

Abstract

This thesis based on descriptive comparative study is to evaluate different opinions and its influence to vaccination confidence in two branches of students, medical and pedagogical, as both of them plays important roles in children and adults education and, in case of pedagogy, forming the skills of critical thinking. Multi-item, opinion-based, paper-and-pencil typed anonymous questionnaires were distributed within medical students and students of pedagogical fields of study. Data has been sorted and divided into two clusters which underwent a statistical comparison using a logistic regression.

From total of 722 respondents, 386 were medical students and 336 were pedagogical students. Most respondents said they were not in favor of alternative medicine; however, a significantly higher number of alternative medicine followers were among the respondents of the Faculty of Education. Positive vaccination perception rate (PVPR) is not dependent on behavioral factors of students at both faculties but it is clearly conditioned by attitude to alternative medicine. Fear of infections dramatically increased the PVPR (up to 6.7x) over those who were not afraid of the infection or were not quite sure whether to fear it. Fear of vaccines side effects clearly reduced the PVPR by at least 84%.