

Vaccination coverage in Lithuania

Preventive vaccination of children and adults is one of the health care areas which are funded from the state budget around the world regardless of the level of economic development¹.

According to the National Immunization Schedule for Children, children are vaccinated free of charge against eleven infections, such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and pneumococcal infection.

According to the World Health Organisation, at least 90-95% coverage in population belonging to defined target groups is needed for effective disease control in the country and its regions⁵. Vaccination in accordance with National Immunization Schedule for Children until the year 2009 allowed to reach a rather high coverage (94-99% vaccinated in different age groups). However, during the period of 2009 - 2012 a significant decline in vaccination for all positions was observed. Vaccination coverage in 2013 compared to 2012, increased. Vaccination coverage in Lithuanian counties in 2016 was similar to coverage in 2015.

While conducting vaccination for children under the Lithuanian preventive vaccination schedule, the majority of the counties reported higher than 90 % vaccination coverage. In 2016, vaccination coverage against tuberculosis (BCG) (for newborns) was 97.7%, hepatitis B (for newborns) - 97.1%, diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B infection vaccine, inactivated polio vaccine (for 1 year of age) - 94.1 %; against measles, mumps and rubella (2 years of age) - 93.7 %.

In 2016, 73 adverse reactions to vaccines were reported in the country compared to 65 cases in 2014.

¹ Approved by Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania in 3rd of January 2014 Order No V-8 "On Approval of the National Immunisation Programme 2014-2018" (TAR, No. 61, 2014).