

Communicable diseases – immunization and treatment of tuberculosis

Immunization in the European Region

Immunization coverage has slightly increased in recent years; however, large disparities remain both between and within countries. Data from 2015 indicate that, at that time, there were still considerable differences in vaccination rates between countries. These trends have persisted over time.

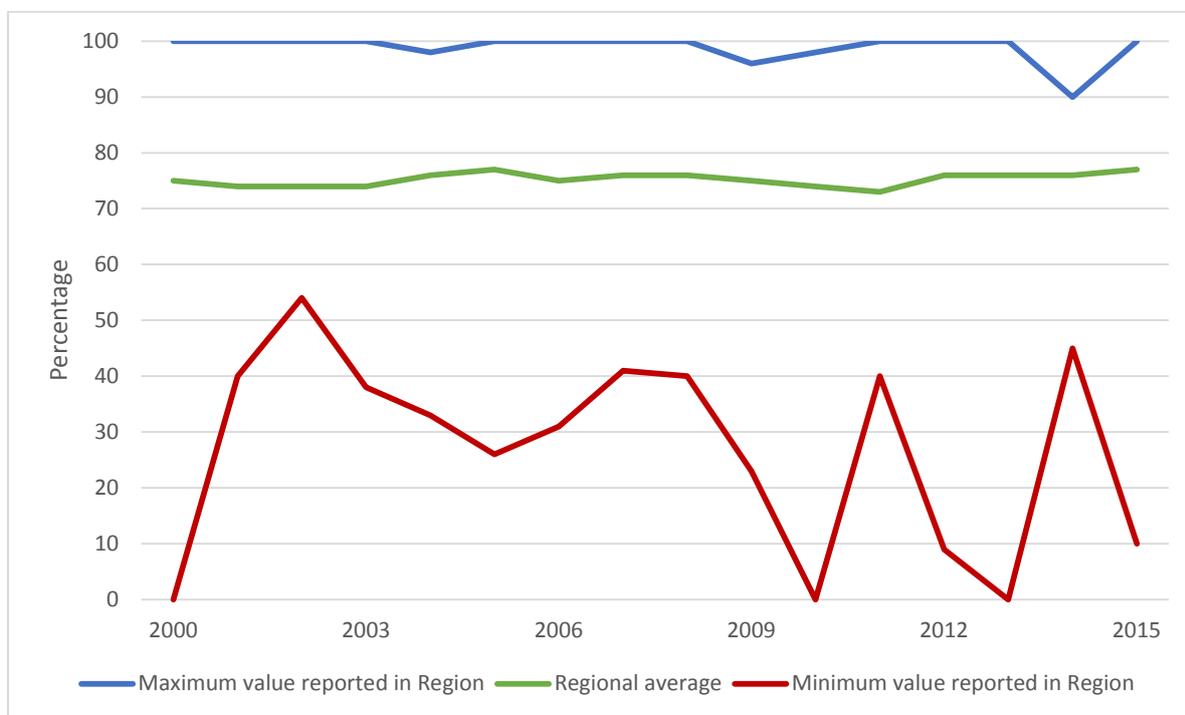
Data available to WHO (but not included in the report) indicate that while immunization coverage with two doses of measles-containing vaccine increased from 88% of eligible children in 2016 to 90% in 2017, some communities reported over 95% coverage, while for others coverage was below 70%. This leaves some communities vulnerable to outbreaks of measles, which is easily preventable using the available safe and effective vaccines but which resurged in 2017 across the Region. However, the most recent data from the Regional Verification Committee for Measles and Rubella Elimination indicate that approximately 80% of European countries have interrupted endemic measles and rubella transmission for more than 12 months.

Countries where both measles and rubella remain endemic (10 for measles and 11 for rubella) are primarily middle-income countries which face significant challenges to the financial and operational sustainability of their immunization programmes. Nonetheless, in order to achieve and maintain the measles and rubella elimination target outlined in the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020, it is essential that all countries, regardless of income, develop context-specific, tailored immunization interventions.

Treating cases of pulmonary tuberculosis

The average treatment success rate for pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) in the European Region has slightly increased over recent years to reach 77% in 2015. However, it still remains one of the lowest in the world. In addition, large differences between countries persist, with treatment success rates ranging from 10% to 100% (where the treatment success rate for pulmonary TB is defined as the proportion of new cases which have been registered under a national TB control programme in a given year and which have successfully completed treatment).

Treatment success rate for new TB cases



Source: WHO Global Health Observatory (GHO) data [website]. Geneva: World Health Organization (<http://www.who.int/gho/en/>, accessed 19 August 2018).

For further information, visit: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/ehr2018>