

Meningococcal Serogroup B Vaccination Coverage of Infants, Children & Adolescents in Different Regions in Italy: A Retrospective Administrative Database Study

Nikitas G¹, Comparoni S², Nugnes M³, Saragoni S³, Castagna S², Marijam A¹

¹GSK, Belgium; ²GSK, Italy; ³Clicon S.r.l., Società Benefit, Health Economics & Outcomes Research, Italy



Digital poster



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Background

- Neisseria meningitidis* can cause invasive meningococcal disease, lead to severe long-term sequelae, and is associated with high case-fatality rates.¹
- Meningococcal serogroup B vaccines help protect against *N. meningitidis* serogroup B (MenB), which represents the most prevalent serogroup in Italy.²
- MenB vaccination for newborns was introduced in some Italian regions in 2014 and in the national immunization program (NIP) in 2017.³
- Certain Italian regions also included MenB vaccination for adolescents.⁴

Aims

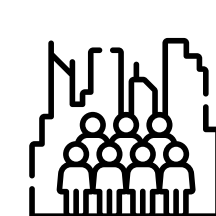
We investigated MenB vaccination coverage in Italy, for different age groups and dosing schedules.



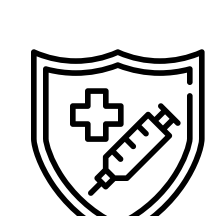
Study design



We conducted a retrospective observational study using the administrative database of a subset of local health units in Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, and Umbria, corresponding to about 20% of the regional population.

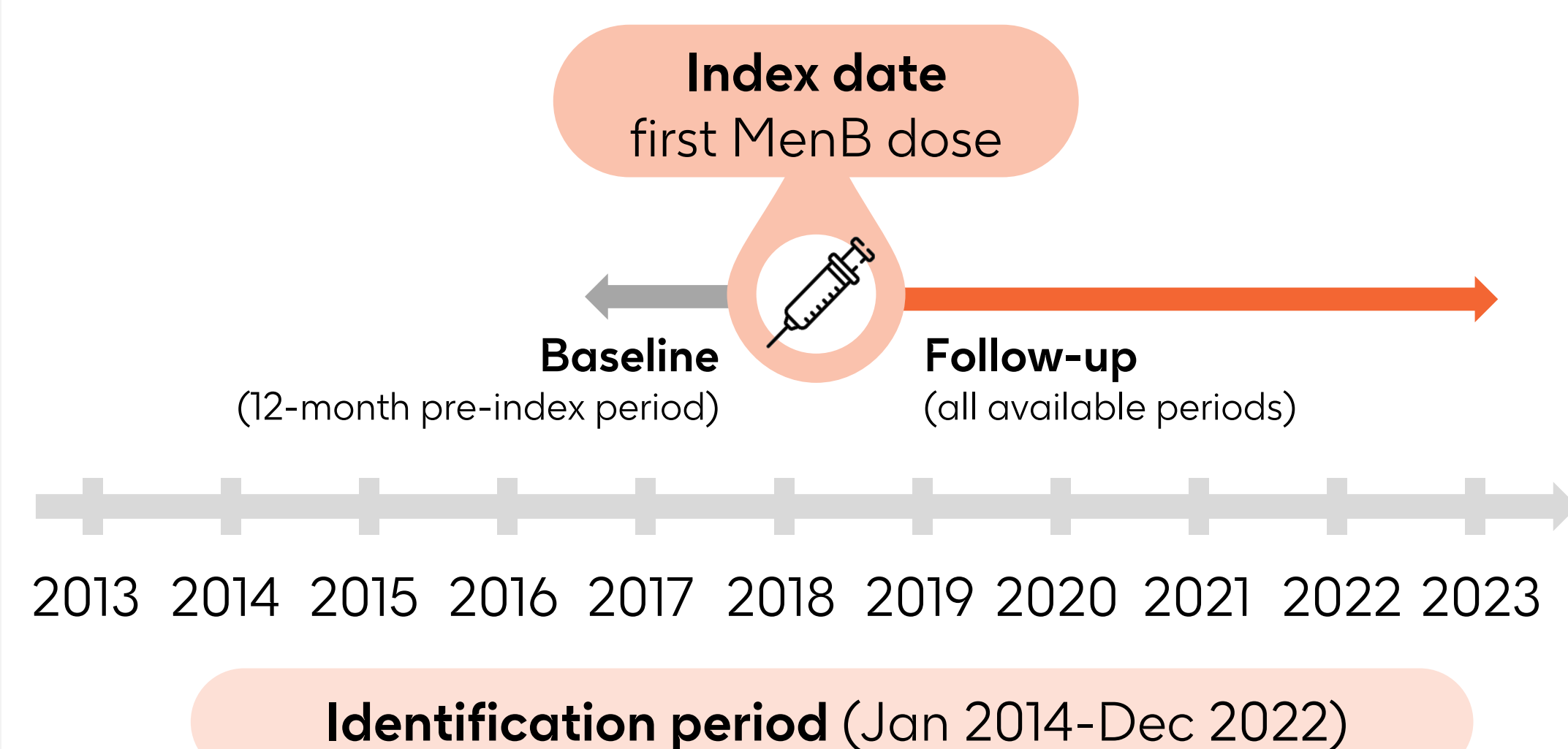


The study population MenB vaccinated population includes all individuals receiving MenB vaccination during 2014-2022 periods.



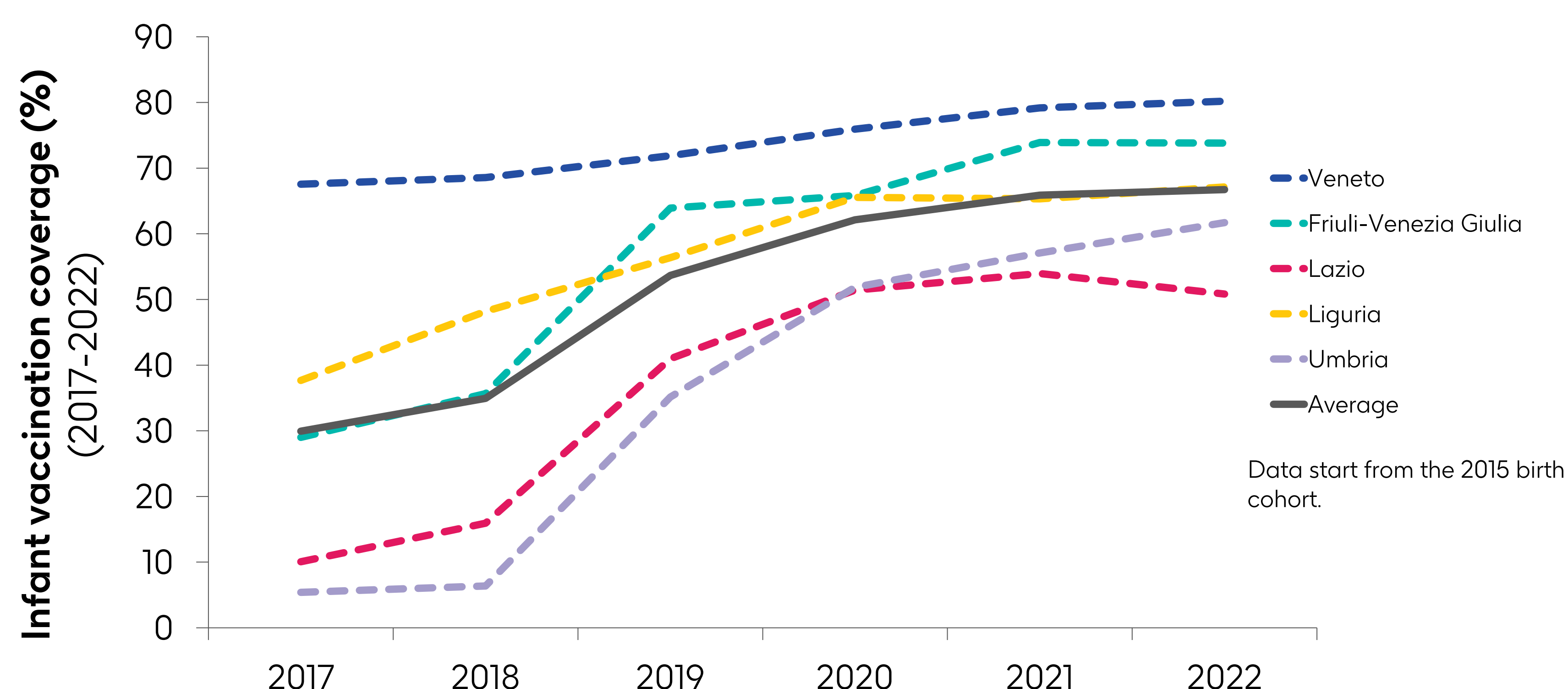
MenB vaccination coverage was estimated as the number of individuals vaccinated, divided by the number of health-assisted individuals covered, per dose, per region and per year of vaccination, over the period 2014-2022, for each cohort between 2009-2021.*

* By 2022, MenB was recommended for infants with a 2+1 schedule, and Lazio was implementing adolescent vaccination with a 2-dose schedule.

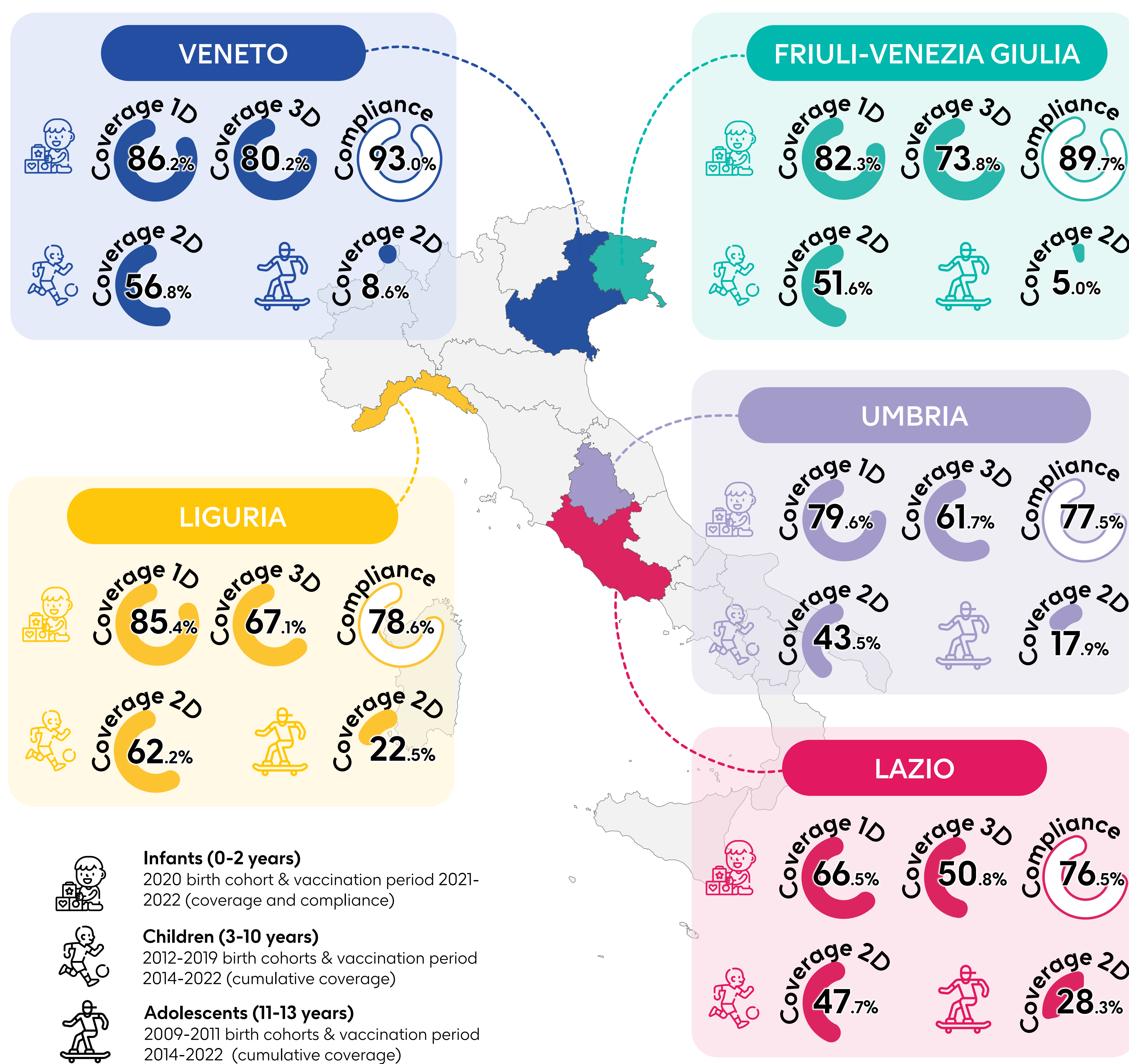


Results

MenB vaccination coverage in infants increased from 2017 to 2022, with variation across regions.



MenB vaccination coverage in 2022 varies across regions and ages



The **series** is a 2+1 schedule for infants, and a 2 doses for children and adolescents. **Compliance** is the number of individuals who completed the series divided by the number of individuals who received the first dose.

Conclusions



MenB vaccination coverage and compliance to the full vaccination schedule **varies** significantly **among different regions** and **age groups** in Italy.



Infant vaccination remains **sub-optimal** compared to the NIP **target of 90%**, while child and adolescent cumulative vaccination rates remain low.

Abbreviations

D, dose(s); **MenB**, *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B; **NIP**, national immunization program.

References

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