

Abstract

The presented thesis deals with the issue of mothers' decision-making in relation to their child's vaccination against pneumococcal infections. An on-line survey of mothers was conducted (n = 180) in order to obtain data for the theoretical model based on the theory of planned behavior (TPB). A hierarchical logistic regression was then performed in order to analyze the model with the intention to vaccinate as the dependent variable. The results of the regression analyses were supplemented by results of correlation analyses and non-parametric tests. The theory proved itself as a strong predictive instrument and the results suggest that the attitude is the main predictor of the decision in this non-representative sample of mothers. The subjective norm, as the second construct of the TPB, contributes only in certain cases and the perceived behavioral control was not found influential at all. The perception of threat of contraindications of the vaccine proves also influential next to the attitude. The beliefs that mothers hold about the vaccine were analyzed according to mothers' intentions to vaccinate (n = 70) or not to (n = 110). These results support the idea that mothers, especially those who do not want to vaccinate their children against pneumococcal infections, decide particularly according to their attitude. The results also suggest a relationship with mothers' worldviews and concepts of health.

keywords:

vaccination, immunization, parents, children, decision-making, theory of planned behavior