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1. High prevalence and incidence of DR-TB were reported among DR-TB contacts.
2. Differences in prevalence and incidence rates are observed across different regions and age groups.
3. Contact tracing is essential for DR-TB prevention and curb the spread of DR-TB.

BACKGROUND

- Tuberculosis (TB) burden among contacts of drug-susceptible (DS-TB) patients is well studied.
- However, there is a lack of updated evidence on the prevalence and incidence among drug-resistant TB contacts.
- This systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to quantify the prevalence and incidence among contacts of DR-TB patients.

METHODS

- We searched Medline, Embase, Web of Science, Scopus, and CINHAL)
- A random effect meta-analysis was conducted for effect estimates.
- Higgins I2 statistics were used to assess the presence of heterogeneity between the included studies.
- Visual inspection of the funnel plots and Egger regression tests were used to assess publication bias.

RESULTS

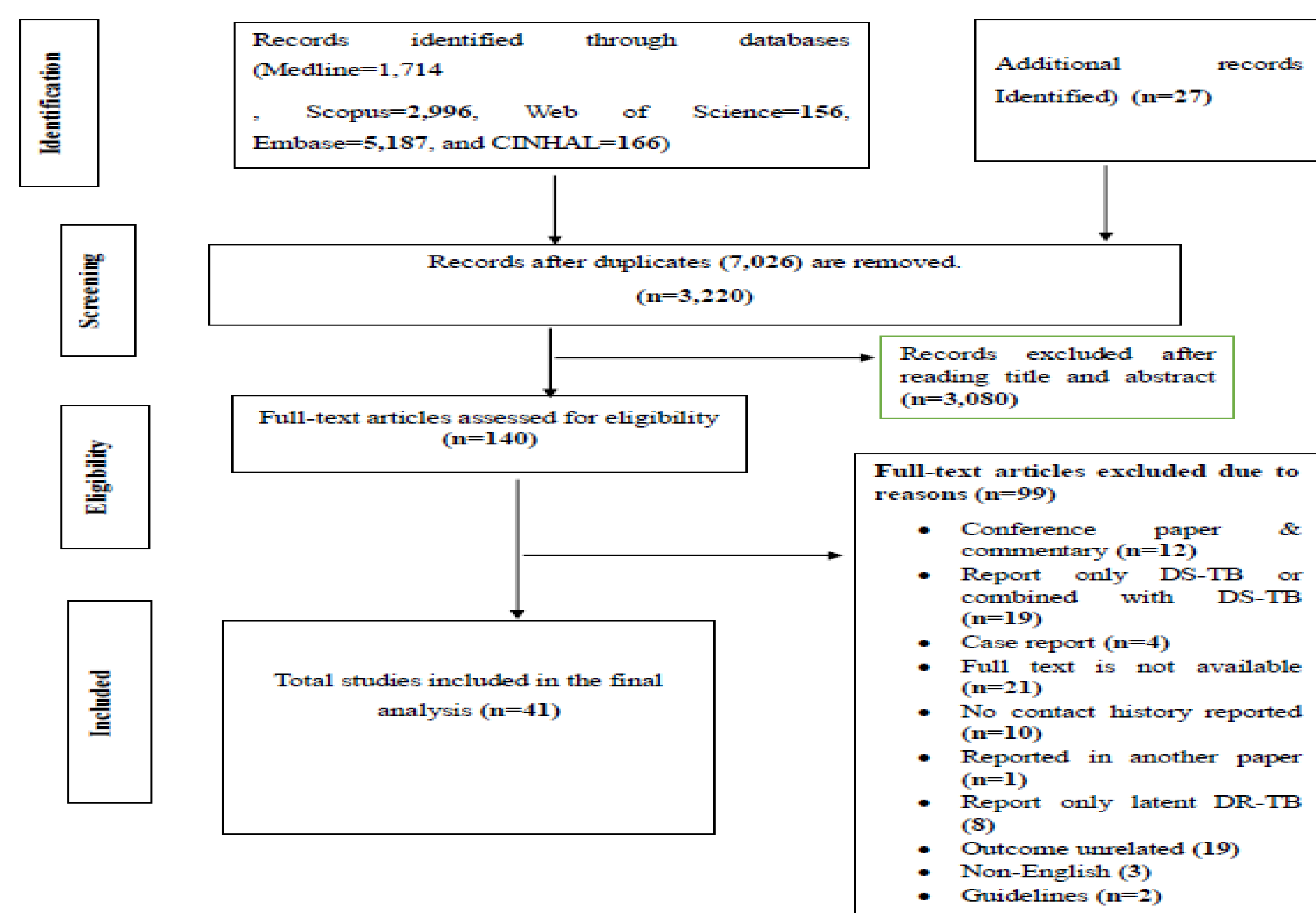


Fig 1: Flowchart diagram describing study selection process for the systematic review and meta-analysis.

RESULTS CONTINUED

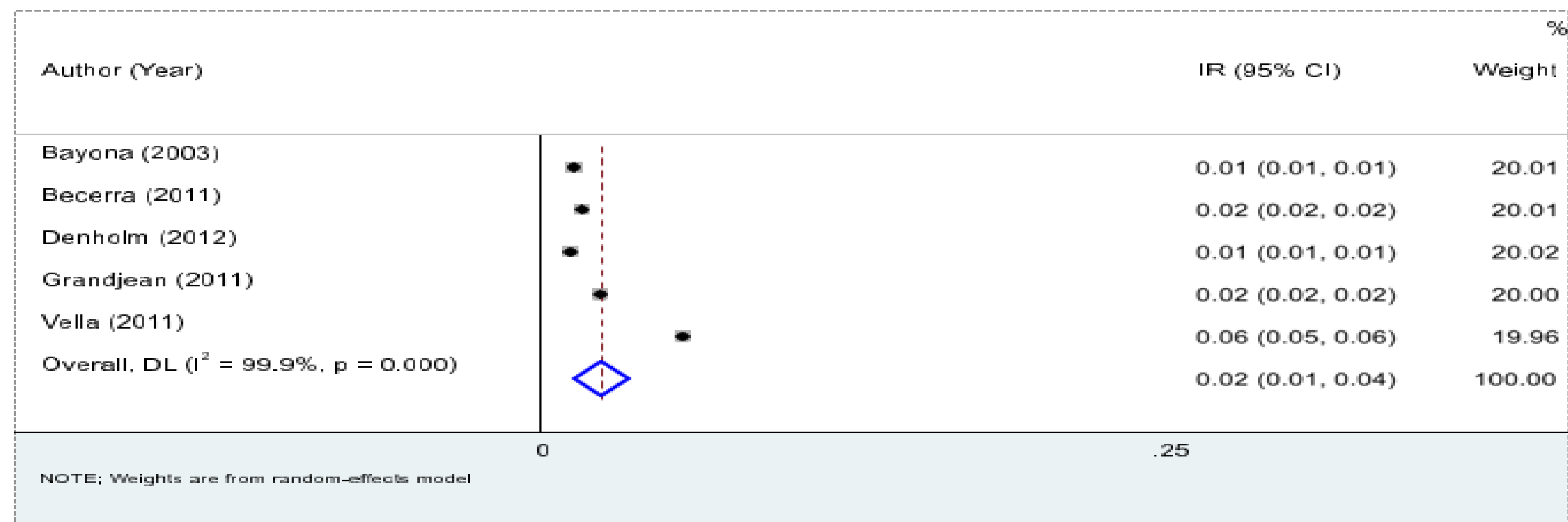


Fig 3: Pooled incidence rate of DR-TB among contacts of DR-TB patients

RESULTS CONTINUED

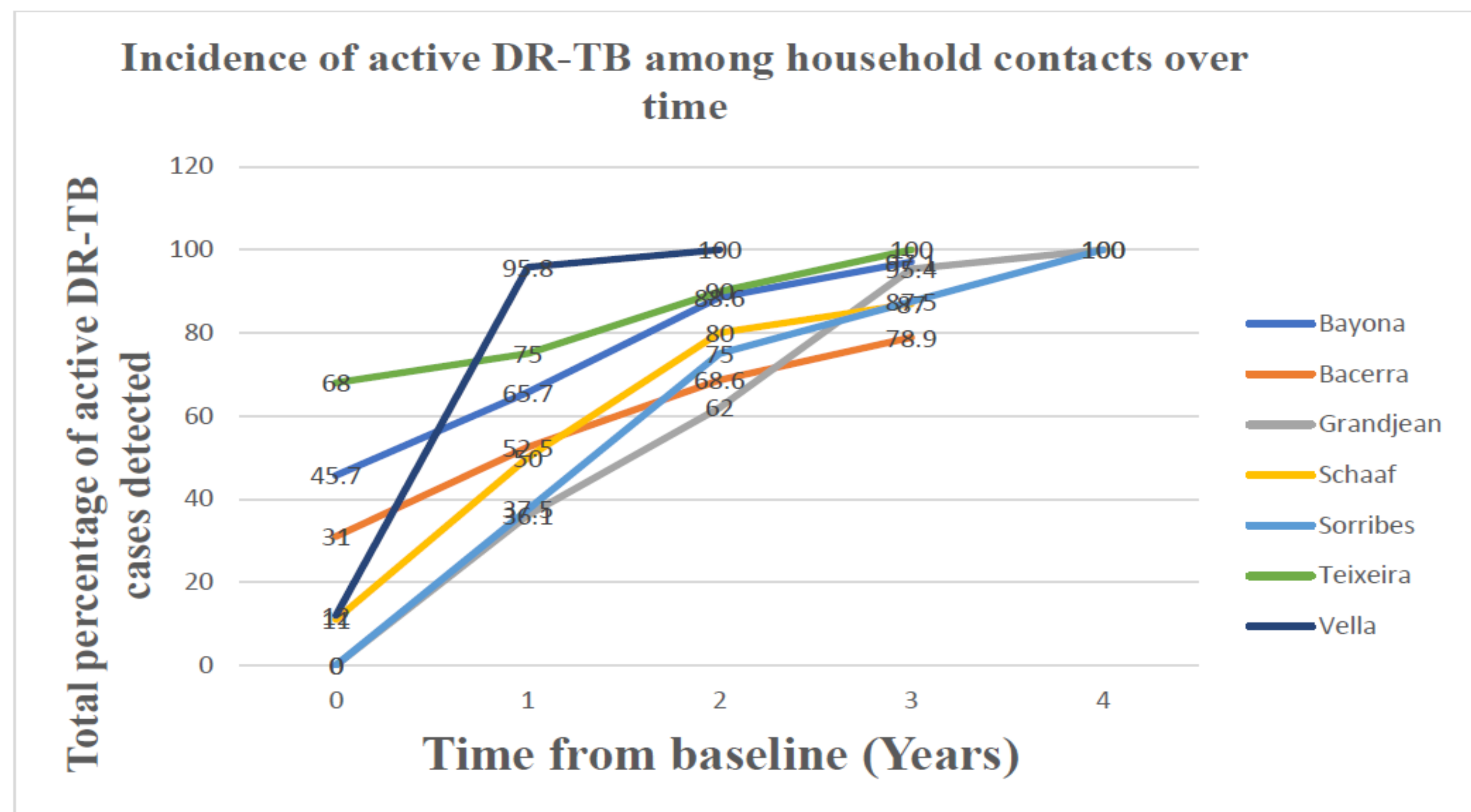


Fig 5: Incidence of active DR-TB among household contacts over time in different published studies.

CONCLUSIONS

- The prevalence and incidence of DR-TB among contacts of DR-TB is high.
- There is a substantial variation in prevalence and incidence of DR-TB by geographic region and age group.
- Contact tracing is crucial for DR-TB prevention and care programs.
- Early diagnosis and treatment commencement through contact tracing helps reduce disease transmission.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

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Conflicts of Interest

No conflict of interest

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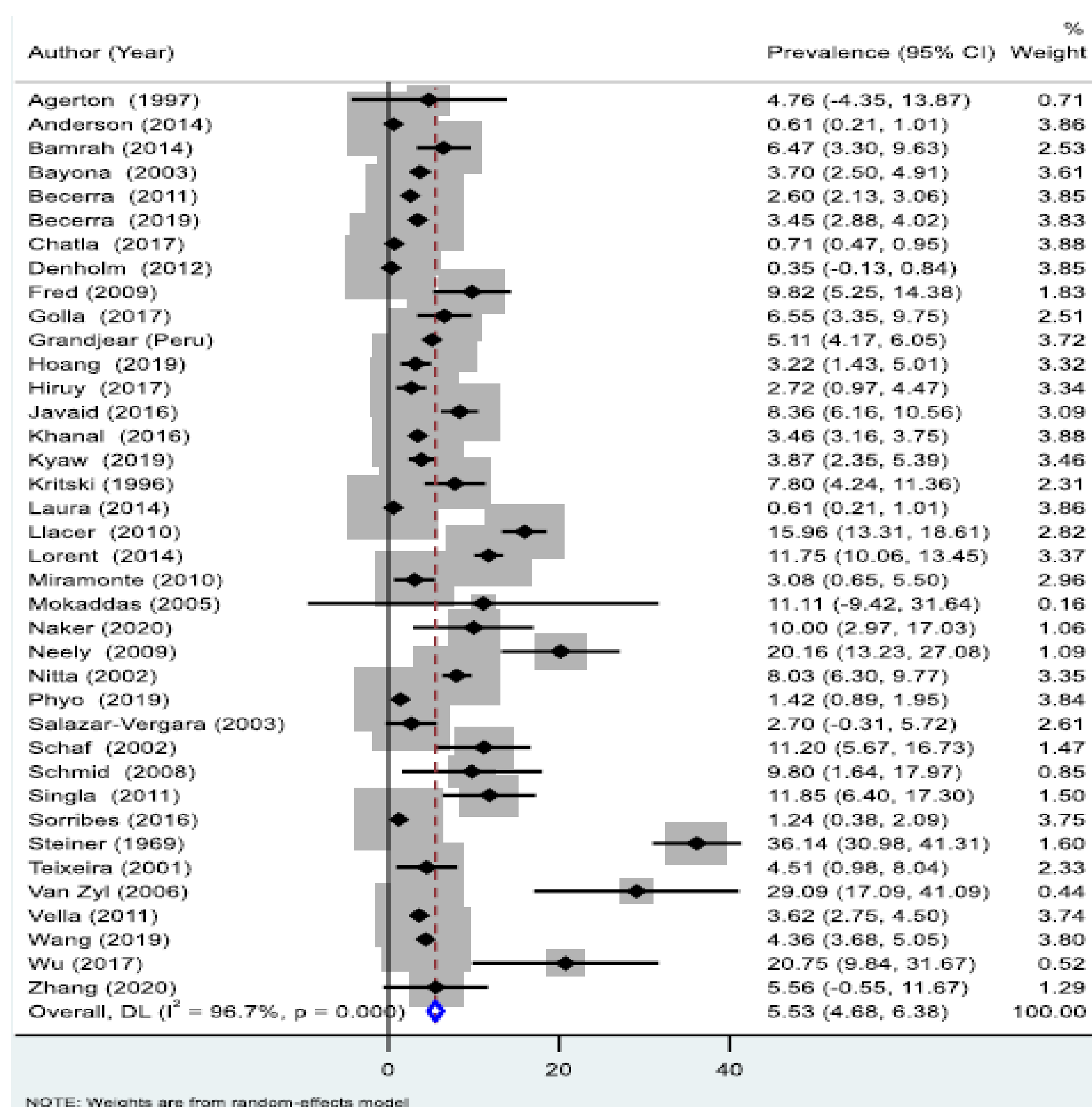


Fig 2: Pooled prevalence of active DR-TB amongst contacts of DR-TB index cases