Interventions to Increase vaccine uptake in prisons: A global systematic scoping review

Babak Moazen1,2*, Nisreen Agbaria2, Nasrul Ismail3, Sara Mazzilli4, Ulla-Britt Klankwarth1, Arianna Amaya2, Alicia Rosello3, Jemima Darcy4, Emma Pluge5,6, Heino Stöver1, Lara Tavoschi4

1. Department of Health and Social Work, Institute of Addiction Research (ISFF), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt/Main, Germany 2. Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany 3. School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom 4. Department of Translational Research and New Technologies in Medicine and Surgery, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy 5. UK Health Security Agency, London, United Kingdom 6. Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, UK

Background

People in prisons are at exceptionally higher risks of acquiring infectious diseases. Although some of these diseases are vaccine-preventable, evidence on various aspects of vaccination programs including interventions implemented to increase vaccine uptake in prisons is scarce.

Methods

In line with the PRISMA extension for scoping reviews criteria, we searched five databases of peer-reviewed literature—PubMed, ISI Web of Science, Cochrane library, Science Direct, and EBSCO—as well as 14 databases of grey literature to access publications between 2012 and 2022. Suitable publications were reviewed by two researchers independently and the quality of these publications was assessed through established quality assessment tools.

Results

- Of the 11,281 publications identified and reviewed, 17 met the inclusion criteria.
- For adults, educational interventions include holding courses on target diseases and vaccines together with question/answer sessions, and knowledge dissemination through learning materials. Implementing the program by external healthcare providers, using accelerated vaccination schedules, changing the existing vaccination protocols to offer vaccination at the time of entrance, and prioritization of PLP for vaccination by the government were reportedly the organizational interventions implemented to increase vaccine uptake.
- For juveniles, creating a virtual forum with youths, guardians and community partners, one-on-one outreach to guardians, and motivational interviews with youths were implemented in an attempt to increase the rates of vaccine uptake among them.
- Knowledge dissemination through videos, holding e-learning courses about the target diseases and vaccines, as well as further communications and awareness raising through emails were implemented as staff-specific interventions to increase vaccine uptake among people who work in prisons.

Conclusions

The lack of availability of vaccination services and interventions to increase vaccine uptake among people who live and work in prisons, worldwide, is a serious public health concern. Considering that most of the people who live in prisons will eventually return to their community and that those who work in prisons return to their community daily, increasing vaccination uptakes as per the measures above should be a key priority for public health investment.