

Há saúde na Farmácia.

Public Health Challenges and the Role of Community Pharmacies in the 2023/2024 Seasonal Vaccination Campaign



Public Health Challenges

Evaluating the impact of the participation of pharmacies in the 2023/24 vaccination campaign

A study promoted by the National Association of Pharmacies (ANF) and conducted by the Centre for Studies and Evaluation in Health (CEFAR) to understand the population eligible for free seasonal vaccination in pharmacies in collaboration with the Portuguese NHS, evaluating the impact of extending the participation of community pharmacies in the 2023/24 vaccination campaign and generating evidence for the preparation of future seasonal vaccination campaigns.

SEASON VACCINATION CAMPAING IN NUMBERS



3.125.928

Vaccines

administered:

1.740.961 Flu

1.375.967 COVID-19

**7 OUT OF 10
VACCINES**

administered in
pharmacies



2.488 pharmacies

(88.8% of pharmacies in mainland Portugal) / 278 municipalities (98.6%)¹

+ 7.000 Pharmacists

with competency on administering vaccines and injectable medicines²

+ 65 weekly hours

of Vaccination Capacity Provided by Pharmacies



3.500

Vaccination locations

+400%

Increase in the number of locations available for vaccination compared to 2022/23

VACCINATION COVERAGE



FLU

≥65 years: 72,1% (2023/24)
vs 72,2% (2022/23)

≥ 60 years: 66,2% (2023/24)
vs 62,1% (2022/23)



COVID-19

≥65 years: 60,8% (2023/24)
vs 75,8% (2022/23)

≥60 years: 56,1% (2023/24)
vs 72,4% (2022/23) but superior to the average of the EU (12%)³

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VACCINATION CLOSER TO PEOPLE



Reduction in the average distance between the population and the nearest vaccination point⁴

Without pharmacies: 2,4 Km
With pharmacies: 1,2 Km **(50% Less)**



Increase in the average number of vaccination locations per municipality due to the extension to pharmacies:

Without pharmacies: 3 (sd=4,4)
With pharmacies: 12 (sd=20,5) **(4x higher)**



Greater impact on reducing the average distance in municipalities:

Population density below average (-2.3 km) vs. above average (-0,9 Km)

Purchasing power index below average (-1.4 km) versus above average (-0,9 Km)

Aging index above average (-1.7 km) versus below average (0,9 Km)



Reduction in total CO₂

emissions to 739 tons (-41%), equivalent to the CO₂ emissions generated by over 1,100 round-trip flights from Lisbon to Brussels.⁶

Reduction in the distance to vaccination points had a positive impact on influenza coverage in the population aged ≥65 years

In the municipalities where the populations saw the greatest reductions in distances, vaccination coverage varied by around 8% higher than in those that did not practically reduce distances.

	Impact on Distance Reduction	Impact on Coverage*
10% of municipalities (n=28) with the most significant percentage reductions in distance	>66,5%	+ 1,3 pp
10% of municipalities (n=28) with the most minor reductions in distance	<12,5%	- 4,5 pp

*Data from DGS, March 31st 2024.



Savings for users
~€2.4 million saved on travel⁵

Public Health Challenges

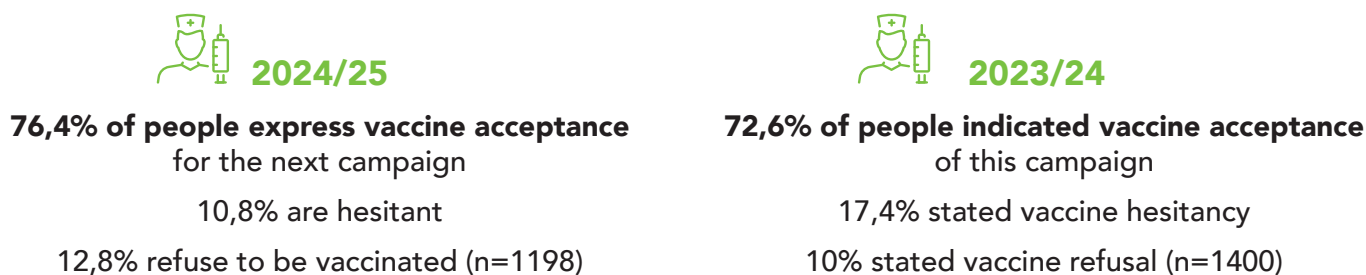
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IMPACT ON NHS HEALTHCARE ACTIVITY

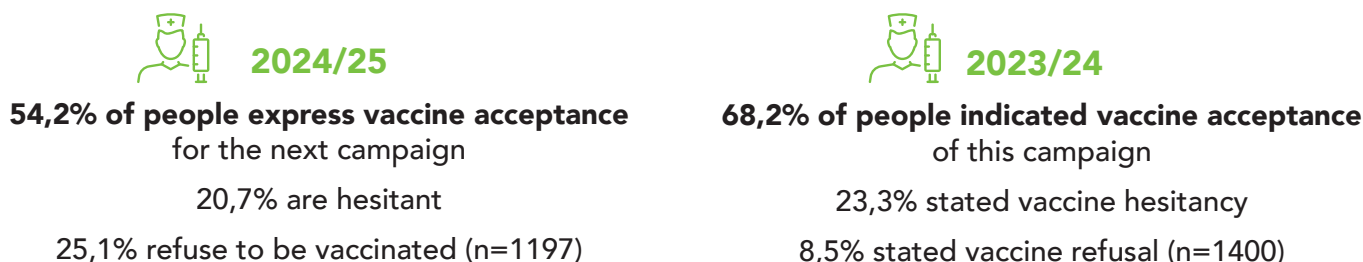


TREND IN VACCINATION INTENTION IN THE SEASONAL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

FLU (POP ≥60):



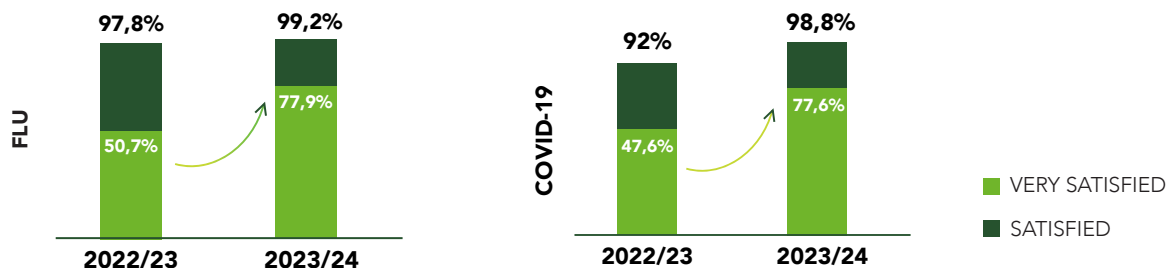
COVID-19 (POP ≥60):



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THE PUBLIC IS EVEN MORE SATISFIED WITH THE VACCINATION EXPERIENCE DURING THE 2023/24 SEASON



5-level Likert scale (not at all satisfied to very satisfied)

94.8% of respondents aged 60 and over agree with the administration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines in pharmacies.



CONCLUSIONS

The public policy of extending the Seasonal Vaccination Campaign to community pharmacies reduced access barriers, improved people's satisfaction, generated savings for people and had a positive impact on the NHS's care activity, contributing positively to the vaccination coverage of the population aged 60 and over in mainland Portugal.

Despite the positive results achieved, it is essential to involve all stakeholders in reducing vaccination barriers and increasing vaccination coverage in the eligible population.

REFERENCES:

¹ ANF Data/ SPMS Vaccination.

² Ordem dos Farmacêuticos. Farmacêuticos com competência em administração de vacinas e medicamentos injetáveis. 2024

³ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. (2024). Interim COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the EU/EEA during the 2023–24 season campaigns.

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS:

A telephone survey (CATI methodology) developed by the Centre for Studies and Evaluation in Health (CEFAR) and carried out by the company Spirituc-Applied Research to a random sample of a representative panel of the Portuguese population aged 60 or over residing in mainland Portugal. The survey was applied to the same people at two different times: first, before the start of the vaccination season (22-29 September 2023) and second, after a period of significant reduction in vaccination (25 January and 7 February 2024). 1400 valid responses were obtained to the first survey and 1200 to the second survey (margin of error $\pm 3\%$, CI95%). The surveyed population had an average age of 70.6 years (sd=7.7), was predominantly female (51.2%), 60.1% in the old 4th grade or less, 86.5% lived with someone else and almost half (45.8%) reported living with at least one risk pathology eligible for vaccination (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease or chronic kidney disease)..

⁴ Average distance in kilometers (kms) of the population residing in mainland Portugal, by municipality, to the nearest official vaccination point. The calculation was based on geographic information sources relating to population density per km² in Europe and the geographical delimitation of the territory at the municipality level for mainland Portugal. All calculations, which used geographical coding, were based on the reference coordinate system of longitude and latitude (GPS), in the WGS84 coordinate system.

⁵ Estimated based on self-reported costs in the population survey (including public transport, car and taxi).

⁶ <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

⁷ Average administration/co-administration time for vaccines: 10 minutes/12 minutes; number of USF and UCSP = 936 (Source: BI-CSP Portal); estimated total number of nurses in USF/UCSP = 6,517 (Source: ERS 2024).