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POSTER PRESENTATION 8:

Exploring Attitudes to Vaccination in Prison Residents: a qualitative investigation using the Theoretical Domains Framework and the COM-B Model.

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Introduction:

Prison residents experience disproportionate risk from infectious diseases, yet vaccination uptake remains significantly lower than in the community. Existing evidence suggests that while access to vaccination in prison is adequate, behavioural factors—such as low perceived risk, limited trust, and social norms—drive hesitancy. This qualitative study explores attitudes to vaccination among Welsh prison residents to understand these behavioural determinants and inform targeted interventions. Guided by the Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF) and COM-B Model, the study applies behavioural science to identify capability, opportunity, and motivational influences on vaccine uptake, supporting the development of evidence-based strategies to improve health equity in prison settings.

Aim:

Primary research question: What are the barriers and facilitators to vaccine uptake in the Welsh prison population?

Objectives

- a) To explore the factors influencing vaccine hesitancy among prison residents.
- b) To identify the barriers and facilitators to vaccine acceptance and uptake in prison settings.
- c) Make evidence-based recommendations relating to interventions that are likely to increase vaccine uptake in prison.

Methodology:

This descriptive qualitative study explores attitudes to vaccination among adult male residents in a single Category D prison in Wales. Using purposive sampling, 19 participants were recruited via prison healthcare services. Participants took part in semi-structured, in-depth interviews conducted in the prison healthcare department. The interview schedule, mapped to the Theoretical Domains Framework and COM-B Model, was piloted for clarity and acceptability. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, anonymised, and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2022), applying an inductive-deductive framework mapping to TDF/COM-B domains. Data management complies with NHS information governance and ethical standards.

Results:

Preliminary findings indicate diverse attitudes toward vaccination shaped by trust, perceived risk, and social influences. Early analysis suggests variability across demographic groups and prior vaccine experiences. Descriptive statistics on participant characteristics (age, ethnicity, sentence length, vaccination history) will be presented alongside emergent qualitative themes mapped to TDF and COM-B domains.

Conclusion:

In lieu of conclusions, the plan for dissemination of findings will be shared through peer-reviewed publication, conference presentations, and stakeholder reports across NHS Wales partners. Accessible summaries will be co-developed with prison residents to inform service improvement and policy recommendations.