

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccination rates for Residential Aged Care Facilities in Townsville

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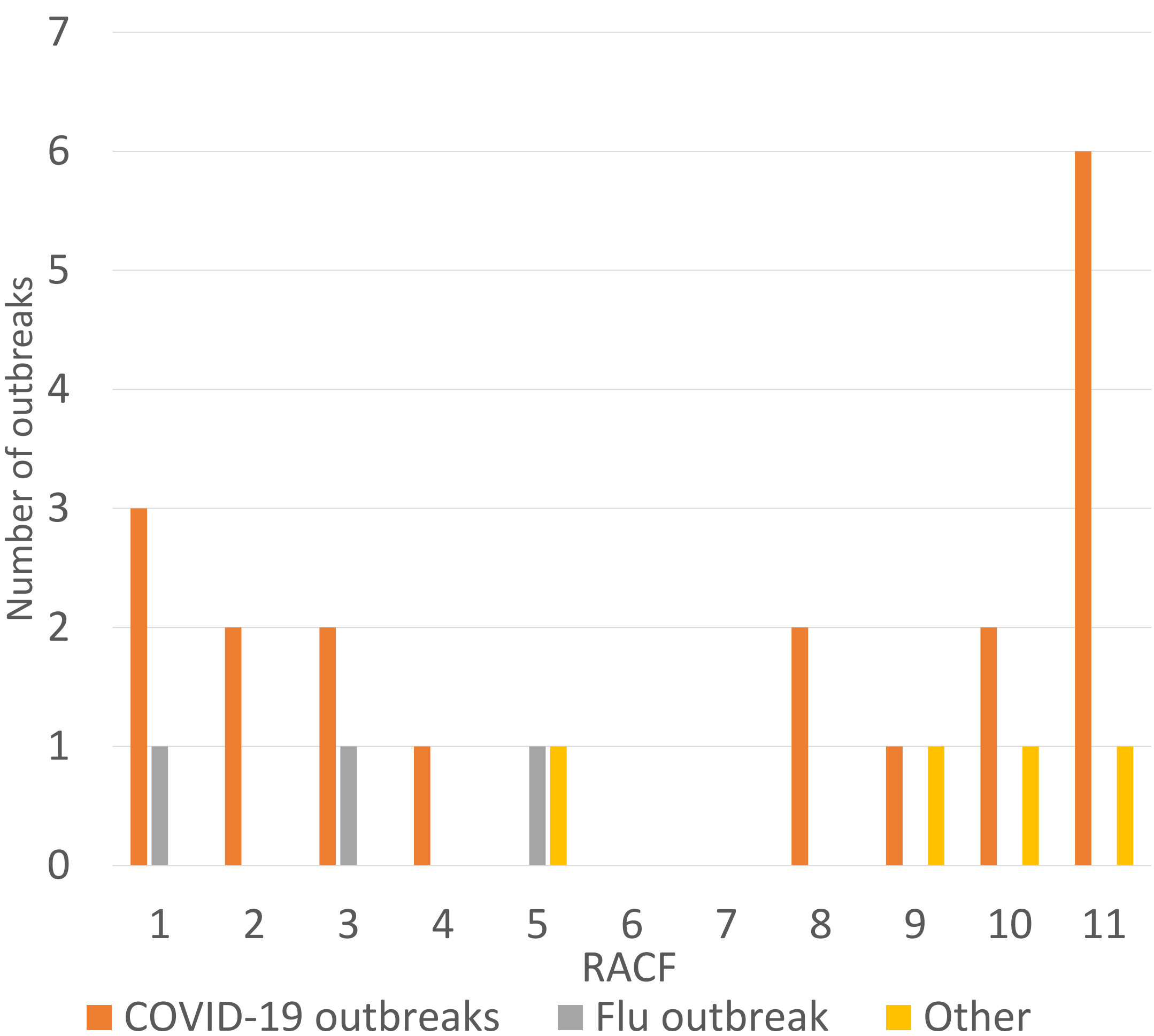
Introduction

Influenza and COVID-19 in RACF residents cause a significant burden of disease for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS).

The Qld Government surveillance only provides COVID-19 vaccination rates within a ten-point percentage bracket, and no information on influenza is provided. This poster illustrates the vaccination rates in Townsville in RACFs.

When respiratory illness occurs in RACFs 'outbreaks' are declared. This has significant impacts on the wellbeing of the residents and avoiding outbreak lockdowns is beneficial.

Knowledge of the vaccination coverage assists the THHS in understanding the risk to the health service from acute respiratory illness and guides public health interventions.



Methods

Design:

- Retrospective, descriptive audit of immunization coverage in RACFs.

Population:

- Individuals in RACFs in the THHS area.

Measurement tool:

- Emailed survey of RACF vaccination coverage.

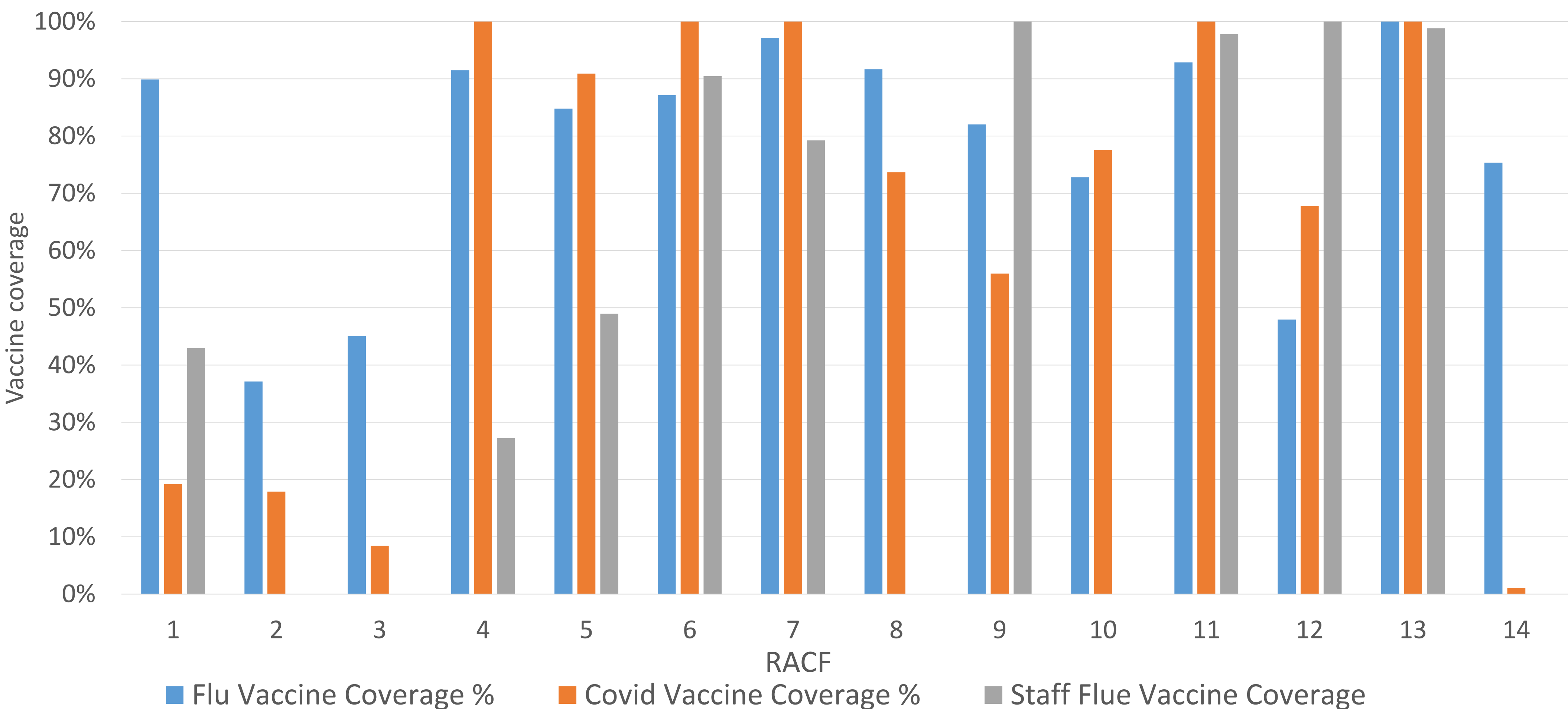
Aim

Determine if there is an association between RACF outbreaks and 2023 vaccination status in THHS.

Objectives:

- Quantify the number of:
 - 2023 vaccines
 - vaccinated staff
 - RACF outbreaks
- Calculate the association between vaccination and outbreaks

	Vaccinated in 2023	Not vaccinated in 2023	Declined or ineligible	Coverage
COVID-19	591	680	172	46.5%
Influenzae	983	288	N/A	77.3%



Results

RACF residents in 2023:

- 983 influenza vaccines (77% coverage).
- 591 COVID-19 vaccines (46% coverage).
- Refused or ineligible for vaccination
 - COVID-19 = 172 (13%)
 - Influenza = 168 (13%)

RACF staff in 2023:

- 712 had received an influenza vaccine (43% coverage).
- All facilities = 90% of staff had 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccination since the beginning of the pandemic.

Response rate: 70% (n=14)

Outbreaks:

- 30 acute respiratory illness outbreaks between January and September 2023.
- COVID-19 n = 20
- Influenzae outbreaks n=4
- Other or unknown n=5

Vaccination was provided to nursing homes by:

- GPs n=4
- GPs together with Pharmacists n=4
- Pharmacy alone n=1
- GP with a sub-contractor n=1
- Sub-contractor alone n=1.

No locations identified the availability of vaccine providers as a barrier to vaccination in their RACF.

A chi-square test of association was significant, $X^2 (1, N=1271), = 198, p<0.00$. The odds ratio of being involved in an outbreak if vaccinated was 0.18 (95% CI, 0.144, 0.234).

Residents who were not vaccinated were more likely to be in a RACF COVID-19 outbreak.

Conclusions

- Up-to-date vaccination decreases the number of outbreaks in RACFs.
- Public Health interventions to increase vaccine uptake should be supported.

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