

## Italian poll on flu vaccine recalled





Milano, ottobre 2012

(Rif.1081v112)



## BACKGROUND

- **On Oct 17, 2012**, on the verge of the 2012 seasonal flu vaccine campaign, the Italian Ministry of Health suddenly announced the recall of 2.3 million doses of the Inflexal V flu vaccine, produced by Dutch producer of the vaccine, Crucell. "Potential danger" to health was claimed for the recall. This news rapidly spread with alarm. The Ministry of Health reassured the population that security problem should not be expected because no dose was put into circulation.
- However a few days after, **on Oct 24, 2012,** the Italian Ministry of Health prohibited also the use and sale of other four influenza vaccines produced by the pharmaceutical company Novartis. In a statement circulated with urgency, Italian citizens were asked not to buy or use these vaccines until further notice. The Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA), the national authority responsible for the regulation of drugs in Italy, explained that the documentation submitted by the pharmaceutical company needs to include more safety checks and more details on the safety and quality of their vaccines. The main risks involved are the serious side effects that may be caused by these flu vaccines.
- The **TELL ME PROJECT** has identified in this series of events an extremely interesting case study to investigate the mutual interplay between medical evidence, institutional information, public health campaign, public opinion. TELL ME has then commissioned an instant poll about the impact of these facts and communication on people's attitude towards flu vaccination. Results are presented in the following slides.

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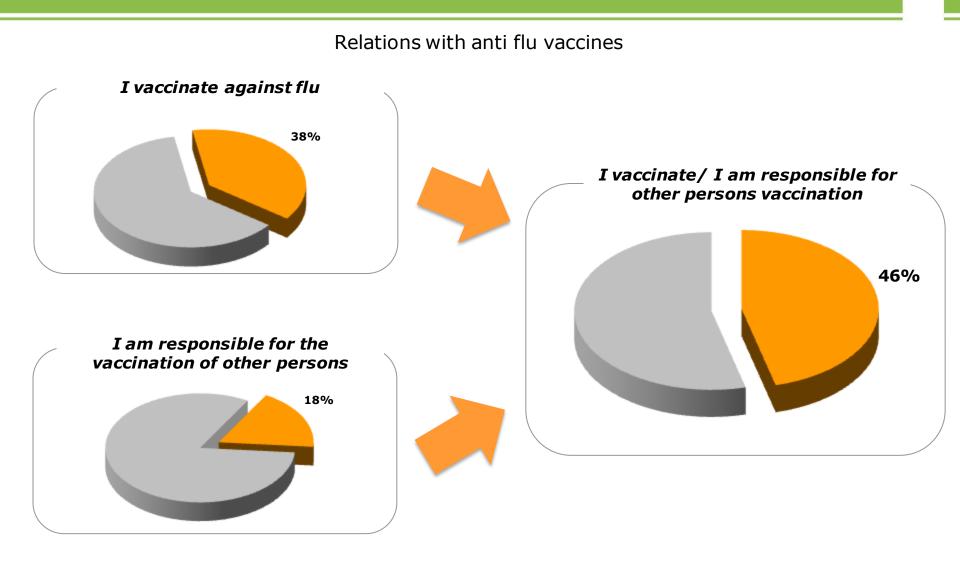
A quantitative research has been carried out through telephone interviews (**CATI SYSTEM**) on a sample of 802 individuals.

The sample, selected randomly, is representative of Italian adult population (i.e. population aged over17), for gender, age, professional occupation, educational qualifications, geographic area of domicile, sixe of the domicile centre\*.

\* Tasso di risposta: 38,7%. Numero di intervistatori coinvolti nell'indagine: 64. Metodo di controllo degli intervistatori: presenza di un supervisor in sala ogni 15 intervistatori. Controllo minimo garantito: monitoraggio 5% delle interviste con ascolto di almeno il 50% dell'intervista.



# Half of the Italian population has direct or indirect relations with anti flu vaccines



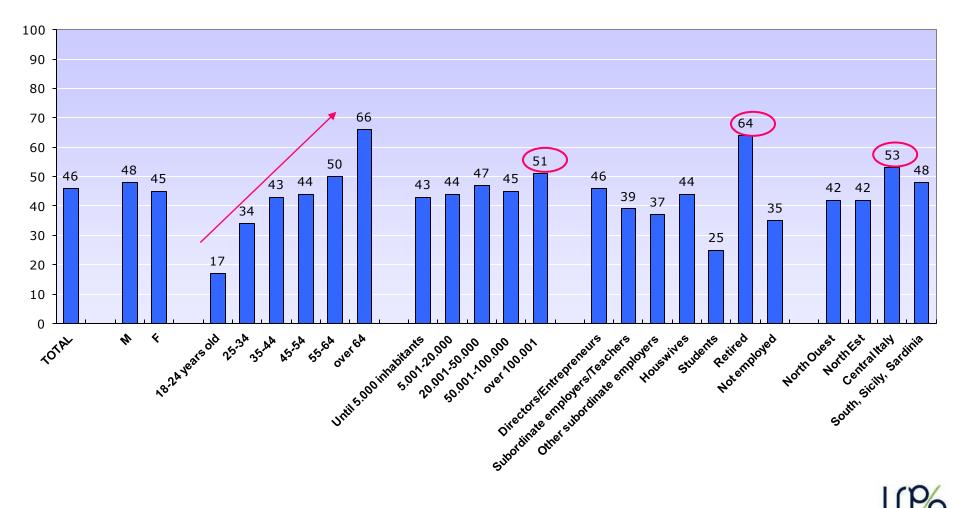
Question: "Can you tell me whether you vaccinate against flu, or you are responsible for the vaccination of other persons (elderly, children, not autonomous persons)?".

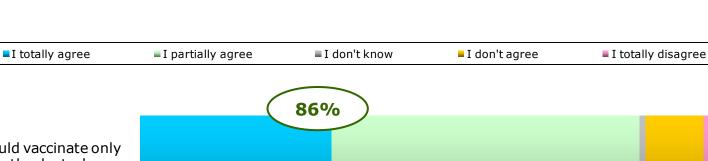
### The relation with anti flu vaccines increases in relation to the age. It is higher in big cities and in the central areas of Italy

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#### Relations with anti flu vaccines

Some intensifications

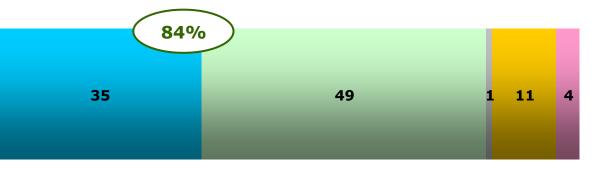




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#### Opinion on vaccines

You should vaccinate only upon the doctor's instructions. In all other cases the vaccine is useless and could be risky



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Anti flu vaccines are useful, but before being vaccinated you should be sure they won't damage your immune system

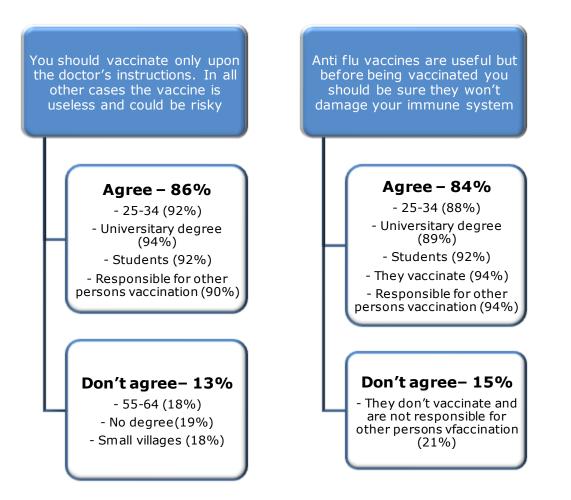
QUESTION: "I will read some statements related to anti-flu vaccines. Please indicate wheter you totall/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree"





### The doctor's advice is considered as crucial mainly by those who are responsible for other persons' vaccination

#### **Opinions on vaccines**

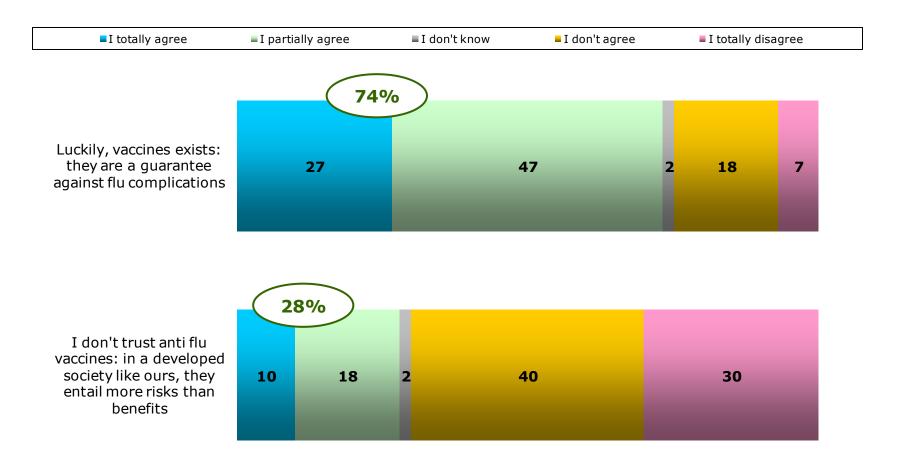


QUESTION: "I will read some statements related to anti-flu vaccines. Please indicate wheter you totall/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree"

Valori percentuali

# 28% of Italian population is skeptical about vaccines, and thinks that they entail more risks than benefits

#### Opinions on vaccination



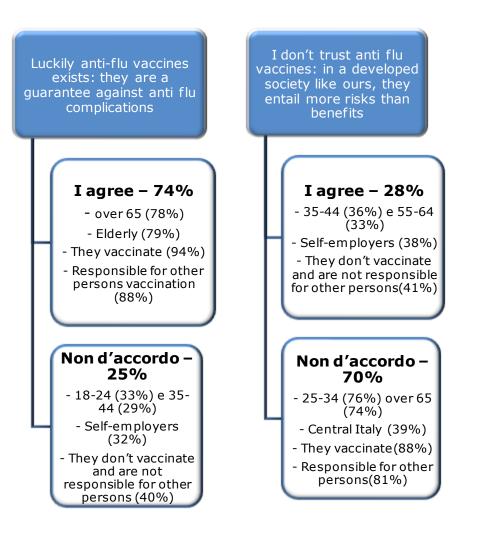
QUESTION: "I will read some statements related to anti-flu vaccines. Please indicate wheter you totall/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree"

Valori percentuali

## ISP6

Persons who are most critical against flu vaccines are those who don't vaccinate and those who are not 10 responsible for other persons

#### Opinions on vaccines

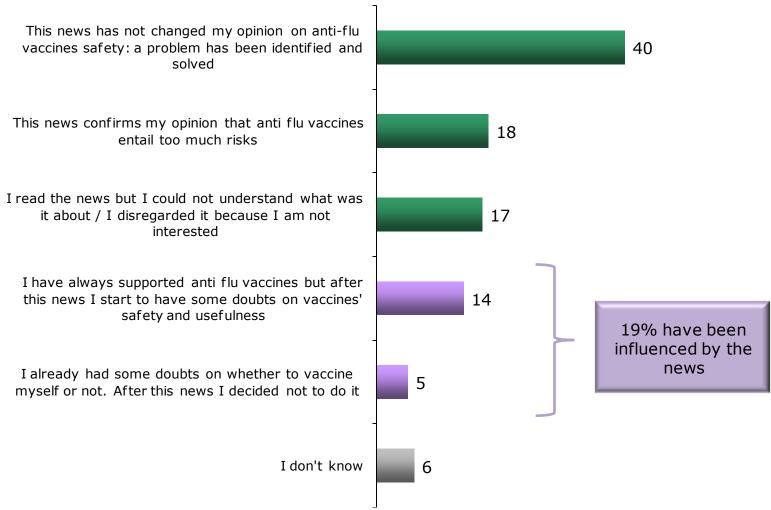


QUESTION: "I will read some statements related to anti-flu vaccines. Please indicate wheter you totall/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree"

Valori percentuali

## The majority of Italian population has not changed her opinion after the anti-flu vaccines withdrawn

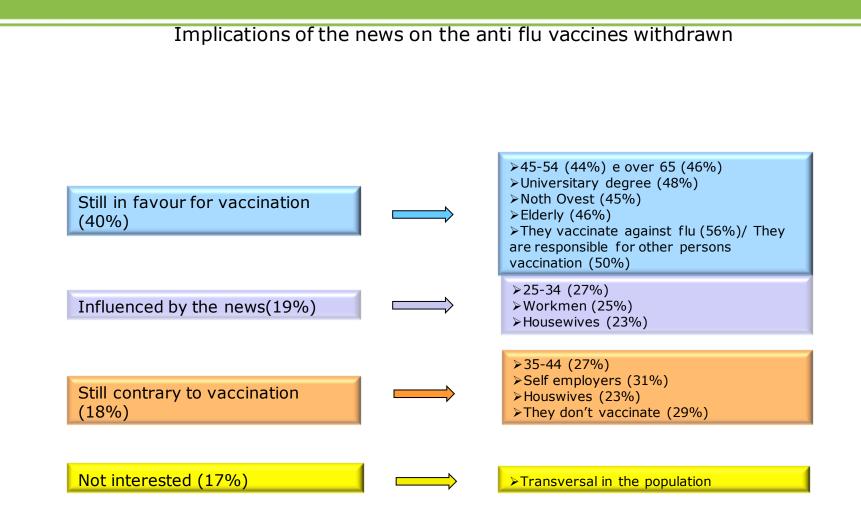
#### Implications of the news on the anti flu vaccines withdrawn



QUESTIONS: "As you may know, a few days ago some anti flu vaccines have been withdrawn. Please indicate wheter you totall/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree"

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# The most influenced persons have been: 25-34 aged, workmen, housewives



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## The survey sample

	V. Ass.	V. %
GENDER		
-M	383	48
-F	419	52

AGE		
-18-24 years	70	9
-25-34	121	15
-35-44	157	20
-45-54	140	17
-55-64	119	15
-over 64	195	24

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION		
- No qualification/ pre-elementary	150	19
- Elementary school degree	300	37
-High school degree	264	33
-Universitary degree	88	11

	V. Ass.	V. %
PROFESSIONALACTIVITY		
-Self employer	68	9
-Subordinate employee	137	17
-Workman	140	17
-Housewife	117	15
-Student	49	6
-Retired	239	30
-Not employed	52	6

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA		
-North Ouest	217	27
-North Est	147	18
-Central Italy	158	20
-South/Sicily/Sardinia	280	35

SIZE OF THE DOMICILE MUNICIPALITY		
-Until 5000 inhabitants	136	17
-5.001-20.000 inhabitants	243	30
-20.001-50.000 inhabitants	148	18
-50.001-100.000 inhabitants	92	12
-oltre 100.001 inhabitants	183	23

100

802

## The questionnaire

Questionnaire: Population opinion INDAGINEPER CENTREFOR SCIENCE, S (RIF. 1081v112)	on anti flu vaccines withdrawn in Italy Society and Citizenship (CSSC)	<b>PROF</b> C. What is your professional occupation?
(18/10/2012) Versione 1		- Director/ 1 - Self-employer 2 - Subordinate employee 7
(SAMPLE) (800)		- housewife
AREA		- Student 6
		- Retired
SIZE OF THE DOMICILE CENTRE 1: Fino a 5.000	comune	-Notemploed 8
2: Da 5.001 a 20.000 3: Da 20.001 a 50.000 4: Da 50.001 a 100.000 5: oltre 100.001		D1. The survey is about anti flu vaccines. Can you tell me whether you vaccinate yourself or you are responsible for other persons vaccination? Yes No
Background information		Don'tknow
A. What is you age:		l vaccinate I am responsible for other persons
SEXETA		
M F		D2. I will read some statements related to anti-flu vaccines. Please indicate wheter you totall/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree
18-24 1 18-24 7		
25-34 2 25-34 8		Luckily, vaccines exists: they are a guarantee against flu complications
35-44 3 35-44 9		I don't trust anti flu vaccines: in a developed society like ours, they entail more risks than
45-54 4 45-54 10		benefits
55-64 5 55-64 11		You should vaccinate only under medical prescription. In all other cases the vaccine is
65 e più 6 65 e più 12		useless and could be risky Anti flu vaccines are useful, but before being vaccinated you should be sure they won't
B. Education al qualification?		damage your immune system
- No education/pre elementary	1	
- Elementary	2	
- High school	3	
- Universitary degree	4	

## The questionnaire

D3. As you may know, a few days ago some anti flu vaccines have been withdrawn. Please indicate whether you totally/ partially agree, you don't know or you don't agree / totally disagree

This news has not changed my opinion on anti-flu vaccines safety: a problem has been identified and solved

This news confirms my opinion that anti flu vaccines entail too much risks

I read the news but I could not understand what was it about / I disregarded it because I am not interested

I have always supported antiflu vaccines but after this news I start to have some doubts on vaccines' safety and usefulness

I already had some doubts on whether to vaccine myself or not. After this news I decided not to do it

Idon'tknow

## Scheda di ricerca

NOTA METODOLOGIA E INFORMATIVA (in ottemperanza al regolamento dell'Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni in materia di pubblicazione e diffusione dei sondaggi sui mezzi di comunicazione di massa: delibera 256/10/CSP, allegato A, art. 5 del 9 dicembre 2010, pubblicato su G.U. 301 del 27/12/2010)

#### NOTA METODOLOGICA COMPLETA

Titolo:	Le opinioni della popolazione riguardo al ritiro dei vaccini antinfluenzali
Soggetto realizzatore:	ISPO Ricerche S.r.I.
Committente/Acquirente:	Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship (CSSC)
Periodo/Date di rilevazione:	23-24 ottobre 2012
Tema:	Salute
Tipo e oggetto dell'indagine:	Sondaggio d'opinione a livello nazionale
Popolazione di riferimento:	Popolazione adulta residente in Italia
Estensione territoriale:	Nazionale
Metodo di campionamento:	Campione casuale stratificato per quote
Rappresentatività del campione:	Rappresentativo della popolazione italiana in età adulta per genere, età, titolo di studio, condizione professionale, area geografica, ampiezza comune di residenza
Margine di errore:	3,5%
Metodo di raccolta delle informazioni:	CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview)
Consistenza numerica del campione:	802 casi. Totale contatti: 2070; totale interviste effettuate 802 (TASSO DI RISPOSTA: 38,7% sul totale dei contatti); rifiuti/sostituzioni 1268 (RIFIUTI: 61,3% sul totale dei contatti)
Elaborazione dati:	SPSS

#### NOTA METODOLOGICA PER I MEDIA

Sondaggio ISPO per Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship (CSSC) - Campione rappresentativo popolazione italiana maggiorenne - Estensione territoriale: nazionale - Casi: 802 - Metodo: CATI - Rifiuti/sostituzioni: 1268 - Data di rilevazione: 23-24 ottobre 2012 - Margine di approssimazione: 3,5%.



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