

Vaccine uptake among people who inject drugs: a systematic review

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Background

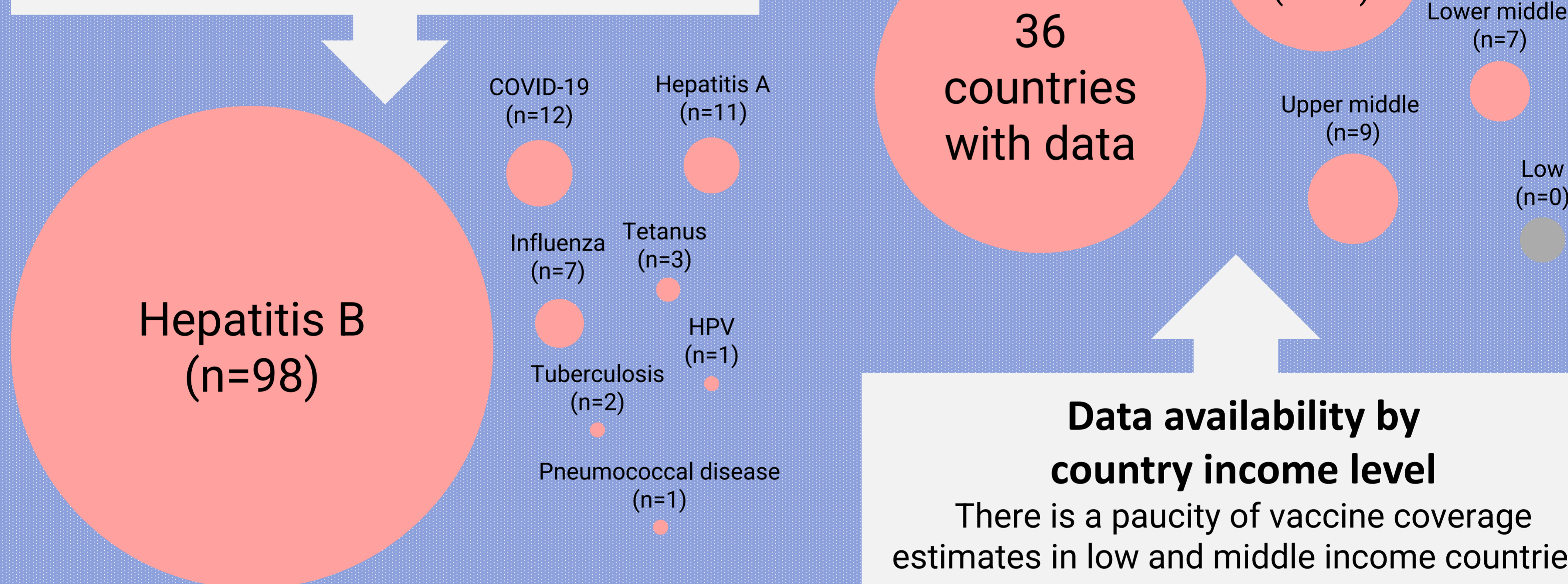
Research suggests vaccine coverage among people who inject drugs is low. **However, there has been no systematic review of the evidence.**

Methods

We conducted searches of the peer-reviewed and grey literature for estimates of vaccine coverage among people who inject drugs. Where there were multiple estimates available for a vaccine within a country, we pooled data using random effects meta-analysis.

Data availability by vaccine

Of 117 vaccine coverage estimates located, the majority were hepatitis B (73%).



Global vaccine coverage among people who inject drugs

- Serological evidence for **vaccine-derived hepatitis B immunity** ranged from **6% (Nepal)** to **53% (Poland)**.
- Based on self-report data, **hepatitis A vaccine coverage** ranged from **3% (USA)** to **89% (Canada)**.
- For remaining vaccines, evidence could not be combined due to differences in methodology or sparse data.

Take away messages

1. **We need better evidence!** Improved quantity, quality, and geographic coverage of data is essential to identify where gaps in vaccine coverage exist.
2. **Despite being a priority population for hepatitis B vaccination, coverage among people who inject drugs is sub-optimal.** Scale-up of evidence-informed interventions to improve uptake (e.g., financial incentives for vaccination) is urgently needed.

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