, allowing to share public health best practices strategies.

Keywords: Vaccinologie, vaccine hesitancy, Europe