



Abstract (English)

Acute respiratory diseases before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic

Background:

This analysis examines the development of the treatment prevalence of respiratory tract infections by analysing the 15 ICD-3 codes with the highest treatment prevalence in all age groups over a period of ten years (2014-2023). The focus of the analysis is on a description of treatment prevalence trends in Germany before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic as a whole and as a function of age group.

Methodology:

The data basis is the contract doctors' billing data for the years 2014 to 2023 according to § 295 SGB V. The annual and quarterly treatment prevalence is calculated for the 15 most common acute respiratory tract infections in the period from 2014 to 2023, as well as for the pooled treatment prevalence of the TOP 15 respiratory tract infections, i.e. the treatment prevalence of at least one of these diseases.

Results:

The results show a greatly reduced frequency of respiratory tract infections in 2020 and 2021. For the pooled treatment prevalence, there has been a significant overall increase in utilisation due to acute respiratory tract infections since 2022, particularly among children of primary school age and adults up to 65 years of age, with an increase of almost 20 % from 2019 to 2023. In particular, the use of doctors for acute respiratory tract infections has been significantly higher in the summer quarters since 2022 than in the pre-pandemic years. The prevalence of treatment for insured persons aged 6 and over falls slightly from 2022 to 2023. For children up to the age of 9, treatment prevalence stagnated or continued to rise from 2022 to 2023.

Conclusion:

Despite lower treatment prevalences of certain disease entities after the Covid-19 pandemic, a significantly higher utilisation of doctors due to acute respiratory infections can be observed over time.

Keywords:

Claims data, respiratory diseases, COVID-19, infectious diseases, prevalence, temporal trends

Citation:

Dammertz L, Holstiege J, Müller D. Acute respiratory diseases before, during and after the COVID-19-pandemic. Central Research Institute of Ambulatory Health Care in Germany (Zi). Versorgungsatlas-Report Nr. 24/07. Berlin 2024. URL: <https://doi.org/10.20364/VA-24.7>