

RSV AWARENESS: A NATIONAL POLL OF PARENTS & HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

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Background

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a contagious seasonal virus that causes respiratory infections.

RSV often resembles the flu or common cold, which is why parents often dismiss the symptoms as a mild illness. While most children are able to fight off RSV on their own, infants, especially those born prematurely, and children with weak immune systems or underdeveloped lungs may get very sick.

For these high-risk children, RSV can lead to hospitalization, lifelong health complications like asthma, even death. RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization in children younger than one and the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia.

RSV CAN LEAD TO:



Methods

Two U.S. nationwide surveys were conducted in September of 2018.

Survey conducted Sept. 11-19

Survey conducted Sept. 12-25



Parents of Children 4 and Under (N=600) Including N=60 First-Time Expectant Parents



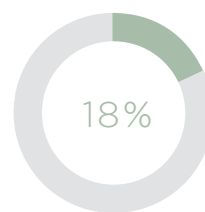
Specialty Health Care Providers (N=175)

Both surveys sought to gain information about participants' awareness of and concern about RSV. Additional questions were asked to gauge participants' confidence in monitoring and preventing RSV.

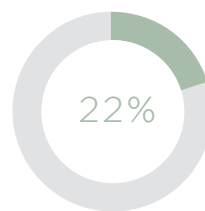
Results

PARENTS

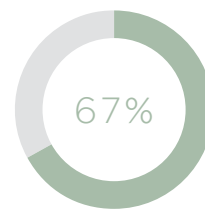
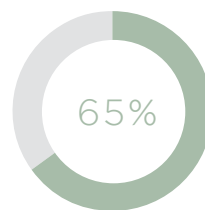
Only **18%** of parents said they know "a lot" about RSV.



Just **22%** of parents consider themselves "very well prepared" to prevent RSV, but when presented with the possibility of an RSV vaccine, 83% said they would "probably" or "definitely" take it if they were pregnant.

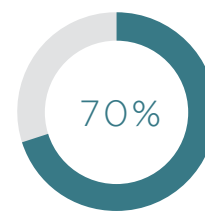


After hearing statistics about RSV, parents said they were "**more concerned**" about their child contracting it (**65%**) and were **likely to ask their doctor about RSV (67%)**.

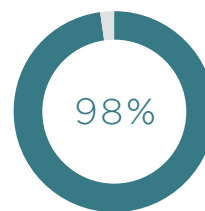


SPECIALTY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

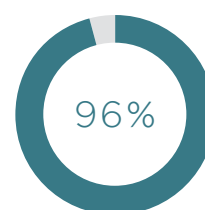
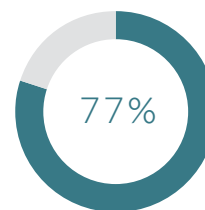
70% of providers agreed that parents of their patients have **low awareness of RSV**, but they actively monitor for it.



Nearly all providers indicated they are vigilant about **monitoring for symptoms during RSV season (98%)** and 78% believe mandatory reporting of new cases should be reinstated.



Providers discern an even greater risk, reporting RSV is the "**most serious and dangerous**" illness for children under 4 (**77%**) and for **premature babies (96%)**.



Conclusion

This research illustrates that RSV is a serious, demonstrated threat to infants and young children.

Responses indicate parents are largely unaware and feel unequipped to protect their children, but educating parents about prophylactic measures can lead them to protect their children. Health care providers overwhelmingly acknowledge the importance of robust RSV surveillance and believe policy mandating new case reports should be reinstated.