

Access to SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests: are there barriers for the immigrants in Italy?

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES

To describe the epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 infection in relation with the use of nasal swabs in the immigrant population in Italy, using data from the COVID-19 national surveillance system and to verify if a difference is present comparing natives and immigrant.

DESIGN

Descriptive study based on longitudinal health-administrative data.

SETTING AND PARTICIPANTS

General population of six Italian Regions (Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Lazio) covering about 55% of the resident population and 72% of foreigners' population.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES

Regional rates of access to at least a nasal swab, separately by country of origin.

RESULTS

Across all the periods, a lower rate in the foreigners' group was observed, with the only exception of the period May-June 2021. Considering separately High Migratory Pressure Countries (HMPCs) and Highly Developed Countries (HDCs), a higher proportion of nasal swabs performed in people coming from HDC with respect to HMPCs and natives was noticed. This observation is consistent in males and females.

CONCLUSIONS

During the first wave of the pandemic, Italians have had a higher proportion of nasal swabs compared to migrants across all Regions. This difference disappeared in the following periods, probably due to a major availability of diagnostic tests

FULL TEXT

<https://epiprev.it/documenti/downloadfile.php?fileid=9e5ecef9eab1d343be8ff82c1d5cff17227ed361>