Citation

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The current flu report 2023/24: "Project: Flu Protection"

Influenza incidence and mortality in the EU

In order to gain a better understanding of influenza and influenza protection in Germany, the 'Project: Influenza Protection' publishes an annual evaluation of the completed influenza season with current reports (2023/24). The 'Project: Flu Protection' is an initiative by medical experts with the aim of improving flu protection by immunising people in Germany against the flu. It is curated by three experts in infection protection, accompanied by the Berlin agency KREAB and financially supported by CSL Seqirus, which claims to be the world's largest manufacturer of influenza vaccines.

>> Although influenza - as can be read in the current flu report (1) - is repeatedly and erroneously regarded as rather harmless in large parts of the population, the combination of a high incidence with a relatively high mortality rate has led the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to classify influenza as the infectious disease with the highest disease burden in the EU for the period from 2009 to 2013. However, this period does not yet include Covid-19 infections. The WHO has defined a vaccination rate target of 75% for older people and other vulnerable groups. With only 43.3% of over-60s vaccinated in the 2021/2022 season, according to the flu report, Germany has so far fallen well short of this target and is therefore lagging far behind in European and international comparison. The 'Project: Flu Protection' sees successful vaccination prevention as an important key to greater population protection and less economic damage to society.

In addition to timely analyses and interpretations of previous flu seasons, the 'Project: Flu Protection' aims to help increase the scope for action in health policy and enable improved preparation for the next season. Based on the analysed data, the report also contains concrete proposals for policymakers and other relevant target groups on how to improve flu protection for the following seasons. <<

by: MVF Editor-in-Chief Peter Stegmaier

1: You can find the full report here: https://www.projektgrippeschutz.de

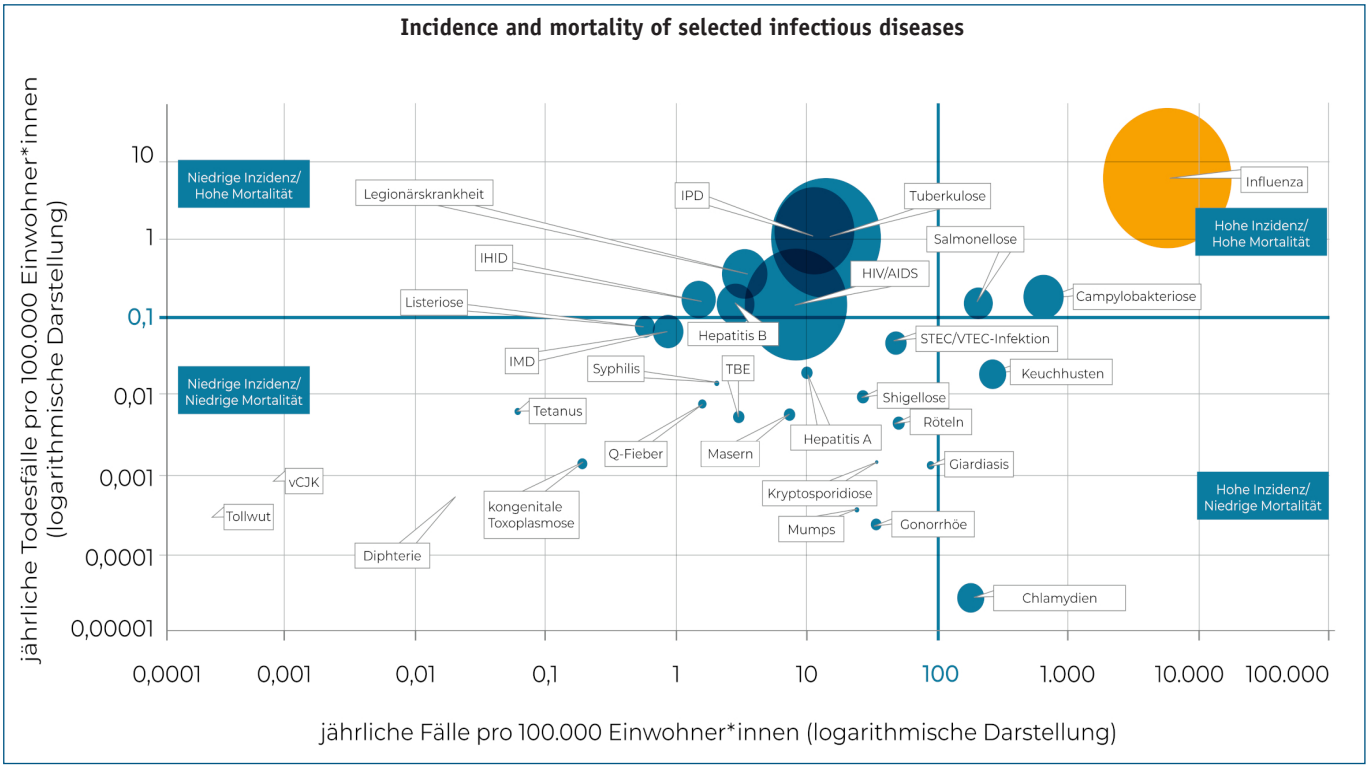


Fig. 1: *Bubble chart of the burden of selected infectious diseases in terms of incidence and mortality (EU/EEA countries, 2009-2013). The size of the circles reflects the number of healthy life years lost due to the disease per 100,000 people per year (DALY) and is therefore a measure of the burden of this disease on the population. Legend: vCJD = variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; DALY = disability-adjusted life years; IMD = meningococci; IPD = pneumococci; TBE = TBE; STEC/VTEC = Shiga- or Verotoxin-producing Escherichia coli; IHID = Invasive Haemophilusinfluenzae disease. Source: Flu report for the 2023/24 season, prepared by the Flu Protection Project, 1 July 2024.*