

New tuberculosis vaccines are in late-stage trials, but how confident is the public in high burden countries in vaccines?

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Background: With tuberculosis (TB) vaccine candidates in late-stage trials, it is important to prepare for implementation to avoid delays upon licensure. General confidence in vaccines has been identified as an anticipated barrier to introducing new TB vaccines. In the absence of detailed TB-specific vaccine acceptability and confidence data, we analysed currently available vaccine confidence data in countries appearing on one of the World Health Organization (WHO) high burden lists to investigate vaccine confidence in countries with a high TB burden.

Methods: We used publicly available data from the Vaccine Confidence Project's Vaccine Confidence Index. Responses to the question "Vaccines are important for people of all ages" were provided on a numeric scale from strongly agree (value = 1) to strongly disagree (value = 4). We categorised values 1-2 as 'high' and 3-4 as 'low' confidence in vaccines.

Results: Vaccine confidence data was available for 22 of the 49 countries on one of the WHO lists containing 65% of global TB burden. Of countries with data, over 80% of respondents in 13 countries, collectively accounting for 77% of the burden in the 22 countries, reported high confidence in vaccines, including 95% in India and 92% in Brazil. 71% of respondents in South Africa and 75% of respondents in Philippines indicated high confidence in vaccines (collectively 15% of the burden). Respondents from Papua New Guinea, Belarus, and the Russian Federation (collectively 1.5% of the burden) reported the lowest confidence in vaccines, with 50%, 57%, and 63% respectively responding positively.

Discussion: In advance of TB-specific vaccine confidence and acceptability data, our results could be used to prioritise countries for TB vaccine confidence and acceptability raising activities, e.g., in countries where vaccine confidence was lowest, and in South Africa and Philippines where new vaccines may be introduced earlier.

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Conflicts of Interest

None

