

VACCINATION FOR SARS-COV-2 AMONG THOSE IN PRISON CARE IN SCOTLAND ACCORDING TO RECENT OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY HISTORY

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Background:

Whilst prisons may represent a heightened risk environment for COVID-19, they also provide an opportunity to increase vaccination of vulnerable populations such as people who inject drugs (PWID). We aimed to examine the uptake of vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 among those in prison care in Scotland according to recent history of opioid agonist therapy (OAT).

Methods:

Records on individuals in Scottish prisons during the follow-up period of 11th December 2020 (relating to the start of the vaccine programme) to 14th February 2022 were linked to healthcare (including vaccination, hospital, deaths and prescribing) data at Public Health Scotland. Recent OAT history was defined as either methadone, buprenorphine or buprenorphine-naloxone prescription in the last 5 years. Multivariate logistic regression was used to examine the association between recent OAT prescription, and other factors, with vaccine uptake in the Scottish prison cohort.

Results:

Of the 14,784 individuals in prison during follow-up, 4,059 (28%) had a recent OAT history; of the latter, 1,709 were in prison at the end of follow-up while 2,350 had been released. Among those with a recent OAT history, a greater proportion (80%) of those in prison at the end of follow-up (14th February 2022) had received at least one dose of vaccine compared to those released (67%); similarly, a higher proportion (39%) of those in prison had received a third/booster dose compared to 15% in those released. Adjusted for demographic, comorbidity and prison status, recent OAT history was associated with: increased uptake of first dose (aOR 1.43) among the whole prison cohort; reduced uptake of second dose (aOR 0.76) among those who received first dose; and reduced uptake of third/booster dose (aOR 0.73) among those who received second dose.

Conclusion:

Our findings highlight the important role of prisons in efforts to vaccinate individuals, particularly those with an OAT history.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: None