

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

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Background

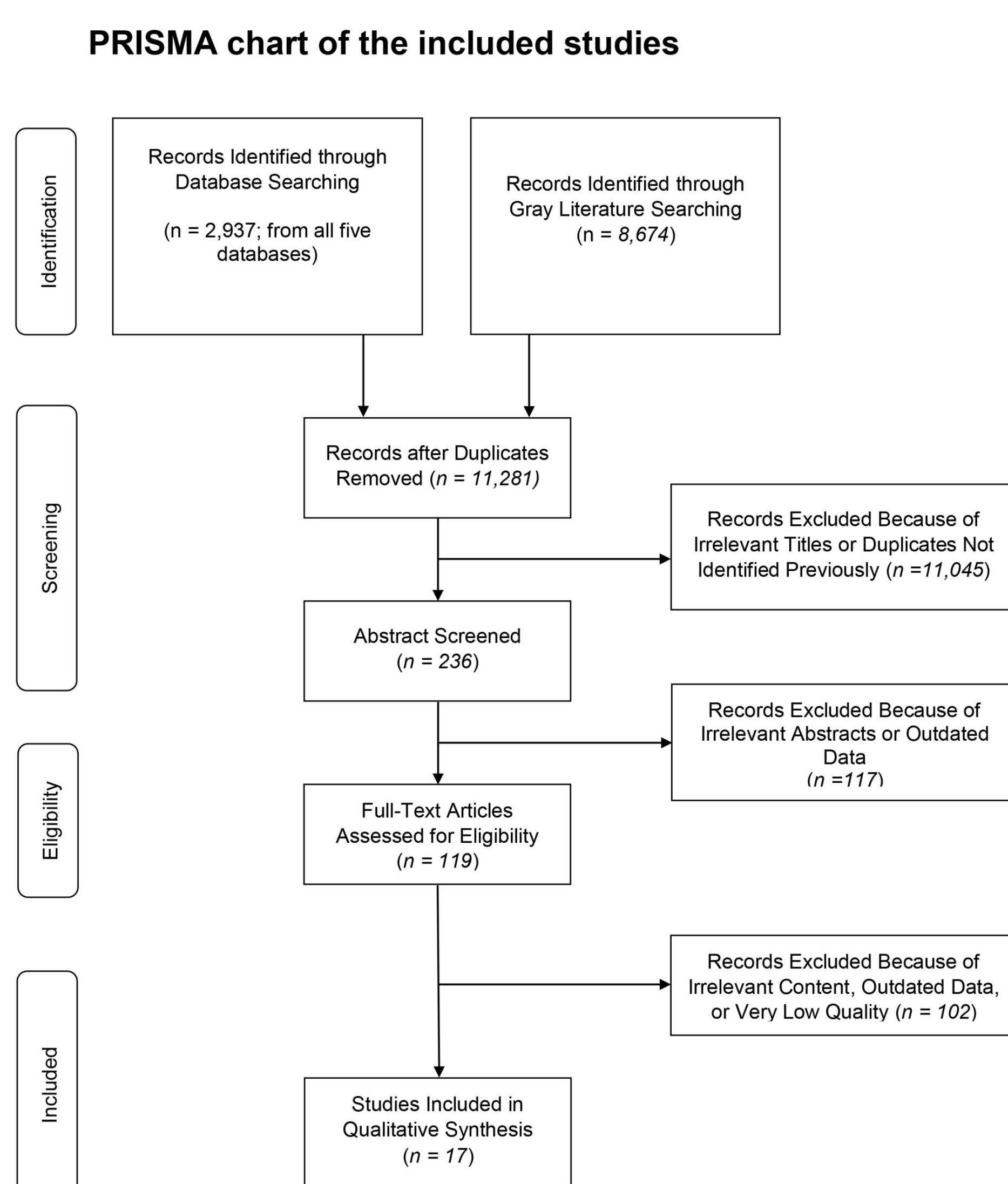
People in prisons are at exceptionally higher risks of acquiring infectious diseases. Although some of these diseases are vaccine-preventable, evidence on various aspects of vaccination programs including interventions implemented to increase vaccine uptake in prisons is scarce.

Specific Aims & Objectives

In line with the aim and objectives of the European research project RISE-Vac, the present report presents the results of a systematic scoping review conducted to examine the existing interventions implemented to increase vaccine uptake in prisons, worldwide.

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.

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