



Abstract of parallel session: 3

Title: Evaluation of the school vaccination programs in Switzerland, 2005-2016
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Abstract

Introduction

This study evaluates the different school vaccination programs in Switzerland at the cantonal level between 2005-16.

Methods

A questionnaire was sent to responsible persons involved in the 26 cantonal vaccination programs. The Internet and personal contacts were used to supplement missing information.

Results

All 26 cantons completed the questionnaire, with information from the Health Departments and personal contacts supplementing missing information. All 26 cantons had some sort of system to assess the vaccination status of their school children. 6 cantons did not provide any type of vaccination in the school. While the other 20 cantons did provide vaccination programs, there was not a single vaccination that was recommended in all cantons: vaccines against DT / DTP, polio, MMR and HPV were offered in 18, vaccines against HB in 19, varicella in 9, TBE in 3 and meningococcal disease in 1 canton. 7 cantons employed full-time and 20 cantons part-time school doctors to check the vaccination cards, while the numbers were 7 and 17 for providing vaccinations. 5 of 6 French-speaking cantons employed school or Lungenliga (LL) nurses to check vaccination cards compared to only 4 out of 19 German-speaking cantons. All 9 cantons that had school/LL nurses provided vaccinations in the school. Canton TI employed neither school doctors nor school nurses - the children were sent directly to their general practitioner/pediatrician for check-up. 4 cantons had intentions to make changes to their programs in the future while 7 cantons had changed their school vaccination policy during the study period, not including the introduction of HPV and HB vaccinations.

Conclusions

There are 26 different school vaccination policies in Switzerland. Having a cantonal school vaccination program allows adopting policies that meet their individual needs. However, more uniform vaccination programs would allow for better coordination and implementation of national public health strategies.