

COMPULSORY VACCINATION WORKS: UPDATE ON MEASLES AND POLIO VACCINE COVERAGE IN THE HEALTH DISTRICTS 1 AND 2 OF AULSS 9, VERONA, ITALY

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Introduction: The n.119 national law dated Jul' 31st 2017 concerning urgent measures on vaccine prevention, infectious disease and controversies about drug administration was drawn with the aim of reaching and maintaining the vaccine coverage threshold up to 95% as recommended by WHO to guarantee herd immunity and furthermore assuring the adequate safety conditions related to highly contagious, potentially epidemic infectious disease.

Methods: Our service analysed data from the computerized vaccine registry of the Regione Veneto and compared the Jun 1st 2017 vaccine coverage with the one of Jun' 1st 2018, focusing on the third dose of polio vaccine and the first of measles vaccine of the 2014 birth cohort in the 1 and 2 health districts.

Results: Vaccine coverage for the third dose of polio vaccine and the first dose of measles vaccine increased significantly, according to data concerning the 2014 cohort: as a matter of fact, the vaccine coverage of the above-mentioned cohort were respectively 93,3% and 91,1% according to Jun' 1st 2017 data. The very same readings recorded on June 1st 2018 showed a 2.1% increase for the third dose of polio vaccine, reaching 95.4% coverage, and a 4.1% increase for the first dose of measles vaccine, raising the coverage percentage up to 95.2%.

Conclusions: At almost a year after the national law regarding the compulsory vaccination for educational services came into force, a positive trend in the vaccine coverage has been recorded after 24 and 36 months. In particular, in the health districts 1 and 2 of AULSS 9, the vaccine coverage for the third dose of polio vaccine and for the first dose of measles vaccine has reached the 95%. Besides, 24.2% of the people who had not completed the polio vaccination course are in any case undergoing the vaccine iter required by the obligation, since they have already been given the second dose of polio vaccine.

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