Estimates of Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Among Children in Senegal: Results From 2 Consecutive Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trials in 2010 and 2011

Mbayame Nd Niang,[1,a] Jonathan D. Sugimoto,[2,3,4,a] Aldiouma Diallo,[5] Bou Diarra,[5] Justin R. Ortiz,[6] Kristen D. C. Lewis,[7] Kathryn E. Lafond,[8] M. Elizabeth Halloran,[2,9] Marc-Alain Widdowson,[2,6,10] Kathleen M. Neuzil,[6,b] and John C. Victor[7,b]

[1]Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Dakar, Senegal, [2]Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington, USA, [3]Seattle Epidemiologic Research and Information Center, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development, Seattle, Washington, USA, [4]Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, [5]VITROME, Institut de Recherche Pour le Développement, Dakar, Senegal, [6]Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, [7]PATH, Seattle, Washington, USA, [8]Influenza Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, [9]Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, and [10]Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

Background. We report results of years 2 and 3 of consecutive cluster-randomized controlled trials of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3) in Senegal.

Methods. We cluster-randomized (1:1) 20 villages to annual vaccination with IIV3 or inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) of age-eligible residents (6 months–10 years). The primary outcome was total vaccine effectiveness against laboratory-confirmed influenza illness (LCI) among age-eligible children (modified intention-to-treat population [mITT]). Secondary outcomes were indirect (herd protection) and population (overall community) vaccine effectiveness.

Results. We vaccinated 74% of 12 408 age-eligible children in year 2 (June 2010–April 11) and 74% of 11 988 age-eligible children in year 3 (April 2011–December 2011) with study vaccines. Annual cumulative incidence of LCI was 4.7 (year 2) and 4.2 (year 3) per 100 mITT child vaccinees of IPV villages. In year 2, IIV3 matched circulating influenza strains. The total effectiveness was 52.8% (95% confidence interval [CI], 32.3–67.0), and the population effectiveness was 36.0% (95% CI, 10.2–54.4) against LCI caused by any influenza strain. The indirect effectiveness against LCI by A/H3N2 was 56.4% (95% CI, 39.0–68.9). In year 3, 74% of influenza detections were vaccine-mismatched to circulating B/Yamagata and 24% were vaccine-matched to circulating A/H3N2. The year 3 total effectiveness against LCI was −14.5% (95% CI, −81.2–27.6). Vaccine effectiveness varied by type/subtype of influenza in both years.

Conclusions. IIV3 was variably effective against influenza illness in Senegalese children, with total and indirect vaccine effectiveness present during the year when all circulating strains matched the IIV3 formulation.

Clinical Trials Registration. NCT00893906.

Keywords. influenza vaccine; Africa; children; vaccine effectiveness; cluster-randomized trial.

In 2009, we initiated a project to define the potential for pediatric influenza vaccination to reduce disease in low-resource African populations. We conducted annual cluster-randomized controlled trials (CRCTs), administering seasonal, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3) or inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) to children aged 6 months through 10 years with the aim of estimating the total, indirect, and population effectiveness of IIV3. Total effectiveness in immunized individuals measures both direct protection of immunization and indirect protection, or herd immunity, conferred by reduced exposure to persons with infections. Population (or overall) effectiveness is the measure of the effectiveness of immunization as experienced by unvaccinated and vaccinated persons.

During study year 1 (2009–2010), IIV3 total effectiveness, indirect effectiveness, and population effectiveness against influenza A/H3N2, the predominant circulating strain, were 43.6% (95% confidence interval [CI], 18.6–60.9), 15.4% (95% CI, −22.0–41.3), and 31.7% (95% CI, 6.0–50.3), respectively [1]. In January 2010, the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic virus (A/H1N1pdm) arrived in Senegal. There was no significant effectiveness of the seasonal IIV3 against A/H1N1pdm illness. Here, we report CRTC results of years 2 and 3 after A/H1N1pdm had been incorporated into IIV3 formulations.

METHODS

Study Design

We conducted 2 double-blind, IPV-controlled, parallel CRCTs in 2010–2011 and 2011 in the area of the Niakhar Demographic Surveillance System (DSS). Neither IIV3 nor IPV was available

in this community prior to the start of our project, although trivalent oral poliovirus vaccine was part of the routine childhood immunization schedule. Unless otherwise specified, all study standards, procedures (including informed consent), definitions, and sample size calculations previously described for year 1 also applied to years 2 and 3 [1]. Prior to year 1, we randomly allocated each of 20 geographically contiguous villages of the Niakhar DSS [2] to have children targeted for study vaccination allocated at a 1:1 ratio of IIV3 or IPV. Villages were not re-randomized thereafter. Upon completion of each annual vaccination campaign, we monitored all residents in the study area, whether vaccinated or not, for influenza illness by active surveillance (weekly visits to each residential compound) and enhanced passive surveillance (health post–based assessments). From 3 January 2011 to 18 February 2011 we did not conduct active surveillance in the community due to a health worker job action, but health post–based surveillance continued. Study surveillance used standardized case definitions and methods [1]. The Senegal National Ethics Committee for Health Research and the Western Institutional Review Board (United States) approved this study. The trial is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT00893906).

Participants

The Niakhar DSS regularly updates a census of all residents of the 20 villages included in this CRCT [2]. At the start of each annual vaccination campaign, a healthy child currently 6 months through 10 years of age was eligible to receive study vaccine if the child's family planned to stay in the study area during the next 12 months and a parent/guardian was willing to provide written informed consent. Children were ineligible if they had a history of hypersensitivity to any study vaccine or vaccine components. A current febrile illness (>37.5°C axillary) was a temporary exclusion criterion. All residents in the study area were eligible to participate in influenza surveillance if they provided written informed consent at the time of illness identification.

Interventions

The IIV3 and IPV product information is presented in Table 1. Study vaccine–naive children aged 6 months through 8 years were offered 2 age-appropriate doses of the same vaccine 1 month apart. All children aged 9 through 10 years and all children younger than 11 years who had previously received study vaccine were offered 1 dose. Vaccine recipients were monitored for 1 month after vaccination for serious adverse events (SAEs).

Table 1.   Annual Influenza Vaccine Formulations and Match to Circulating Influenza Viruses, by Study Year

	Study Year 1 (2009) [1]	Study Year 2 (2010)	Study Year 3 (2011)
IIV3 formulation	2008–2009 Northern Hemisphere[a]	2010 Southern Hemisphere	2011 Southern Hemisphere
A/H1N1	A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like	A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like	A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like
A/H3N2	A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like	A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like	A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like
B	B/Florida/4/2006-like (B/Yamagata lineage)	B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage)	B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage)
IIV3 product (lot)	Vaxigrip, Sanofi Pasteur (D5813 and D9672)	Vaxigrip, Sanofi Pasteur (G7051-1 and G5171-1)	Vaxigrip, Sanofi Pasteur (G7111-3 and G0382-2)
IPV product (lot)	IMOVAX Polio, Sanofi Pasteur (B0283)	IMOVAX Polio, Sanofi Pasteur (D0238-1)	IMOVAX Polio, Sanofi Pasteur (D6082-2)
Influenza detections among age-eligible residents of IPV villages, n	585	217	192
A/H1N1pdm, n (%)	115 (19.7)[b]	32 (14.7)	2 (1.0)
A/H3N2, n (%)	481 (82.2)	55 (25.3)	50 (26.0)
B, n (%)	3 (0.5)	134 (61.8)	142 (74.0)[b]
Antigenic characterization,[c] total N	30	33	38
A/H1N1, n	0	11 A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like	6 A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like
A/H3N2, n	30 A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like[b]	8 A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like	14 A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like
B, n	0	14 B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage)	18 B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like (B/Yamagata lineage)[b]
Comment	Only H3N2 isolates were characterized, and all were found to be A/Perth/16/2009-like, mismatched from study vaccine strains. H1N1pdm detections by RT-PCR used primers specific to A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like viruses, indicating mismatch from IIV3 strains.	All characterized influenza virus isolates were antigenically similar to IIV3 strains.	All characterized influenza A virus isolates were antigenically similar to IIV3 strains. All characterized influenza B virus isolates were antigenically similar to B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like virus from the B/Yamagata lineage, indicating mismatch from IIV3 influenza B strain.

Abbreviations: IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine; RT-PCR, reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction.

[a]Identical to the 2009 Southern Hemisphere formulation.

[b]Vaccine mismatch.

[c]Subset of all influenza detections in the study.

Outcomes

The individual-level primary outcome was laboratory-confirmed influenza illness (LCI) caused by any type/subtype. Secondary outcomes were vaccine effectiveness by influenza type/subtype. Specimens were collected from persons meeting these criteria—among children younger than 2 years: sudden onset of fever (>37.5°C axillary) or subjective (parent-reported) feverishness, plus at least 1 of cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, or difficulty breathing; and among children 2 years and older: sudden onset of fever (>37.5°C axillary) or subjective (parent- or participant-reported) feverishness, plus at least 1 of cough or sore throat [1]. Laboratory confirmation of influenza illness was done by reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in nasal and oropharyngeal swab specimens combined into a single vial of transport media after collection. A subset of clinical specimens was antigenically characterized at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Allocation and Blinding

Before study year 1, we performed restricted, stratified randomization at the village level before seeking individual-level informed consent and delivery of study vaccine, as previously described [1]. All subjects and study staff involved in the evaluation of clinical and safety outcomes were blinded to the village-level allocation.

Statistical Methods

We calculated the total effectiveness of IIV3 in reducing rates of LCI among vaccinated children from IIV3 villages compared with among vaccinated children from IPV villages. As we did for the year 1 analysis [1], we developed a logistic regression model fit to the individual-level data via generalized estimating equations to account for within-village correlation (clustering) and assuming exchangeable correlation matrices [3]. Participants could not contribute more than 1 outcome per year to the analyses. We used Stata, version 11 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX), and R version 3.1.1 for analyses [4]. As secondary objectives, we estimated indirect and population effectiveness using a similar analytic approach. We calculated indirect effectiveness of IIV3 in reducing rates of LCI among persons who were not vaccinated (children <6 months of age and children and adults >10 years of age) from IIV3-allocated villages compared with among persons who were not vaccinated from IPV-allocated villages. We calculated population effectiveness of IIV3 in reducing rates of LCI among all persons
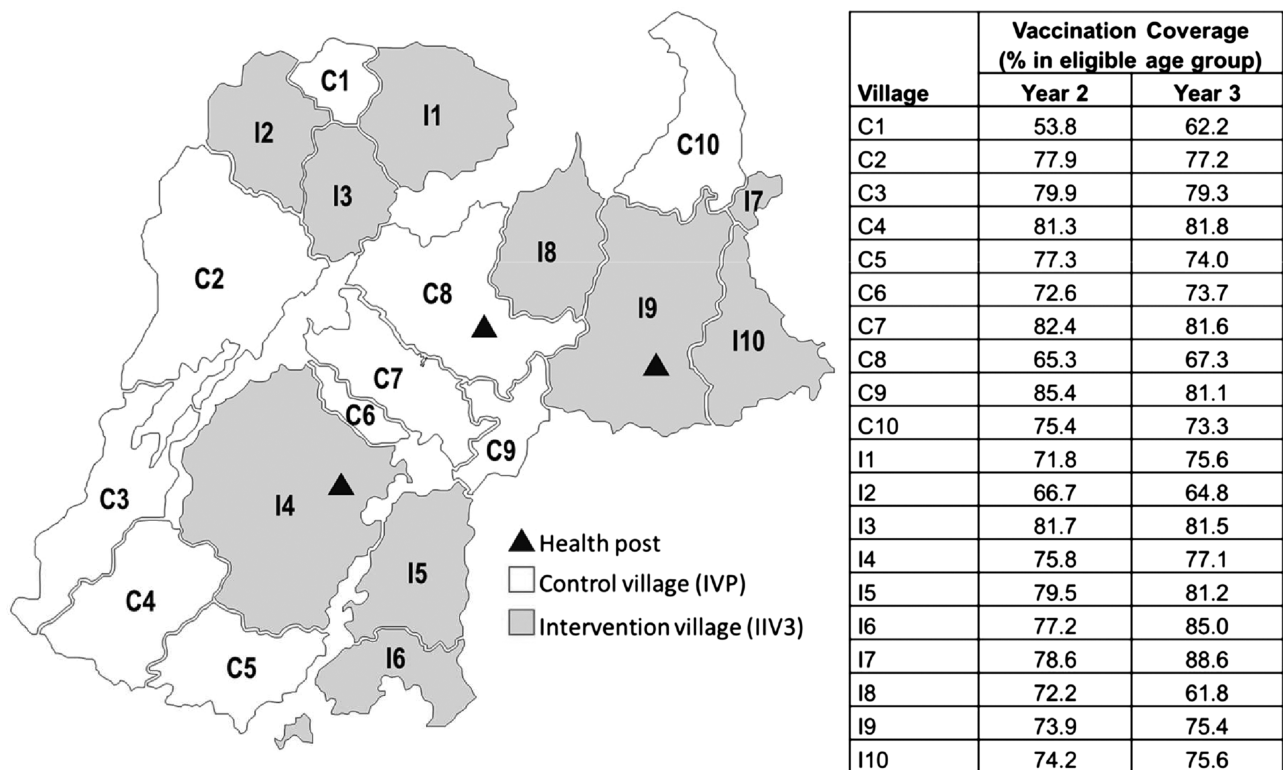

Village	Vaccination Coverage (% in eligible age group)	
	Year 2	Year 3
C1	53.8	62.2
C2	77.9	77.2
C3	79.9	79.3
C4	81.3	81.8
C5	77.3	74.0
C6	72.6	73.7
C7	82.4	81.6
C8	65.3	67.3
C9	85.4	81.1
C10	75.4	73.3
I1	71.8	75.6
I2	66.7	64.8
I3	81.7	81.5
I4	75.8	77.1
I5	79.5	81.2
I6	77.2	85.0
I7	78.6	88.6
I8	72.2	61.8
I9	73.9	75.4
I10	74.2	75.6

Figure 1. Geographic distribution of 20 villages randomized to IIV3 and IPV campaigns (map) and the achieved village-level vaccination coverage (%) of the protocol-specified regimen among age-eligible children 6 months through 10 years of age during the year 2 and 3 vaccination campaigns (table), Niakhar Demographic Surveillance System [2]. Note: Villages assigned to IIV3 are shaded gray and labeled with the prefix "I" for intervention, and villages assigned to IPV were shaded white and labeled with the prefix "C" for control. Enhanced, passive surveillance was conducted in the 3 health posts marked on the map with solid triangles. Abbreviations: IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine.

(of any age) from IIV3-allocated villages compared with among all persons from IPV-allocated villages. The prespecified analyses were estimates of these 3 effects against the primary endpoint by study year.

We used a modified intention-to-treat (mITT) approach for primary total effectiveness analyses, in which an age-eligible child was included if a parent/guardian provided informed consent and the child was enrolled for vaccination. We also used a per-protocol approach for total effectiveness analyses in which enrolled, age-eligible children were included if they received the protocol-specified course of study vaccine and contributed at least 1 day of study follow-up time. We estimated indirect effectiveness among all residents who were not age-eligible to receive vaccine at the start of each annual vaccination campaign. We estimated the population effectiveness among all residents of the study villages. We assessed each effectiveness parameter for primary and secondary endpoints. Exploratory analyses estimated the per-protocol total and indirect effectiveness by prespecified age groups.

RESULTS

The 20 villages randomized at the beginning of our project participated in study years 2 and 3 with the same vaccine allocation (Figure 1) [1]. At the start of annual vaccination, 12 408 children were age-eligible for year 2 and 11 988 were age-eligible for year 3 (Figure 2). Vaccination campaigns occurred between 3 June and 9 July 2010 and between 26 April and 30 May 2011. In both years, we vaccinated 74% of eligible children (Figure 2). The study arms had similar distributions of baseline characteristics (Table 2).

Surveillance

We conducted year 2 surveillance from 19 July 2010 to 22 April 2011 (Figure 3). At the time we began year 2 surveillance,
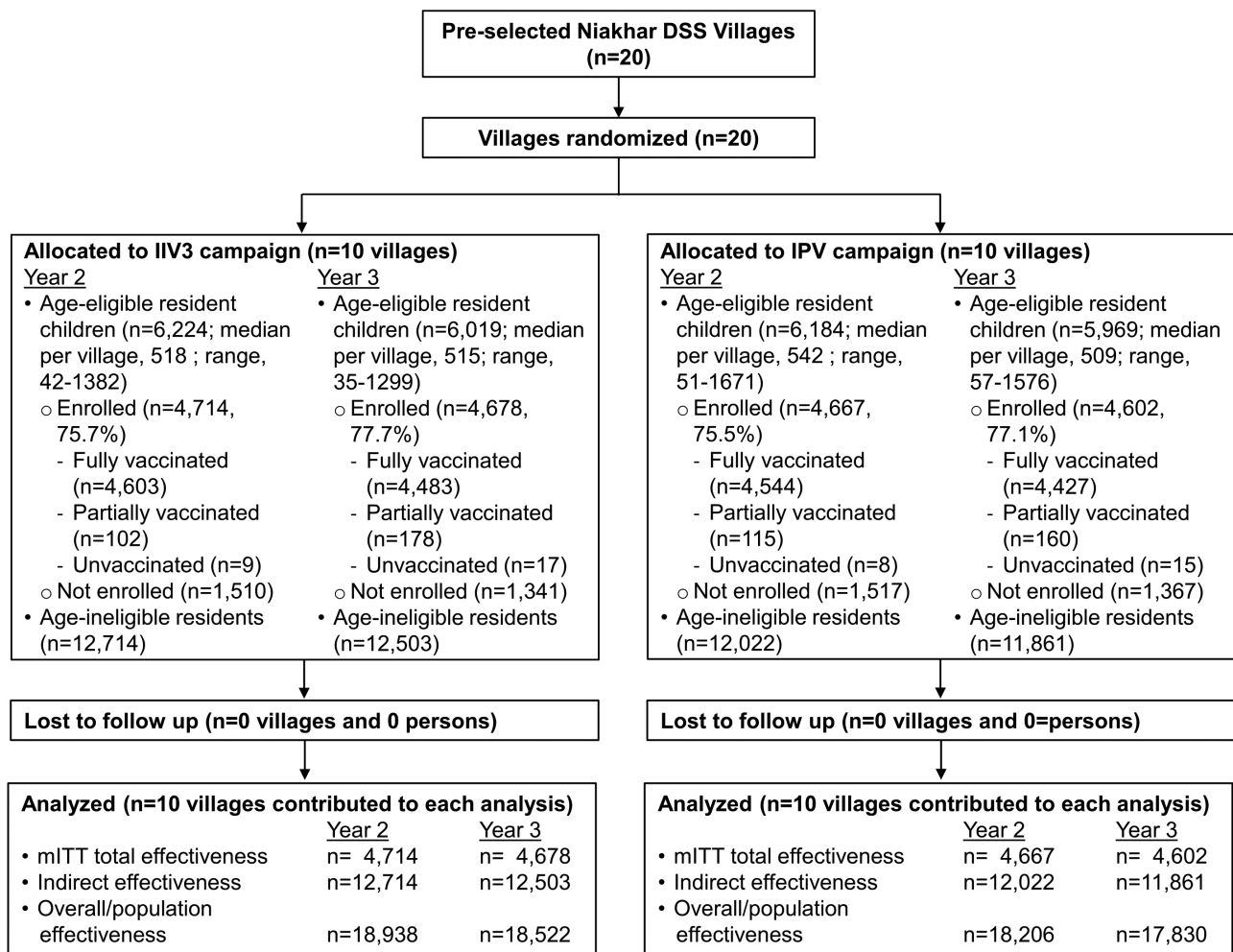

Figure 2. Study profile for years 2 and 3. Note: The profiles are designed for the primary objective of total effectiveness and the secondary objectives of indirect and population effectiveness. The mITT population consisted of children 6 months through 10 years of age who were enrolled in the vaccine component of the study. Abbreviations: DSS, Demographic Surveillance System; IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine; mITT, modified intention-to-treat.

Table 2. Baseline Demographic Characteristics of Each Study Group, by Study Year

	Year 2		Year 3	
	IIV3 arm (n = 10 villages)	IPV arm (n = 10 villages)	IIV3 arm (n = 10 villages)	IPV arm (n = 10 villages)
Cluster-level characteristics				
Mean village population size (SD)	1894 (1230)	1821 (1381)	1852 (1195)	1783 (1334)
Residents per compound (SD)	12.8 (15.4)	13.1 (16.8)	19.7 (17.4)	20.7 (19.0)
Individual-level characteristics				
Total population (all ages)	18 938	18 206	18 522	17 830
Sex, n (%)				
Male	9269 (48.9)	8930 (49.0)	9172 (49.5)	8879 (49.8)
Female	9623 (50.8)	9221 (50.6)	9348 (50.5)	8942 (50.2)
Unknown	46 (0.2)	55 (0.3)	2 (0.0)	5 (0.0)
Mean age of population (SD), years	22.7 (19.5)	22.4 (19.4)	23.7 (19.5)	22.4 (19.4)
Age-eligible children, n (%)	6224	6184	6019	5969
6–35 months	1818 (29.2)	1835 (29.7)	1702 (28.3)	1625 (27.2)
3–5 years	1866 (30.0)	1801 (29.1)	1809 (30.1)	1804 (30.2)
6–8 years	1553 (25.0)	1599 (25.9)	1539 (25.6)	1572 (26.3)
9–10 years	987 (15.9)	949 (15.3)	969 (16.1)	968 (16.2)
Information on enrollment and vaccination				
Number of age-eligible children, n (%)enrolled (percent of all age-eligible children)	4714 (75.7)	4667 (75.5)	4678 (77.7)	4602 (77.1)
6–35 months	1163 (64.0)	1179 (64.3)	1059 (62.2)	978 (60.2)
3–5 years	1498 (80.3)	1436 (79.7)	1519 (84.0)	1533 (85.0)
6–8 years	1280 (82.4)	1318 (82.4)	1329 (86.4)	1349 (85.8)
9–10 years	773 (78.3)	734 (77.3)	771 (79.6)	742 (76.7)
Number receiving dose 1 (% of those enrolled)	4705 (99.8)	4659 (99.8)	4661 (99.6)	4587 (99.7)
6–35 months	1163 (100.0)	1179 (100.0)	1055 (99.6)	974 (99.6)
3–5 years	1495 (99.8)	1431 (99.7)	1516 (99.8)	1531 (99.9)
6–8 years	1276 (99.7)	1318 (100.0)	1324 (99.6)	1344 (99.6)
9–10 years	771 (99.7)	731 (99.6)	766 (99.4)	738 (99.5)
Number fully dosed per protocol (% of those enrolled)	3832 (97.4)	3813 (97.1)	3717 (79.5)	3689 (80.2)
6–35 months	1090 (93.7)	1098 (93.1)	942 (89.0)	885 (90.5)
3–5 years	1478 (98.7)	1413 (98.4)	1472 (96.9)	1482 (96.7)
6–8 years	1264 (98.8)	1302 (98.8)	1303 (98.0)	1322 (98.0)
9–10 years	771 (99.7)	731 (99.6)	766 (99.4)	738 (99.5)

Abbreviations: IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine.

influenza B was already circulating in the study area. We conducted year 3 influenza surveillance from 6 June 2011 to 16 December 2011. Likewise, influenza A/H3N2 was already circulating when year 3 surveillance began. Influenza A/H1N1pdm, A/H3N2, and B were each detected in both years 2 and 3. For both years, influenza transmission started before calendar week 28, extended past week 48, and peaked between weeks 40 and 44. Of the 5582 clinical specimens collected during year 2 community surveillance, influenza was detected in 584 (10.5%): 98 for A/H1N1pdm, 134 for A/H3N2, 348 for B, and 4 for both B and A/H3N2. Of the 3642 clinical specimens collected from the residents of study villages during the year 3 community surveillance, influenza was detected in 746 (20.5%): 25 for A/H1N1pdm alone; 230 for A/H3N2; 482 for B; 2 for both A/H3N2 and A/H1N1pdm; 6 for both B and A/H3N2; and 1 for A/H1N1pdm, A/H3N2, and B. Antigenic characterization of a subset of clinical specimens annually indicated that, in year 2,

all isolates assessed were antigenically similar to IIV3 strains and, in year 3, influenza B viruses (Yamagata lineage) were antigenically different from IIV strains (Victoria lineage) and A/H1N1pdm and A/H3N2 were antigenically similar to IIV3 strains (Table 1).

Total Vaccine Effectiveness

For year 2 in the mITT population, 105 cases of LCI occurred in children in the IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 2.23 per 100) and 217 occurred in children in the IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 4.65 per 100) (Table 3). For year 3 in the mITT population, 206 cases of LCI occurred in children in the IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 4.40 per 100) and 192 occurred in children in the IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 4.17 per 100) (Table 4). Estimated mITT total effectiveness against all strains was 52.8% (95% CI, 32.3–67.0) for year 2 and −14.5% (95% CI, −81.2–27.6) for year 3.
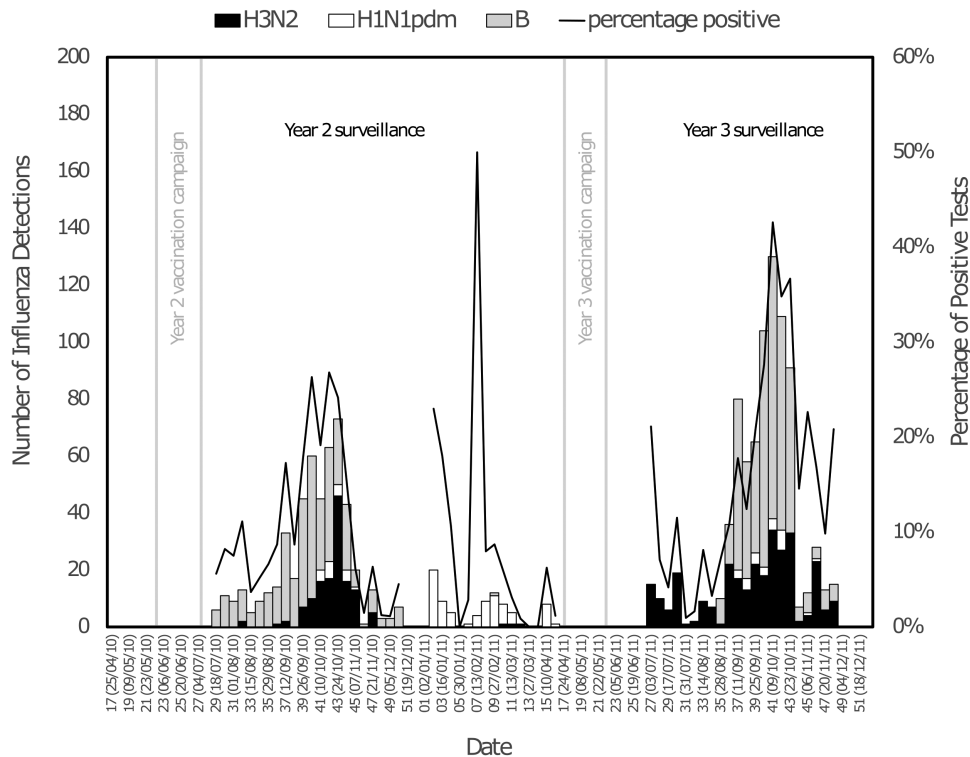
Figure 3. Number of specimens positive for influenza by type and subtype, from week 29 of 2010 to week 48 of 2011. Note: The stacked vertical bars (left *y* axis) plot the weekly number of study specimens positive for influenza, by type and subtype as determined by RT-PCR of clinical specimens collected during illness. The black line in the plot traces the percentage of specimens that are positive for any influenza by RT-PCR (right *y* axis). Vertical lines delineate the vaccination campaign (light gray) for each study season. Cases consistent with laboratory-confirmed influenza illness are associated with calendar week (Sunday to Saturday) within which the first symptoms occurred. Abbreviation: RT-PCR, reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction.

Type/Subtype Total Vaccine Effectiveness

For year 2, 25 cases of A/H3N2 LCI occurred in the mITT population of IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 0.5 cases per 100) and 55 such outcomes occurred in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 1.18 cases per 100) for an A/H3N2-specific mITT total effectiveness of 57.7% (95% CI, 20.6–77.5) (Table 3). Thirteen cases of A/H1N1pdm LCI occurred in IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 0.28 per 100) and 32 such outcomes occurred in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 0.69 per 100) during year 2 for an A/H1N1pdm-specific mITT total effectiveness of 61.4% (95% CI, 21.0–81.1). Total effectiveness analysis against influenza B LCI involved 67 outcomes in IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 1.42 per 100) and 134 outcomes in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 2.87 per 100) for an effect of 49.7% (95% CI, 23.2–67.0).

For year 3, the mITT total effectiveness estimates against A/H3N2 and against A/H1N1pdm were negative and not statistically significant (Table 4). For year 3, 84 A/H3N2 LCIs occurred in the mITT population of IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 1.80 cases per 100) and 50 such outcomes occurred in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 1.09 cases per 100) for an A/H3N2-specific mITT total effectiveness of −82.9% (95% CI, −288.6–13.9) (Table 4). Five cases of A/H1N1pdm LCI occurred in IIV3 villages (cumulative

incidence of 0.11 per 100) and 2 such outcomes occurred in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 0.04 per 100) for an A/H1N1pdm-specific mITT total effectiveness of −253.6% (95% CI, −4982.3–75.4). The mITT total effectiveness analysis against influenza B LCI comprised 122 outcomes in IIV3 villages (cumulative incidence of 2.61 per 100 children) and 142 outcomes in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 3.09 per 100 children) for an estimated effect of 11.6% (95% CI, −48.7–47.4). For any influenza and specific measures for A/H3N2, A/H1N1pdm, and B, all mITT total effectiveness estimates were comparable in magnitude to their corresponding per-protocol estimates.

Indirect Vaccine Effectiveness

For year 2, 12 cases of A/H3N2 LCI occurred among residents of IIV3 villages not age-eligible for study vaccine (cumulative incidence of 0.09 per 100) and 28 such outcomes occurred in IPV villages (cumulative incidence of 0.23 per 100) for an indirect effectiveness of 56.4% (95% CI, 39.0–68.9) (Table 5). The strongest level of indirect protection during year 2 was observed among adults aged 18–49 years old. For year 2, no statistically significant indirect protection was observed for A/H1N1 or B, and for year 3 no statistically significant indirect protection was observed for any of the vaccine strains (Table 6).

Table 3. Year 2 Total Effectiveness of IIV3 in Preventing Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Illness, by Type/Subtype and Age Group

	IIV3 Villages			IPV Villages			
	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Adjusted VE$_T$,[d] % (95% CI)
VE$_T$ (mITT)							
Any influenza	105	4714	2.23	217	4667	4.65	52.8 (32.3–67.0)
A/H3N2	25	4714	0.53	55	4667	1.18	57.7 (20.6–77.5)
A/H1N1	13	4714	0.28	32	4667	0.69	61.4 (21.0–81.1)
B	67	4714	1.42	134	4667	2.87	49.7 (23.2–67.0)
VE$_T$ (PP)							
A/H3N2	24	4603	0.52	52	4544	1.14	57.6 (16.4–78.5)
6–35 months	9	1090	0.83	26	1098	2.37	65.8 (19.2–85.5)
3–5 years	13	1478	0.88	17	1413	1.20	29.1 (−60.5–68.7)
6–8 years	2	1264	0.16	5	1302	0.38	64.1 (−79.1–92.8)
9–10 years	0	771	0.00	4	731	0.55	…[e]
A/H1N1	12	4603	0.26	31	4544	0.68	63.2 (21.1–82.8)
6–35 months	6	1090	0.55	9	1098	0.82	36.1 (−76.2–76.8)
3–5 years	5	1478	0.34	9	1413	0.64	48.6 (−86.5–85.8)
6–8 years	1	1264	0.08	7	1302	0.54	88.6 (−4.1–98.7)
9–10 years	0	771	0.00	6	731	0.82	…[e]
B	66	4603	1.43	129	4544	1.43	47.6 (18.0–66.5)
6–35 months	27	1090	2.48	52	1098	4.74	48.7 (12.8–69.8)
3–5 years	20	1478	1.35	53	1413	3.75	68.5 (34.1–84.9)
6–8 years	13	1264	1.03	13	1302	1.00	−4.8 (−151.2–56.3)
9–10 years	6	771	0.78	11	731	1.50	68.3 (−133.1–95.7)

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine; mITT, modified intention-to-treat; PP, per protocol; VE$_T$, total vaccine effectiveness.

[a]Only the first episode is counted where more than 1 instance of an endpoint is recorded during the same study year.

[b]Number of children followed.

[c]Per 100 persons through the entire surveillance period: 2010–2011, 19 July 2010 through 22 April 2011; 2011–2012, 6 June 2011 through 16 December 2011.

[d]Estimated using a logistic regression model fit using generalized estimating equations, assuming an exchangeable correlation matrix to account for within-village correlation of participant observations.

[e]Not calculable.

Population Vaccine Effectiveness

The year 2 population effectiveness against LCI was 36.0% (95% CI, 10.2–54.4) for any influenza (IIV3, 226 cases; IPV, 344 cases), 54.7% (95% CI, 22.0–73.6) for A/H3N2 (IIV3, 46 cases; IPV, 91 cases), 32.3% (95% CI, −22.3–62.6) for A/H1N1pdm (IIV3, 40 cases; IPV, 57 cases), and 29.3% (95% CI, −9.2–54.3) for B (IIV3, 140 cases; IPV, 205 cases). The year 3 population effectiveness against LCI was −2.5% (95% CI, −53.9–31.7) for any influenza (IIV3, 388 cases; IPV, 393 cases), −25.4% (95% CI, −117.0–27.6) for A/H3N2 (IIV3, 156 cases; IPV, 127 cases), −19.5% (95% CI, −691.3–82.0) for A/H1N1pdm (13 cases in each arm), and 9.4% (95% CI, −47.5–44.3) for B (IIV3, 227 cases; IPV, 258 cases).

Safety

For years 2 and 3 combined, 3 SAEs were identified among vaccinees within 1 month of the final dose. One occurred among IIV3 recipients and 2 among IPV recipients. All SAEs were deemed unrelated to the administered vaccine by the investigator.

DISCUSSION

Here, we report results of CRCTs of IIV3 versus IPV from years 2 and 3 of a multiyear project designed to evaluate the impact of a pediatric influenza vaccination program on population-level disease incidence in rural Africa. In our Senegalese population, A/H1N1pdm, A/H3N2, and B influenza strains circulated from 2010 through 2011 [5–7]. Among children aged 6 months to 10 years in the IPV control villages, LCI was common, with a cumulative incidence of first infection of 4.65% and 4.17% during study years 2 and 3, respectively.

In year 2, we estimated 52.8% total effectiveness of IIV3 against LCI among age-eligible vaccinated children. The CDC antigenic characterization of a subset of influenza specimens identified that all isolates tested were antigenically similar to IIV3 strains. Total effectiveness estimates were similar for each of the IIV3 components: 61.4% for A/H1N1pdm, 57.5% for A/H3N2, and 49.7% for B. Our estimates of total effectiveness in Senegal are similar to direct effectiveness reported by other studies conducted in the 2010–2011 Northern Hemisphere season [8–13]. In the United States, for example, IIV3 direct effectiveness in children aged 6 months through 8 years was estimated to be 60% for A/H1N1, 66% for A/H3N2, and 62% for B [14].

In year 3, we found no significant total effectiveness of IIV3 against LCI. That year, 74.0% of all antigenically characterized specimens from IPV villages were from the B/

Table 4. Year 3 Total Effectiveness of IIV3 in Preventing Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Illness, by Type/Subtype and Age Group

	IIV3 Villages			IPV Villages			
	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Adjusted VE$_T$,[d] % (95% CI)
VE$_T$ (mITT)							
Any influenza	206	4678	4.40	192	4602	4.17	−14.5 (−81.2–27.6)
A/H3N2	84	4678	1.80	50	4602	1.09	-82.9 (−288.6–13.9)
A/H1N1	5	4678	0.11	2	4602	0.04	−253.6 (−4982.3–75.4)
B	122	4678	2.61	142	4602	3.09	11.6 (−48.7–47.4)
VE$_T$ (PP)							
A/H3N2	80	4483	1.78	50	4427	1.13	−73.1 (−262.8–17.4)
6–35 months	33	942	3.50	22	885	2.49	−45.2 (−248.5–39.5)
3–5 years	32	1472	2.17	16	1482	1.08	−95.2 (−395.7–23.1)
6–8 years	8	1303	0.61	8	1322	0.61	5.7 (−1077.1–92.4)
9–10 years	7	766	0.91	4	738	0.54	−141.8 (−695.5–26.5)
A/H1N1	4	4483	0.09	2	4427	0.05	−170.2 (−5804.4–87.6)
6–35 months	1	942	0.11	0	885	0.00	… [e]
3–5 years	2	1472	0.14	1	1482	0.07	−243.5 (−23 494.2–95.0)
6–8 years	1	1303	0.08	0	1322	0.00	… [e]
9–10 years	0	766	0.00	1	738	0.14	… [e]
B	117	4483	2.61	137	4427	3.09	11.8 (−52.4–48.9)
6–35 months	46	942	4.88	32	885	3.62	−32.9 (−127.7–22.4)
3–5 years	43	1472	2.92	55	1482	3.71	21.9 (−24.2–50.9)
6–8 years	20	1303	1.53	37	1322	2.80	44.3 (−39.2–77.7)
9–10 years	8	766	1.04	13	738	1.76	38.0 (−424.2–92.7)

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine; mITT, modified intention-to-treat; PP, per protocol; VE$_T$, total vaccine effectiveness.

[a]Only the first episode is counted where more than 1 instance of an endpoint is recorded during the same study year.

[b]Number of children followed.

[c]Per 100 persons through the entire surveillance period: 2010–2011, 19 July 2010 through 22 April 2011; 2011–2012, 6 June 2011 through 16 December 2011.

[d]Estimated using a logistic regression model fit using generalized estimating equations, assuming an exchangeable correlation matrix to account for within-village correlation of participant observations.

[e]Not calculable.

Yamagata lineage, which was antigenically distinct from the B/Victoria vaccine strain. The 2011 Southern Hemisphere and the 2011–2012 Northern Hemisphere IIV3 formulations were the same, and reports for the 2011–2012 season from elsewhere reported poor effectiveness against B/Yamagata strains [8, 11, 15–25]. In Senegal, the predominance of circulating B/Yamagata viruses could partially explain the overall poor effectiveness [21]. However, CDC antigenic characterization of a subset of A/H3N2 isolates in Senegal found them all to be similar to the study vaccine strain, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like. Thus, strain mismatch does not appear to be the cause for the lack of effectiveness for A/H3N2 in year 3 of this study. In the United States during 2011–2012, effectiveness against this strain was 39% despite an antigenic match between vaccine and circulating strains, although some genetic variation among circulating A/H3N2 isolates was observed [26–28]. Possible reasons for recent poor effectiveness against A/H3N2 strains seen here and in other trials include antigenic drift, deleterious effects due to prior vaccination, egg adaptation, and/or decreased immunogenicity [26, 29–31]. While immune responses to influenza A strains were robust in the Senegalese children during the first year of our study [32], we did not determine vaccine immunogenicity in years 2 and 3.

In year 2, when IIV3 was well matched with circulating strains, it provided 56% indirect protection against A/H3N2 LCI among persons who were not age-eligible to receive study vaccine. Evidence for indirect effectiveness in our study was strongest among adults aged 18–49 years, suggesting that this is a group highly exposed to vaccinated children. The lack of indirect effects for A/H1N1 or B in year 2 or for any vaccine strain in year 3 suggests that vaccination of larger proportions of the population and/or a more effective vaccine may be needed to reduce spread of infection. In rural Senegal, large, extended families live in close quarters in densely grouped compounds and likely experience high contact rates [33].While indirect effects must be interpreted in the context of the living conditions and social patterns that affect transmission, we do not believe that these patterns changed appreciably between study years. Our estimate of total effectiveness is consistent with reports from trials in non-African settings [34–38]. An IIV3 CRCT conducted in India during the same time period reported a statistically significant household-level indirect effectiveness of 38% against LCI in 2011–2012 [37].

Table 5. Year 2 Indirect Effectiveness of IIV3 in Preventing Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Illness Among Unvaccinated Residents, by Type/Subtype and Age Group

	IIV3 Villages			IPV Villages			
	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Adjusted VE$_i$,[d] % (95% CI)
Any influenza	82	12 714[e]	0.64	96	12 022[e]	0.80	15.4 (−44.3–50.4)
<6 months	20	928	2.16	29	842	3.44	36.0 (−17.7–65.2)
11–17 years	23	2784	0.83	21	2723	0.77	−5.5 (−177.7–59.9)
18–49 years	32	6847	0.47	36	6471	0.56	13.2 (−94.7–61.2)
50–64 years	5	1333	0.38	6	1213	0.49	11.2 (−263.3–78.3)
> 64 years	2	812	0.25	4	765	0.52	…
A/H3N2	12	12 714[e]	0.09	28	12 022[e]	0.23	56.4 (39.0–68.9)
<6 months	4	928	0.43	7	842	0.83	47.7 (−1786.7–98.6)
11–17 years	2	2784	0.07	4	2723	0.15	48.2 (−208.8–91.3)
18–49 years	5	6847	0.07	12	6471	0.19	58.4 (14.5–79.8)
50–64 years	0	1333	0.00	3	1213	0.25	…
> 64 years	1	812	0.12	2	765	0.26	…
A/H1N1	18	12 714[e]	0.14	18	12 022[e]	0.15	0.0 (−149.3–59.9)
<6 months	3	928	0.32	5	842	0.59	28.7 (−63.1–68.8)
11–17 years	4	2784	0.14	4	2723	0.15	6.4 (−13 537.1–99.4)
18–49 years	7	6847	0.10	8	6471	0.12	18.6 (−169.0–75.4)
50–64 years	4	1333	0.30	1	1213	0.08	−447.7 (−15 033.4–80.2)
> 64 years	0	812	0.00	0	765	0.00	…
B	52	12 714[e]	0.41	52	12 022[e]	0.43	−0.2 (−93.6–48.1)
<6 months	13	928	1.40	17	842	2.02	22.4 (−35.7–55.6)
11–17 years	17	2784	0.61	14	2723	0.51	−14.2 (−158.3–49.5)
18–49 years	20	6847	0.29	17	6471	0.26	−11.7 (−210.1–59.7)
50–64 years	1	1333	0.08	2	1213	0.16	64.0 (−283.8–96.6)
> 64 years	1	812	0.12	2	765	0.26	…

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine; VE$_i$, indirect vaccine effectiveness among age-ineligible.

[a]Only the first episode is counted where more than 1 instance of an endpoint is recorded during the same study year.

[b]Number of children followed.

[c]Per 100 persons through the entire surveillance period: 2010–2011, 19 July 2010 through 22 April 2011; 2011–2012, 6 June 2011 through 16 December 2011.

[d]Estimated using a logistic regression model fit using generalized estimating equations, assuming an exchangeable correlation matrix to account for within-village correlation of participant observations.

[e]Includes individuals whose age was not reported: year 2 (IIV3, 10: IPV, 8) and year 3 (IIV3, 2: IPV, 1). No laboratory-confirmed influenza illness was detected among these individuals during year 2 or year 3.

Several study limitations should be noted. The small proportion of RT-PCR–positive specimens that were antigenically characterized limited our ability to make definitive conclusions about antigenic match between vaccine strains and circulating viruses. We had a lower cumulative incidence of LCI in years 2 and 3 compared with that observed in year 1 (15% among age-eligible children in the control group). During the periods of active surveillance, the intensive nature of the CRCT procedures suggests that the cumulative incidence seen in both years reflected the true nature of local influenza transmission and not bias due to decreased case capture.

Annual pediatric immunization campaigns with IIV3 reduced the risk of LCI among vaccinated children in 2 of the 3 study years. As in high-resource settings, influenza vaccine effectiveness was highly variable from year to year. Further, the study was the first to demonstrate the indirect effects of an influenza vaccination program in an African setting. Such an approach leverages existing childhood vaccination infrastructures to protect at-risk adult groups without immunization platforms [39]. Our year 3 experience with an influenza B lineage mismatch between vaccine and circulating viruses supports the transition from trivalent to quadrivalent influenza vaccines containing both B lineages [40]. Influenza immunization in developing countries would be more feasible with improved influenza vaccines that provide broader and more durable protection.

Notes

Table 6. Year 3 Indirect Effectiveness of IIV3 in Preventing Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Illness Among Unvaccinated Residents, by Type/Subtype and Age Group

	IIV3 Villages			IPV Villages			
	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Cases,[a] n	n[b]	Cumulative Incidence[c]	Adjusted VE$_i$,[d] % (95% CI)
Any influenza	110	12 503[e]	0.88	125	11 861[e]	1.05	20.1 (−23.9–48.5)
<6 months	20	854	2.34	29	859	3.38	24.6 (−26.0–54.9)
11–17 years	23	2788	0.82	21	2639	0.80	−0.1 (−113.7–53.1)
18–49 years	50	6761	0.74	53	6394	0.83	11.8 (−26.0–38.2)
50–64 years	15	1318	1.14	18	1221	1.47	30.0 (−150.3–80.4)
> 64 years	2	780	0.26	4	747	0.54	…
A/H3N2	53	12 503[e]	0.42	63	11 861[e]	0.53	20.7 (−64.2–61.8)
<6 months	14	854	1.64	24	859	2.79	40.9 (−38.0–74.7)
11–17 years	11	2788	0.39	10	2639	0.38	4.9 (−213.1–71.1)
18–49 years	20	6761	0.30	18	6394	0.28	−4.9 (−89.4–41.9)
50–64 years	6	1318	0.46	4	1221	0.33	−18.7 (−587.7–79.5)
> 64 years	2	780	0.26	7	747	0.94	…
A/H1N1	4	12 503[e]	0.03	5	11 861[e]	0.04	46.1 (−2338.0–98.8)
<6 months	0	854	0.00	1	859	0.12	…
11–17 years	2	2788	0.07	1	2639	0.04	…
18–49 years	2	6761	0.03	3	6394	0.05	36.8 (−3984.8–99.0)
50–64 years	0	1318	0.00	0	1221	0.00	…
> 64 years	0	780	0.00	0	747	0.00	…
B	74	12 503[e]	0.59	84	11 861[e]	0.71	19.1 (−25.8–48.0)
<6 months	17	854	1.99	18	859	2.10	13.9 (−111.5–65.0)
11–17 years	15	2788	0.54	13	2639	0.49	−6.8 (−109.8–45.6)
18–49 years	29	6761	0.43	33	6394	0.52	20.1 (−27.5–50.0)
50–64 years	9	1318	0.68	14	1221	1.15	45.6 (−36.8–78.4)
> 64 years	4	780	0.51	6	747	0.80	…

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; IIV3, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine; IPV, inactivated poliovirus vaccine; VE$_i$, indirect vaccine effectiveness among age-ineligible.

[a]Only the first episode is counted where more than 1 instance of an endpoint is recorded during the same study year.

[b]Number of children followed.

[c]Per 100 persons through the entire surveillance period: 2010–2011, 19 July 2010 through 22 April 2011; 2011–2012, 6 June 2011 through 16 December 2011.

[d]Estimated using a logistic regression model fit using generalized estimating equations, assuming an exchangeable correlation matrix to account for within-village correlation of participant observations.

[e]Includes individuals whose age was not reported: year 2 (IIV3, 10: IPV, 8) and year 3 (IIV3, 2: IPV, 1). No laboratory-confirmed influenza illness was detected among these individuals during year 2 or year 3.

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