Influenza is an important public health problem, with potential severe consequences among people with chronic diseases. The aim of this study was to obtain reliable measures of seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in this population, otherwise not available in Italy.

Methods

- Progressi delle Aziende Sanitarie per la Salute in Italia (PASSI) is a nationwide surveillance system of health-related behaviours and acceptance of preventive interventions (including influenza immunization) offered by the Italian National Health Service.
- Data are collected with telephone interviews at local health unit level for supporting local activities.
- The trend of annual vaccine coverage since 2008 was estimated for people aged 18–64 years who reported having at least one chronic disease.
- To obtain a sufficient sample size in subgroups, were analysed the PASSI regional and corporate coordinators

Findings

- In 2008–13, 13.659 individuals with at least one chronic disease were interviewed.
- Vaccination coverage fell significantly from 29.7% CI95%(27.2-32.4) in 2007-08 to 19.9% CI95%(18.0-22.1) in 2012–13.

Influenza vaccination uptake in people with chronic diseases: data from Progressi delle Aziende Sanitarie per la Salute in Italia (PASSI)

PASSI... at a glance

- Monitoring the state of health, behavioural risk factors and dissemination of interventions for health promotion in the population of 18-69 years
- Activated in 2007 at the request of the Ministry of Health and the Regions
- National, regional and / or LHU representativeness
- Ongoing telephone survey with standardized questionnaire and trained interviewers
- Random sample collected from the health registry in proportion to the composition by sex and age group (18-34, 34-49, 50-69 years) of the resident population
- Response rate: 87%
- Refusal rate : 9%

Interpretation

- In the past few years, prevalence of influenza vaccination in Italian adults with at least one chronic disease was well below the Ministry of Health’s goal (75% minimum) and showed a downward trend.
- A major reason of this evolution is probably the changing in public perception of the benefits and risks of vaccines.
- PASSI is a source of useful data not otherwise available for public health intervention