Disparities in Access to Enhanced Vaccines for Older Adults: Addressing Equity Gaps Between Developed Nations in the Northern Hemisphere and Latin America (LATAM)

Vacunas y Otros Virus

Saenz, Carolina. Csl-seqirus. Juarez, Ximena. Csl-seqirus. Montes, Jose Luis. Csl-seqirus.
Caba

Introducción. Introduction & Objectives: The WHO's Decade of Healthy Aging (2021–2030) aims to improve life quality for older adults. The global population aged 60+ is expected to grow from 1 billion in 2019 to 1.4 billion by 2030, with significant increases in developing countries. This poses challenges especially in emerging economies, where disparities in longevity demand inclusive and equitable aging strategies. Older adults experience immunosenescence, impairing vaccine responses and increasing morbidity and mortality. The CDC and ACIP recommend enhanced influenza vaccines – such as MF59-adjuvanted or high-dose formulations – for individuals aged 65+. These vaccines show improved effectiveness compared to standard vaccines and are included in national immunization schedules in some countries, strengthening protection for vulnerable populations. This study aims to identify official recommendations for enhanced vaccines for older adults in developed Northern Hemisphere countries (NHC),and compare national immunization program (NIP) recommendations for enhanced influenza vaccines in NHC and Latin American (LATAM) countries. **Materiales y métodos.** An online search was conducted from June to December 2024 to identify NIP policies on influenza vaccination for older adults in developed Northern Hemisphere countries (NHC) and Latin America (LATAM). Official Ministry of Health websites were reviewed using keywords such as influenza vaccination, immunization schedules, and adult flu vaccination. **Resultados.** Ten countries in Europe and two in North America recommend enhanced influenza vaccines for older adults, with age thresholds varying—some starting at 60, others at 65 or 70. Two countries specifically target nursing home residents. NHC have gradually expanded recommendations to increasingly include enhanced vaccines for older adults. In contrast, only two out of 20 LATAM countries—Argentina (since 2021) and Paraguay (starting in 2025)—have incorporated enhanced vaccines into their NIPs. **Conclusiones.** While advanced immunization strategies for older adults are implemented in the U.S., Canada, and several European nations, only Argentina and Paraguay have taken similar steps in Latin America. To ensure equity and protect older populations' rights, regional collaboration and public health policies promoting access to enhanced vaccines are essential. LATAM's growing aging population underscores the urgent need for improved vaccination strategies to reduce disease burden and strengthen health outcomes across the region.

Archivos:

1. LAHVIC 2026 - Disparities in Access LATAM.pdf