Structure of motivational factors for vaccination against COVID-19: abstract

Bc. et Bc. Hana Šiková

This thesis studies the structure of motives for receiving the vaccine against the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, which caused a pandemic beginning in 2020. A survey was conducted on a representative sample of the Czech population available online aged 18-64. Networks were constructed using partial correlations. On these networks, centralities of motives (represented by nodes) were measured (strength, betweenness, closeness, and Expected Influence). It found that groups based on socio-demographic characteristics did not differ from each other, while groups defined by their time of registration for the vaccine did differ significantly. Four groups of motives were identified with factor analysis: vaccine benefits, outside forces, medical assessment, and accessibility. In the networks, however, there was little tendency for clustering, suggesting well connected belief systems. Generally, a central motive was the belief that vaccination is generally a right thing to do, combined with a recommendation from a medical authority. The vaccination decision of people around had no influence in the system of motives. Results of this and similar studies can be used for effective targeting of future vaccine campaigns.