

## 7 countries participated:

- Turkey
- Greece
- Cyprus
- Israel
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- Croatia



## INTRODUCTION

While most countries provide safe effective influenza vaccines coverage among at risk groups like children with rheumatic disease remains uncertain

## OBJECTIVES

To assess the influenza vaccination rate in children with JIA.  
 To assess perception about the influenza vaccine among caregivers of children with JIA.  
 To identify facilitators that could increase its uptake.

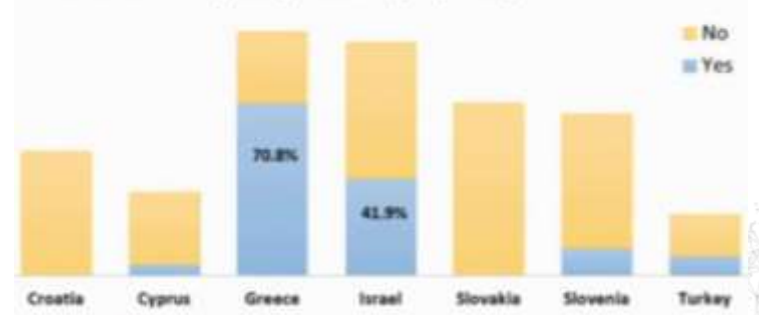
## METHOD

A multi-center cross-sectional study was performed. Participants completed a questionnaire about influenza vaccination uptake history, knowledge, perceptions and clinical data regarding JIA. Results were analyzed using descriptive statistics

## RESULTS

A total of 287 JIA caregivers were surveyed. The Majority of the participants was employed (72%), married (82.5%) and had tertiary education (50.9%). This season a total of 87 children (30.3%) were vaccinated against influenza. Children with sJIA had the highest vaccine uptake (65.4%). Caregivers who did not know the child's diagnosis reported the lowest one (12.2%). The major reason for non-vaccination was unawareness of the need (39.7%).

Influenza vaccine uptake per country of participation



## CONCLUSIONS

Influenza vaccine uptake remains low among JIA patients. Informing families, discussing their concerns and organizing campaigns that will address the fears and highlight the importance of the influenza vaccine for the JIA population, may increase vaccination rates in children with rheumatic diseases.