

Starting healthy habits early: factors influencing influenza vaccination uptake in Western Australian health care students

The study

Students' attitudes and habits towards influenza vaccination may influence later uptake as health care workers



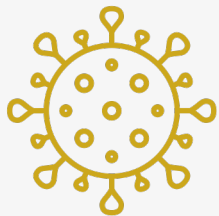
Aim: to explore knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours towards influenza vaccination in health care students

Design: convergent mixed methods

Study population: Health care students in two WA universities 2018-2020

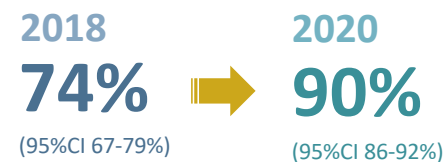
Key external events:

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Vaccine mandate for some students



Key findings

Significant increase in self-reported vaccination uptake



- **Mandatory vaccination for some students** and
- **the COVID-19 pandemic** were likely drivers of increased uptake

+ Key enablers

- Desire to protect self
- Desire to protect patients
- Accessibility/free vaccine

- Key barriers

- Concerns about effectiveness
- Concerns about side effects
- Poor accessibility/cost

Implications

Vaccine mandates for health care students are effective, but must be supported by:



Easy accessibility e.g. free on-campus vaccinations;

Adequately addressing concerns around effectiveness and safety; and



Promotion of voluntary acceptance and trust

Willis, Bloomfield, Berry, Bulsara, Bulsara, Chaney, Maticovic, Russell, Zic & Mak. (2022)

