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Decreasing HBV vaccination coverage in newborns in Poland

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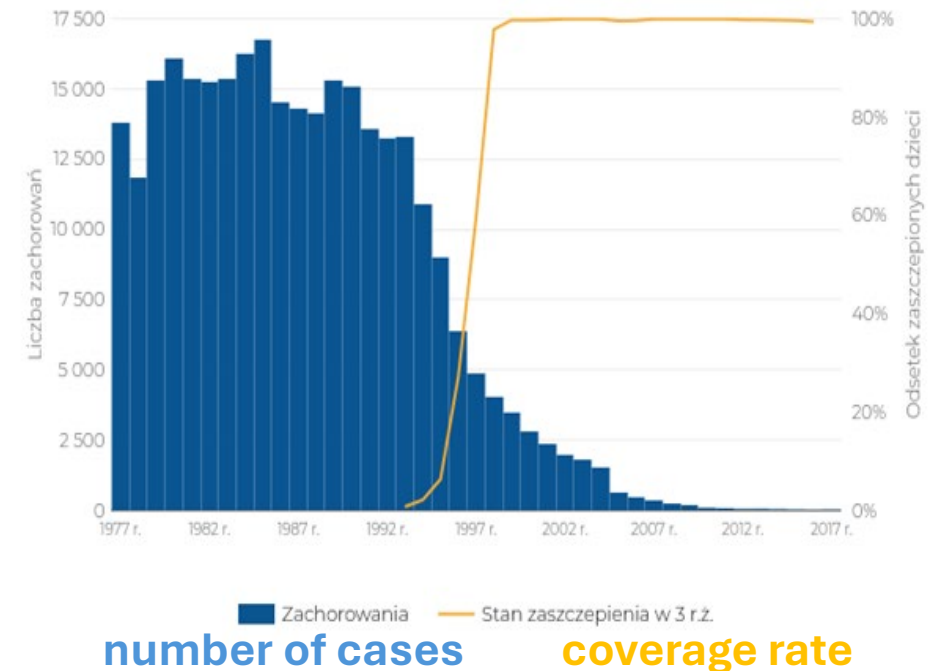
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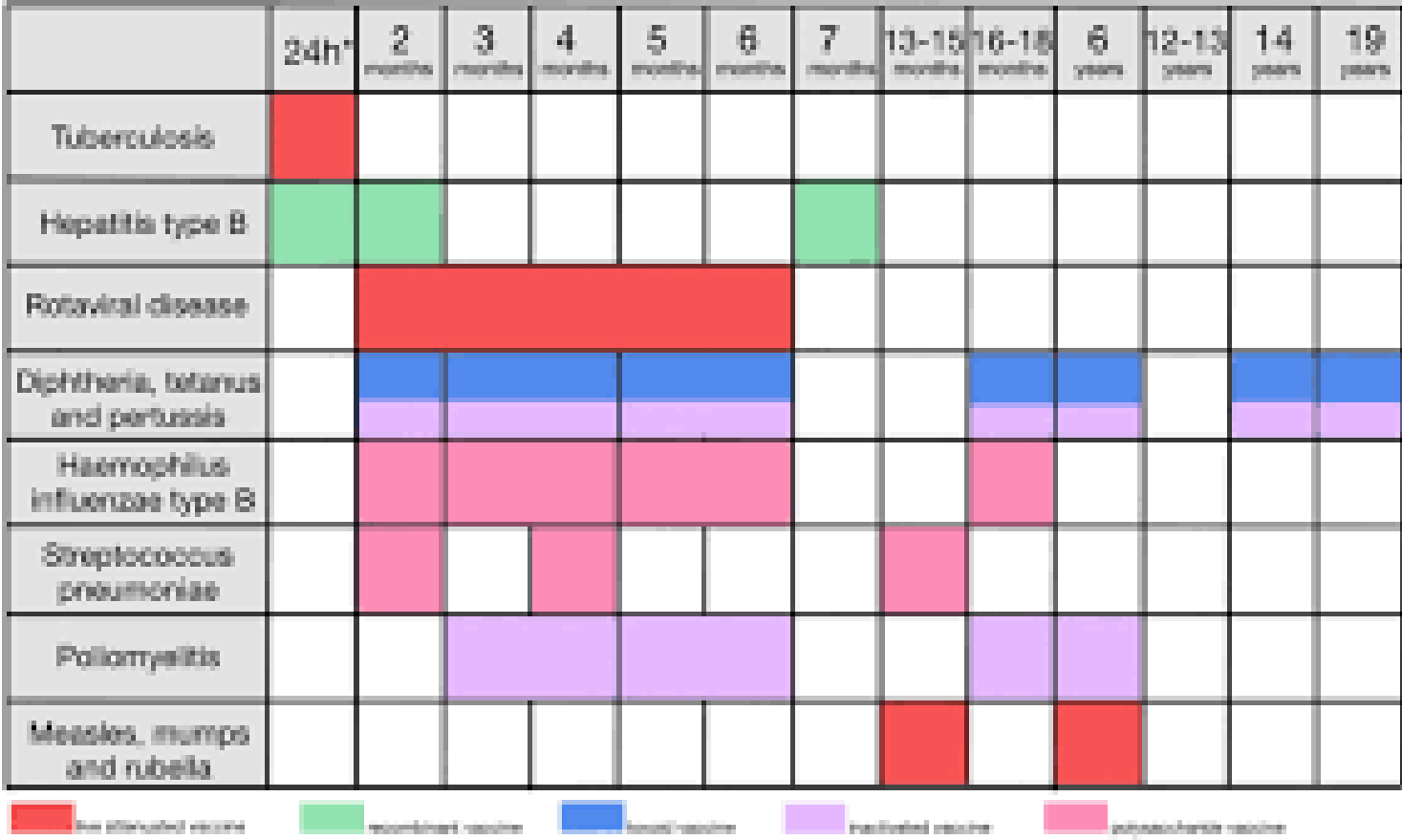
Poland

Hepatitis B incidence and hepatitis B vaccination coverage rates in Poland

- Before hepatitis B vaccination began in Poland, i.e. up to 1989, the incidence of hepatitis B varied between about 35 per 100,000 and earlier 45 per 100,000.
- The programme of control of HBV in Poland consisted of two sub-programmes:
 - improvements in aseptic conditions;
 - improvements in vaccination.
- From 1989 until 1993, vaccination was performed on a small scale, targeting children and infants born to HBV-infected mothers, health workers and medical students.
- During this period, the incidence declined slowly but steadily to reach just over 30 per 100,000 by 1993.
- After the intensive vaccination programme for all newborns started in 1996, the incidence of hepatitis B decreased rapidly.

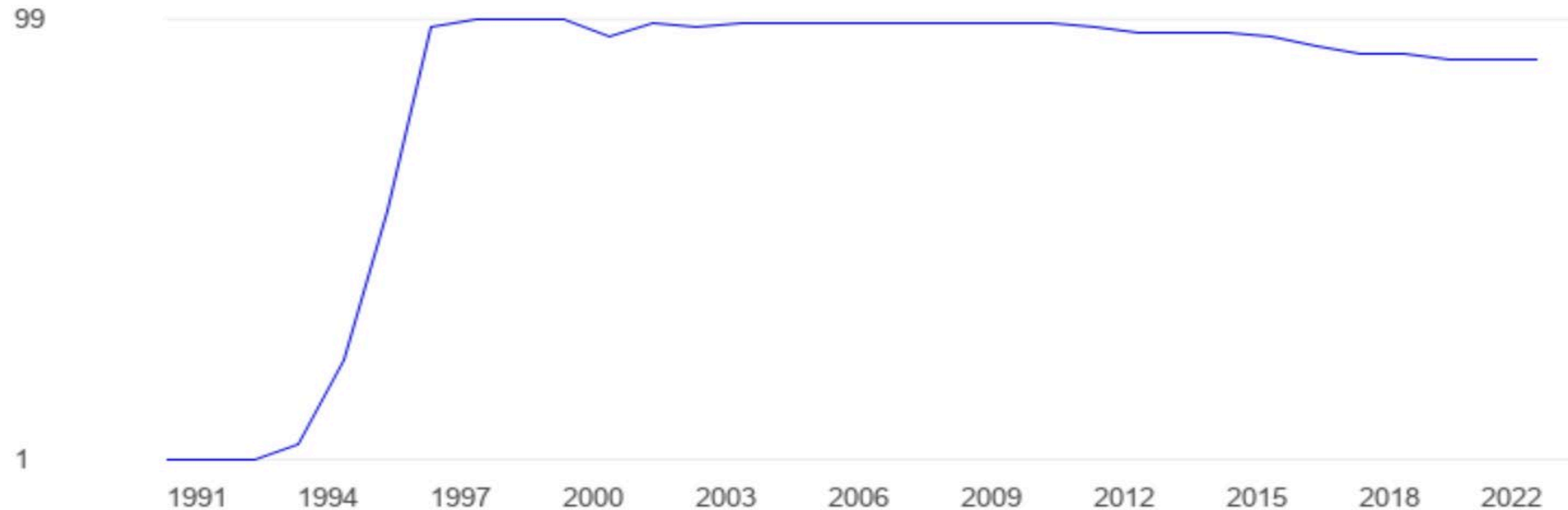


Hepatitis B vaccination in Polish Immunization programme



Proportion of the one-year-old children vaccinated against hepatitis B in Poland (1991-2022)

Historical series



Child immunization rate, hepatitis B is the percentage of children ages 12-23 months who received hepatitis B vaccinations before 12 months or at any time before the survey. A child is considered adequately immunized after three doses.

https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Poland/hepatitis_B_immunization_rate/



Decreasing Vaccination Coverage Against Hepatitis B and Tuberculosis in Newborns

Aneta Nitsch-Osuch, Beata Pawlus, Maria Pawlak, and Ernest Kuchar

Abstract

The number of parents who refuse to vaccinate their children or present the so-called hesitant behavior, i.e., delay the moment of vaccination beyond the mandatory time, has increased in many developed countries. The purpose of this retrospective study was to evaluate the completeness and timeliness of vaccinations against hepatitis B (HBV) and tuberculosis (TB) in neonates in a single maternity hospital in Warsaw, Poland. We reviewed medical files of 14,785 children born in the hospital in 2015–2017 and calculated the proportion of newborns not vaccinated on time according to the Polish Immunization schedule that includes vaccination against HBV and TB in the first day of life. Newborns remained unvaccinated

because of parental refusal (refusers) or decision for a delay (hesitants), or medical contraindications. The percentage of unvaccinated newborns in the 3 years was as follows: 7.3% in 2015, 6.7% in 2016, and 10.1% in 2017. Parental decisions rather than medical contraindications caused nonvaccination (4.4% vs. 2.9% in 2015, 4.7% vs. 2.0% in 2016, and 7.5% vs. 2.6% in 2017). The majority of refusals concerned both vaccinations (67.3% in 2015, 74.8% in 2016, and 68% in 2017). Among parents who refused only one vaccination, TB vaccination was refused more often than HBV (9.2% vs. 7.1% in 2015, 8.3% vs. 5.7% in 2016, and 5.9% vs. 2.7% in 2017). Similar trends were observed among the hesitant. In conclusion, it seems essential to implement effective educational and informative activities targeted to parents to reinforce positive attitudes toward vaccinations.

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We reviewed medical files of 14,785 children born in the hospital in 2015–2017 and calculated the proportion of newborns not vaccinated on time according to the Polish Immunization schedule that includes vaccination against HBV and TB.

Increasing trend of unvaccinated newborns

Table 5 Hepatitis B and tuberculosis vaccinations coverage in neonates in a single hospital in 2015–2017

Year	Neonates	Untimely vaccinations		Unvaccinated against both HVB and TB		Unvaccinated against TB		Unvaccinated against HVB	
		PD	MC	PD	MC	PD	MC	PD	MC
2017	5,440 (100%)	547 (10.1%)		362 (6.7%)		169 (3.1%)		16 (0.3%)	
		408 (7.5%)	139 (2.6%)	360 (6.6%)	2 (0.1%)	32 (0.6%)	137 (2.5%)	16 (0.3%)	0
2016	5,154 (100%)	345 (6.7%)		200 (3.9%)		128 (2.5%)		17 (0.3%)	
		242 (4.7%)	103 (2.0%)	200 (3.9%)	0	25 (0.5%)	103 (1.9%)	17 (0.3%)	0
2015	4,191 (100%)	305 (7.3%)		148 (3.5%)		141 (3.4%)		16 (0.4%)	
		184 (4.4%)	121 (2.9%)	148 (3.5%)	0	20 (0.5%)	121 (2.9%)	16 (0.4%)	0

Data are counts and percentages, *n* (%). *PD* parental decision; *MC* medical contraindications

What happened next years?

In 2021, the vaccination coverage of 1-year-olds (born in 2020) with three doses of the hepatitis B vaccine (HepB3) was 89.3% in Poland (in 2020 for those born in 2019 was 89.7%) and ranged from 85.6% in the Mazowieckie voivodeship to 96.1% in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship (Fig.1).

The vaccination coverage of children born in 2020 with at least two doses in 2021 was 97.2% overall, reaching the highest value of 98.6% in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship, and the lowest 94.8% in the Podlaskie voivodeship.

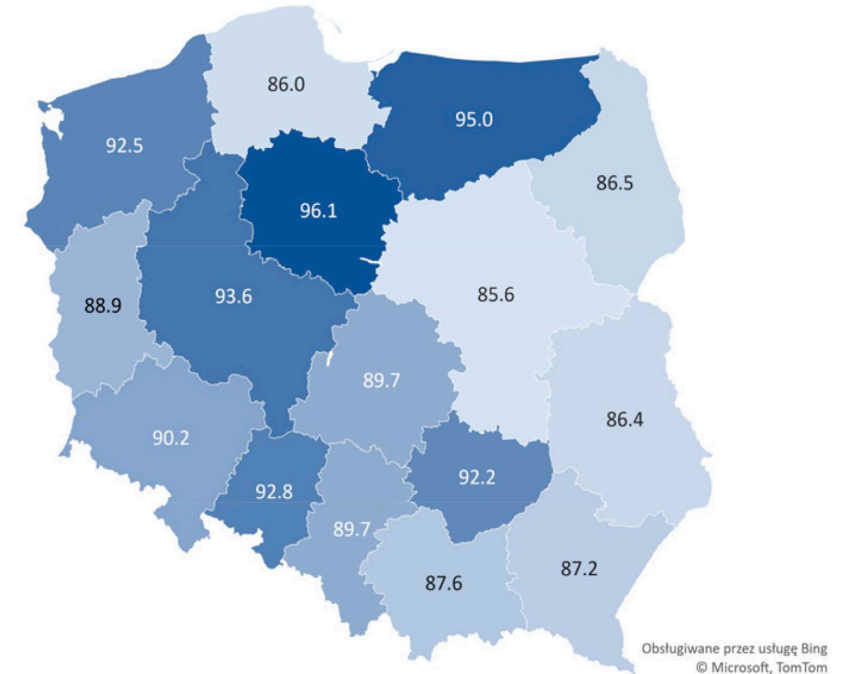
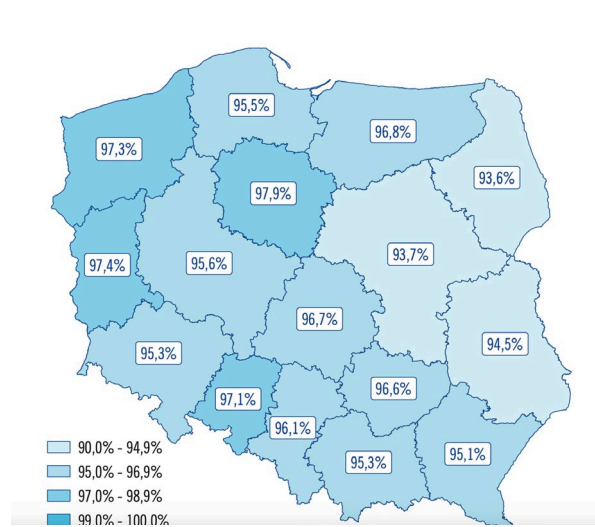


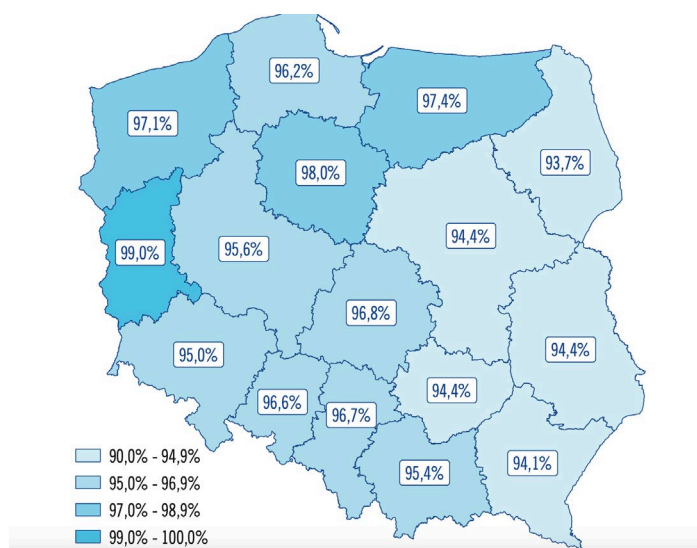
Fig. 1. Hepatitis B (HepB3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%) in 2021 by voivodeship
Ryc. 1. Stan zaszczepienia (%) trzema dawkami rocznika 2020 w roku 2021, według województw

Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Poland had a lower impact on screening among pregnant women and vaccinations of newborns.

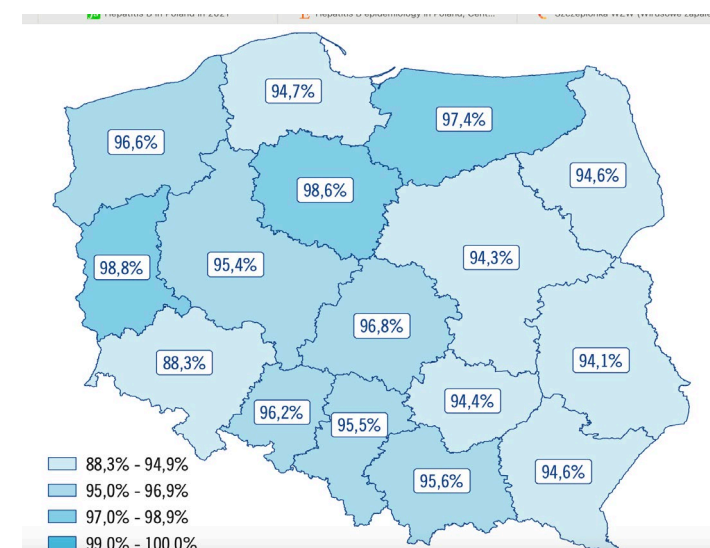
Hepatitis B vaccination rates in Poland – 2 years old children



2021



2022



2023

24 February 2022

– Russian aggression on Ukraine

- Ukrainian citizens are the most numerous migrant group in Poland and has been steadily increasing over the last decade.
- Before February 2022, the number of Ukrainian citizens living in Poland was estimated at around 1.1–1.2 million (*Duszczuk et al., 2023*).
- In the months following the Russian invasion, around 2 million people from Ukraine sought protection in Poland (*Bloch et al., 2023*).
- The group mainly included - women and children, as men between the ages of 18 and 60 were forbidden to leave.



More hospitalizations of Ukrainian women (pregnancy, childbirth)

Article

Hospitalizations of Ukrainian Migrants and Refugees in Poland in the Time of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

Katarzyna Lewtak ¹, Krzysztof Kanecki ^{1,*}, Piotr Tyszko ^{1,2}, Paweł Goryński ³, Irena Kosińska ¹, Anna Poznańska ³, Michał Rząd ¹ and Aneta Nitsch-Osuch ¹

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RESEARCH

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Ukrainian migrants' and war refugees' admissions to hospital: evidence from the Polish Nationwide General Hospital Morbidity Study, 2014–2022

Katarzyna Lewtak ^{1,2*}, Anna Poznańska ³, Krzysztof Kanecki ², Piotr Tyszko ^{2,4}, Paweł Goryński ³, Krzysztof Jankowski ^{2,5} and Aneta Nitsch-Osuch ²

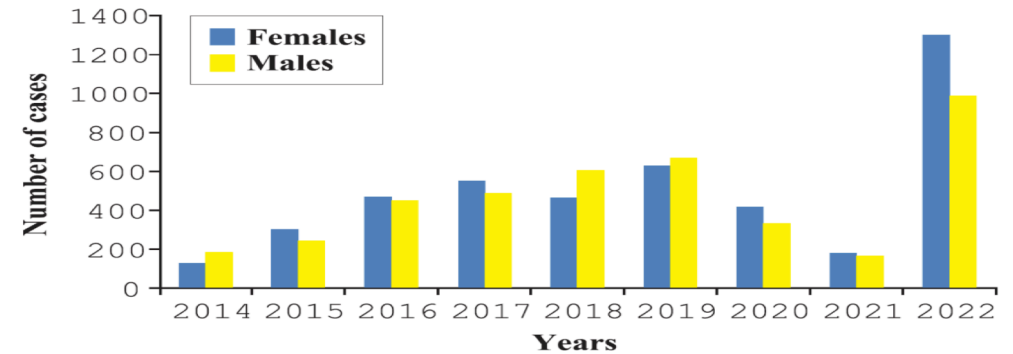


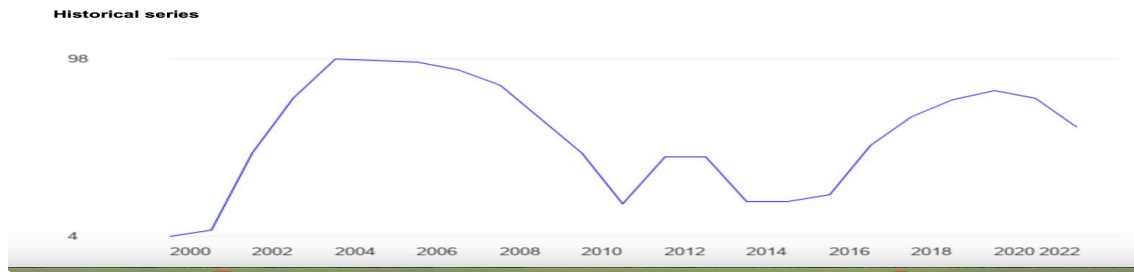
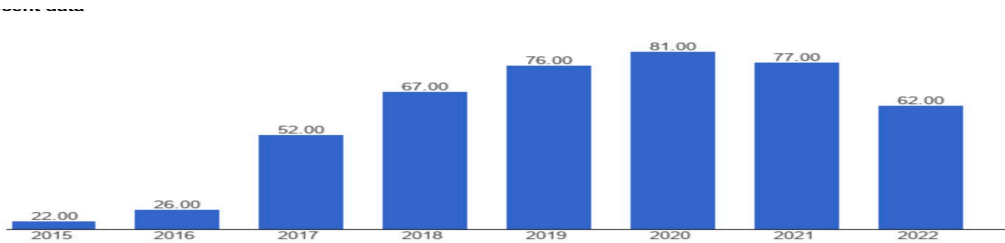
Figure 1. Number of hospitalizations of Ukrainian patients by sex, 2014–2022.

Hospitalization events by ICD-10 chapter among Ukrainian war refugees and migrants (in total) in the period before (01.01.2014–23.02.2022) and after (24.02.2022–31.12.2022) the outbreak of the war

Group of diagnoses (ICD-10 chapters)	01.01.2014–23.02.2022			24.02.2022–31.12.2022			Percentage p change (multiple)	p
	rank	n	% [95% CI]	rank	n	% [95% CI]		
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00–T98)	1	1646	26.1 [25.1–27.2]	4	628	9.3 [8.6–10.0]	↓ 2.8	< 0.001
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00–O99)	2	1159	18.4 [17.5–19.4]	1	1005	14.9 [14.1–15.8]	↓ 1.2	< 0.001

What did we observe in our hospital in 2021 - 2023?

- Increasing proportion of unvaccinated newborns (13-11%).
- 15% of parents of unvaccinated newborns were foreigners.



Hepatitis B vaccination coverage rates in Ukraine – 80%

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Exploring factors that influence vaccination uptake for Ukrainian child migrants and war refugees in Poland: preliminary results from the “Say YES to Vaccination” study

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A – Study Design, B – Data Collection, C – Statistical Analysis, D – Data Interpretation, E – Manuscript Preparation, F – Literature Search, G – Funds Collection



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“We were left to our own devices”: Midwives’ experiences of providing maternity care to Ukrainian women in Poland after the outbreak of the full-scale war in Ukraine

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Thank you for
your attention!

