



Introduction

Vaccine uptake in most minority or ethnic paediatric communities in Europe is lower compared to the general population. Research so far mainly focused on beliefs and attitudes toward vaccination, and less on exploring how the health care system contributes and responds to these beliefs and attitudes.

Aim of RIVER-EU

To collect evidence on health system barriers and enablers among underserved communities and vulnerable communities that achieve high vaccine uptake despite being considered underserved.

Results

Health system barriers:

1. Access to vaccination services is limited
2. Language difficulties
3. Insufficient coordination of health services
4. Health care professionals are insufficiently trained and skilled in providing tailored care and information
5. Vaccine hesitancy among healthcare professionals
6. Lack of healthcare resources
7. Lack of or insufficient delivery of information
8. Lack of awareness raising initiatives about vaccine preventable diseases
9. Lack of government intervention to address the influence of anti-vaccination movements
10. Vaccinations and/or additional costs are too expensive
11. Insufficient vaccination regulations
12. Insufficient leadership or governmental coordination in guaranteeing quality and availability of vaccination programs and promotion of these programs
13. Insufficient governmental regulations in registering migrants for health care services, including vaccinations

Methods



Qualitative study with semi-structured interviews with members of underserved communities:

- Migrant community in Greece
- Turkish and Moroccan females in the Netherlands
- Ukrainian community in Poland
- Roma community in Slovakia
- Somali community in Finland
- Arab community in Israel
- Bangladeshi community in the United Kingdom

Focus group discussions with healthcare professionals involved in childhood-vaccinations.

The study period was between November 2021 and June 2022.

Members of the target populations and other stakeholders, such as healthcare professionals and researchers working with the target populations were involved in the design of the different study aspects.



Conclusion

This study provides insight in health system barriers and enablers regarding MMR and/or HPV vaccination in several contexts in Europe. The evidence generated will serve as a basis for interventions and guidance to improve uptake among underserved communities in Europe.

