

Availability and model of delivery of vaccination services in prisons: A global multi-stage scoping review

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Background

Vaccination is an effective strategy to tackle infectious diseases in prisons and the general population. As a part of the European research project RISE-Vac the present review aimed at identifying and reporting on the availability and model of delivery of vaccination services in prisons, worldwide.

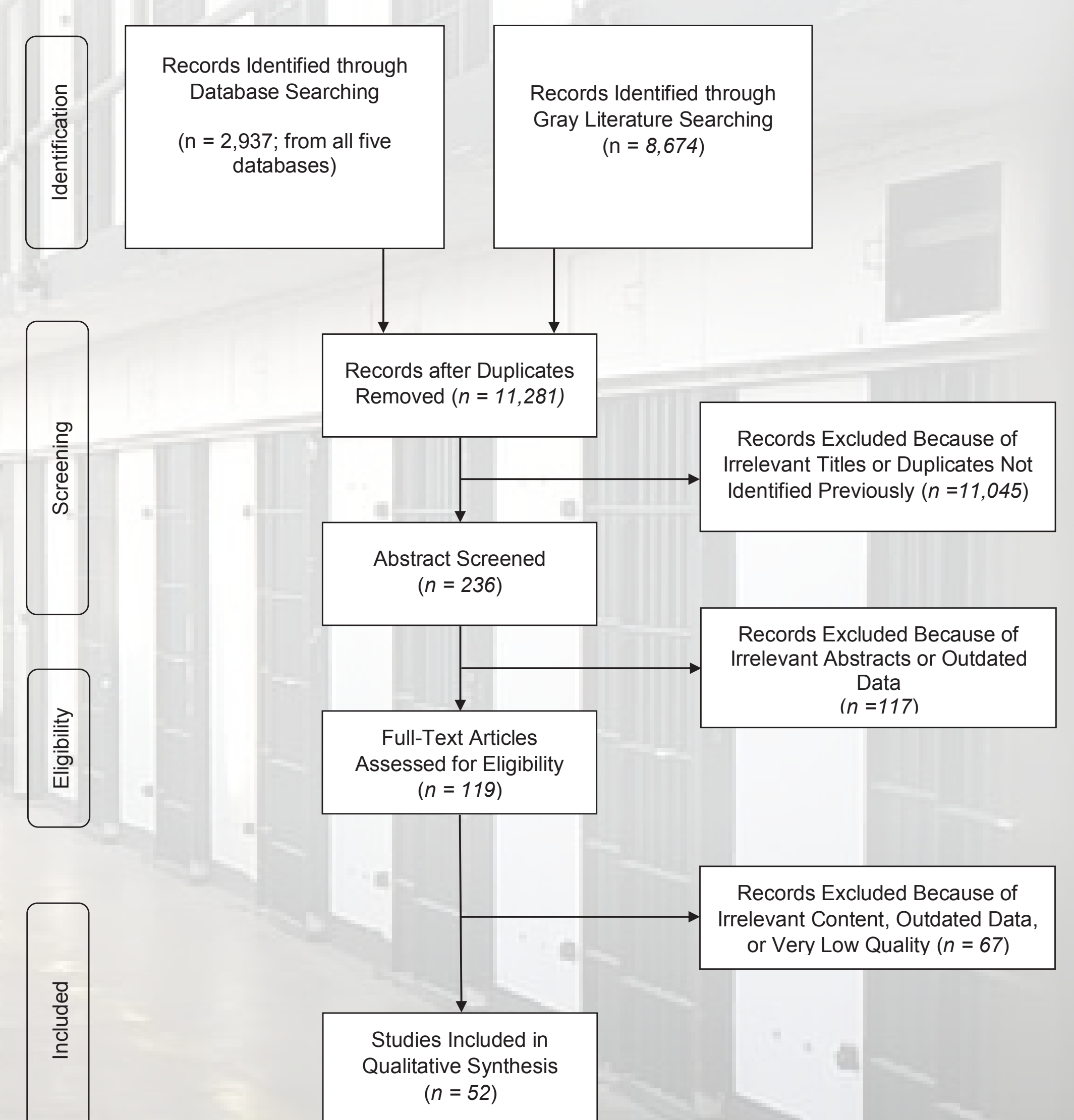
Methods

In line with the PRISMA extension for scoping reviews criteria, we searched five databases of peer-reviewed literature including PubMed, ISI Web of Science, Cochrane library, Science Direct, and EBSCO, and 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, 52 met the inclusion criteria. The vast majority of the included publications came from high-income countries. In many countries vaccines were distributed as a response to an existing crisis e.g. pandemics, epidemics, or local outbreaks, rather than through routine immunization programs. The available vaccines in prisons comprise COVID-19 (17/52), HBV (10/52), HPV (6/52), influenza (5/52), measles (3/52), varicella (3/52), HAV (2/52), pneumonia (1/52), diphtheria (1/52), or two or more diseases combined (4/52). Evidence on the model of delivery, coverage, uptake, and success of the available immunization programs in prisons are scarce with low quality.

PRISMA chart of the included studies



Conclusions

The lack of availability of vaccination services among people who live and work in prisons, worldwide, is a serious public health concern. A concrete and urgent action is required to enhance the availability and ensure the uptake of vaccines in prisons. Implementing vaccination programs and interventions to increase vaccine uptake among people who live in prisons is not only their right to health, but also a step forward towards reaching the sustainable development goal 3 (SDG3) of healthy lives and promote well-being for all people.

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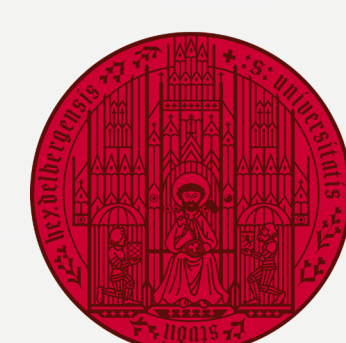
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