Influenza transmission indicator – Portuguese experience

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Transmission indicator

Weekly Influenza-like illness (ILI) incidence rate (/10^5)

- National indicator;
- Availability of denominators (sum of users of each GP that reports ILI cases, even if zero, during the week);
- Stable surveillance system (since 1989);
- Timely (paper or web form);
- A subset of cases is laboratory tested for Influenza.
Thresholds

Moving Epidemic Method

Intensity levels defined according upper limit of the 40%, 90% and 97.5 one sided confidence interval of the geometric mean
Last six Influenza seasons

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Table 1. Seasonal threshold and intensity levels (2016/17)</th>
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<td>Baseline</td>
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<td>&lt; 32.63</td>
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Results

Figure 1. Weekly influenza-like illness during 2015/16 and 2016/17 season
Strengths and limitations

Strengths
Simplicity to assess influenza transmission each week
Virological data can be used

Limitations
Extra-ordinary intensity level is difficult to define
Influenced by health care seeking behavior
Does not allow disaggregation by age group
Thank you for your attention!