

Knowledge and Acceptance of Influenza vaccine within the Hispanic Community: a Survey conducted in waiting rooms of Latin-American consulates in South Florida

Lujan Soler¹, Laura Regalini¹, Mariana Schlesinger¹, Natalia Cap¹, Rody Barakat², Gordon Dickinson^{2,3}

¹ Fighting Infectious Diseases in Emerging Countries (FIDEC), Miami, FL, USA. ² University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA. ³ Miami VA Medical Center, Miami, FL, USA.

Background

- Only 43.3% of American adults were vaccinated in the 2016–2017 Influenza season (CDC - Disease burden of Influenza).
- Even more concerning is the disparity between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white adults: only 36.9% of Hispanic adults were vaccinated, compared to 45.9% of white non-Hispanic adults (CDC - Flu vaccination coverage, United States, 2016-2017 Influenza Season).
- FIDEC is a non-profit organization aimed at preventing and promoting health educational and research programs to fight infectious diseases.

Objectives

- To describe the knowledge of the Hispanic adult population regarding the Influenza infection and the seasonal flu vaccine.
- To assess Influenza vaccine acceptance among the Hispanic adult population.
- To assess barriers to the influenza vaccine in the Hispanic community.

Methodology

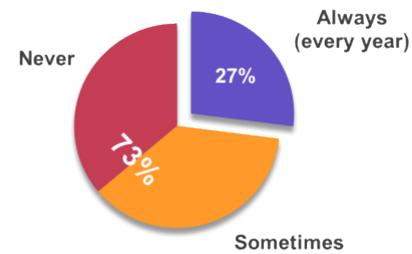
- From October to December 2017, in the context of the Binational Health Week, we surveyed 378 persons in the waiting rooms of seven Latin American Consulates in Miami: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.
- The survey intended to analyze **Perception**, **Knowledge**, and **Acceptance** of influenza and influenza vaccine.
- Educational material was distributed after participants completed the survey.

Results

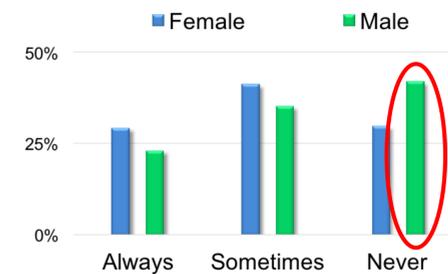
	Argentina	Colombia	Ecuador	Guatemala	Mexico	Peru	Uruguay	Total
Number of Surveys	49	71	42	54	71	70	21	378
Mean age	49.3	45.12	44.21	33.3	38.18	48.09	46.76	43.06
Gender								
Females	24 (51.1%)	40 (56.3%)	25 (59.5%)	23 (44.2%)	33 (52.4%)	36 (61.0%)	12 (57.1%)	193 (54.4%)
Males	22 (46.8%)	29 (40.8%)	15 (35.7%)	29 (55.8%)	29 (46.0%)	19 (32.2%)	8 (38.1%)	151 (42.5%)
Health insurance								
Yes	41 (85.4%)	54 (78.3%)	30 (73.2%)	10 (19.2%)	34 (50.7%)	49 (72.1%)	11 (52.4%)	229 (62.6%)
No	7 (14.6%)	15 (21.7%)	11 (26.8%)	42 (80.8%)	33 (49.3%)	19 (27.9%)	10 (47.6%)	137 (37.4%)
Education								
Incomplete high school	2 (4.1%)	5 (7.0%)	1 (2.4%)	19 (38.0%)	7 (10.9%)	4 (5.9%)	0 (0%)	38 (10.4%)
Complete high school	14 (28.6%)	14 (19.7%)	13 (31.0%)	17 (34.0%)	32 (50%)	12 (17.6%)	9 (45%)	111 (30.5%)
Incomplete college	11 (22.4%)	15 (21.1%)	13 (31.0%)	7 (14.0%)	10 (15.6%)	23 (33.8%)	4 (20%)	83 (22.8%)
Complete college	22 (44.9%)	37 (52.1%)	15 (35.7%)	7 (14.0%)	15 (23.4%)	29 (42.6%)	7 (35%)	132 (36.3%)

Results

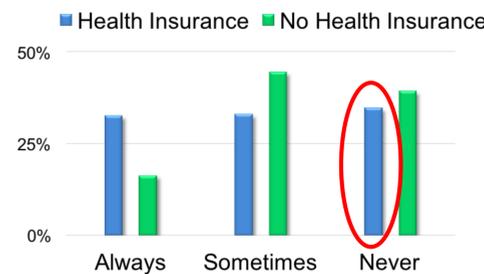
Do participants receive the Influenza vaccine?



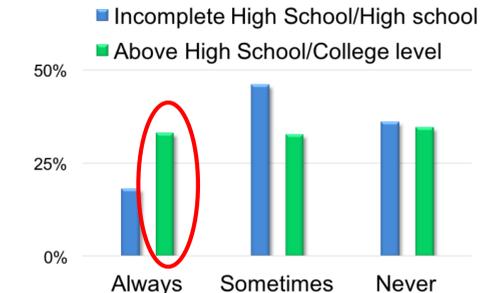
Shown by gender



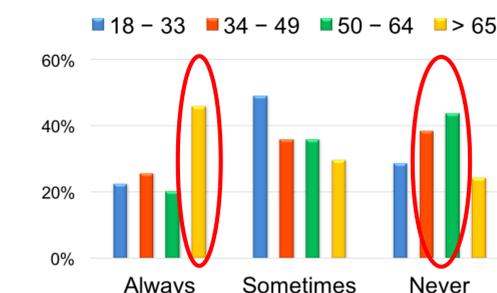
Shown by Health Insurance access



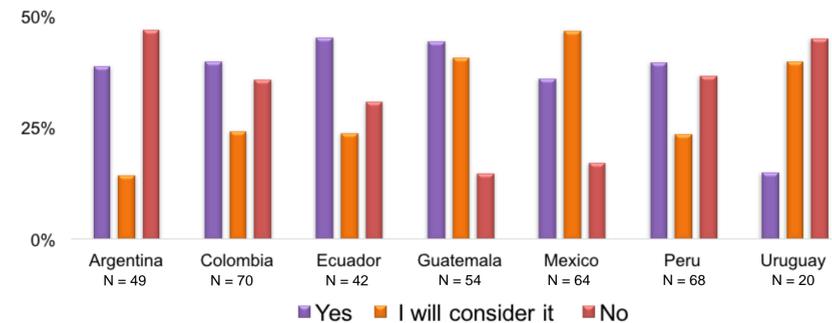
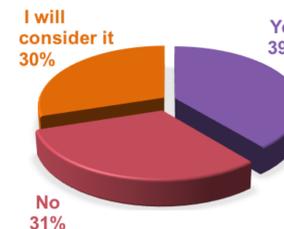
Shown by education level



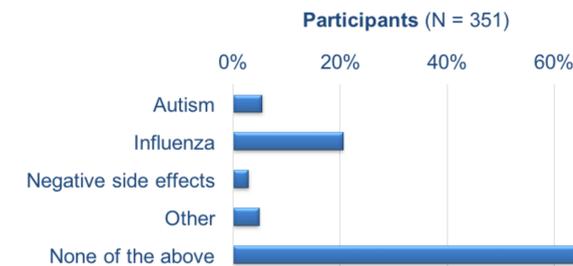
Shown by age range



Are participants going to receive the Influenza vaccine this season?



What do participants think the vaccine may cause?

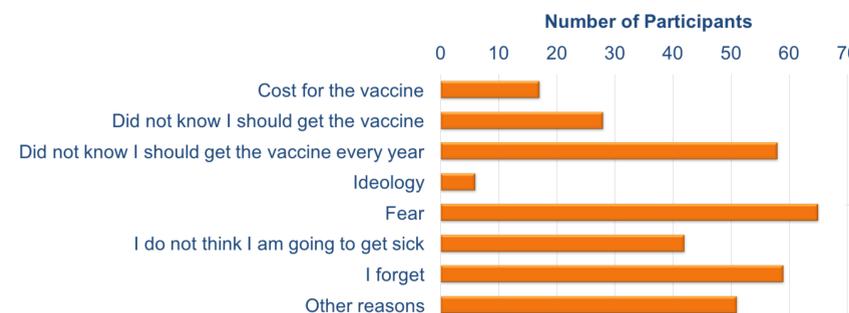


Conclusions

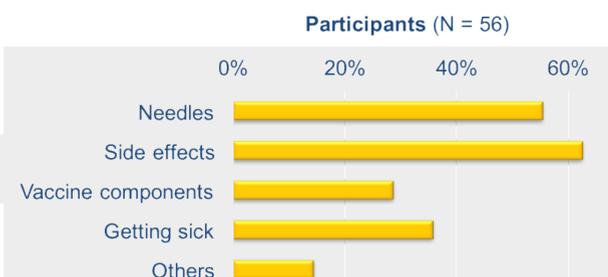
- Only 27 % of respondents receive the influenza vaccine annually.
- More females than males receive the vaccine.
- 35% of participants that have Health Insurance coverage do not vaccinate.
- More participants with higher education levels receive the vaccine every year compared to those with lower education levels.
- Participants 65 & younger are less inclined to receive the vaccine.
- Even though many participants think there are no adverse effects for influenza vaccination, a significant number of respondents believe that influenza vaccine can cause autism or make them sick.
- Fears and lack of knowledge are the major barriers to vaccination.
- Among the participants, side effects and needles are the most common fears.
- 60% of participants indicated that they will consider or they will not receive the vaccine this season. We need to improve educational strategies in order to enhance the immunization rate in the Hispanic community.

Reasons why participants said they did not receive the influenza vaccine annually

(among 273 participants that previously answered they never received the vaccine or received it sometimes)



Type of fears indicated by participants



Limitations

- ✓ Convenience sampling.
- ✓ Dependent upon respondents.
- ✓ Question design.
- ✓ Statistical analysis is pending.