IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE, IN CHILDREN 12 YEARS OLD, IN WESTERN GREECE 4 YEARS EXPERIENCE

I. Giannakopoulos¹, I. Christopoulou¹, S. Fouzas¹, G. Paraskevopoulos², S. Tsironis³, I. Anastasopoulos², G. Dimitriou¹

¹University Hospital of Patras, Paediatrics, Patras, Greece

²Administration of Primary Education, Achaia, Patras, Greece

³District General Hospital "St. Andrew", Physiotherapy, Patras, Greece

Background

Immunization coverage in children in Greece has achieved high levels during the previous years. However, recent poor economic situations in the country may have influenced children's admissions to pediatric surgeries, especially for preventive medicine.

The aim of this study was to investigate the immunization coverage in school-aged children of Patras (Western Greece).

Methods:

There were randomly selected 41 from 87 public primary schools in Patras, all in urban areas. All children who were born between 2003 and 2004, and whose parents gave consent, were included in the study. Immunization data were collected through the National pediatric vaccination cards. The sampling took place between September 2015 and December 2017.

Results

There were 1350 subjects enrolled in the study. The mean age was 12 years and 46.5% were boys. Children were fully vaccinated against Hepatitis B (98.9%), Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Pertussis and *Haemophilus Influenzae* (98.3%). Additionally, they were fully vaccinated against Measles, Mumps, Rubella (98.4%), Varicella (82.4%), Hepatitis A (84.7%) and *Meningitidococcus* type C (97.1%). The vaccination coverage was low for *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* (55.2%), *Mycobacterium* (BCG, 24%) and *Meningitidococcus* type B (3.6%).

sex of the participants

Number of children vaccinated

<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Number of children vaccinated</u>	<u>Vaccination coverage (%)</u>
Measles,Mumps, Rubella	1328	98,4
HBV	1335	98,9
Poliomyelitis	1327	98,3
Diphtheria	1327	98,3
Pertussis	1327	98,3
Haemophilus Influeanzae	1327	98,3
Meningitidococcus type C	1311	97,1
HAV	1143	84,7
VZV	1112	82,4
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	745	55,2
Mycobacterium	324	24
Meningitidococcus type B	49	3,6

Conclusions:

Immunization coverage in children (12 years old) in Patras remained in high levels. A lower vaccination coverage was observed against *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*. Greek children were almost not vaccinated against *Mycobacterium* and *Meningitidococcus* type B. The reasons of this low vaccination coverage should be explored. We should mention that the Meningitis B vaccine is not yet included in the National Vaccination Program. There is a need for a national strategy plan in order to increase vaccination, especially against *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*, *Mycobacterium* and *Meningitidococcus* (type B).

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