The global landscape of smallpox vaccination history Implications for current and future orthopoxvirus susceptibility

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How do contemporary smallpox vaccination levels vary between & within countries?



Demography drives contemporary smallpox vaccination heterogeneity

Younger populations are less vaccinated & at greater risk of orthopoxvirus infection

Drivers of Methods Hypothetical scenarios heterogeneity **Motivation** How do predicted contemporary How is contemporary vaccination associated with... vaccination levels change if... Historical smallpox vaccination efforts were heterogeneous leaving a modern patchwork population age of long-lasting protection all countries have the global average age distribution 100 J • This protection is relevant today due to: vaccinated 50-• Ongoing mpox outbreaks • Increasing orthopoxvirus spillover 40 Possibility of smallpox bioterrorism 30. vaccination level Percent increase • We characterized **contemporary** levels of 20 population vaccination against smallpox decrease Approach Percent of population born before 1980 Historical smallpox Contemporary vaccination data demographic data vaccination coverage (national) (subnational) all countries reached 100% vaccination coverage 100 J Region Africa



Due to limited data & small expected effects, we did not consider:

- Natural immunity
- Military vaccinations

Takeaways

- There is currently **substantial global** protection against orthopoxviruses
- But significant geographic heterogeneity in • protection, driven by demographic differences
- Our estimates can be used to
 - Assess current & future risk ullet
 - Allocate vaccine supplies ullet
 - Predict transmission dynamics ullet





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all countries stopped vaccinating in 1984





