

Evidence Summary of a Systematic Review

Who is this summary for?

For Doctors and Health Personnel, Administrators and Managers of health facilities, and Community Health Workers and partners involved in child health.

Interventions for improving coverage of childhood immunisation in low- and middle-income countries

Background

Immunisation is a powerful public health strategy for improving child survival, not only by directly combatting key diseases that kill children but also by providing a platform for other health services. However, each year millions of children worldwide, mostly from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), do not receive the full series of vaccines on their national routine immunisation schedule.

This review focuses on interventions for improving childhood immunisation coverage in LMICs.

Questions

What is the effectiveness of intervention strategies to boost and sustain high childhood immunisation coverage in LMICs?

Key findings

- Giving information about vaccinations to parents and community members, specially designed vaccination reminder cards, providing vaccines through regular immunization and rewards, identifying unvaccinated children through home visits and referrals to health clinics and integrating vaccination services with other services may lead to more children getting vaccinated ;
- Evidence-based discussions that aims at knowledge translation to community members may be more effective than conventional health education strategies;
- Integrating immunization services with other services may lead to more children getting vaccinated.

Best practice recommendations

- Organized evidence-based discussions that aim at knowledge translation to community members;
- Organized home visits and regular immunisation outreach sessions are likely to be useful for difficult-to-reach communities.
- Integrating immunization services with other services.

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