



Policy Panel: Inequalities and Implementation in the EU

A pediatrician's view

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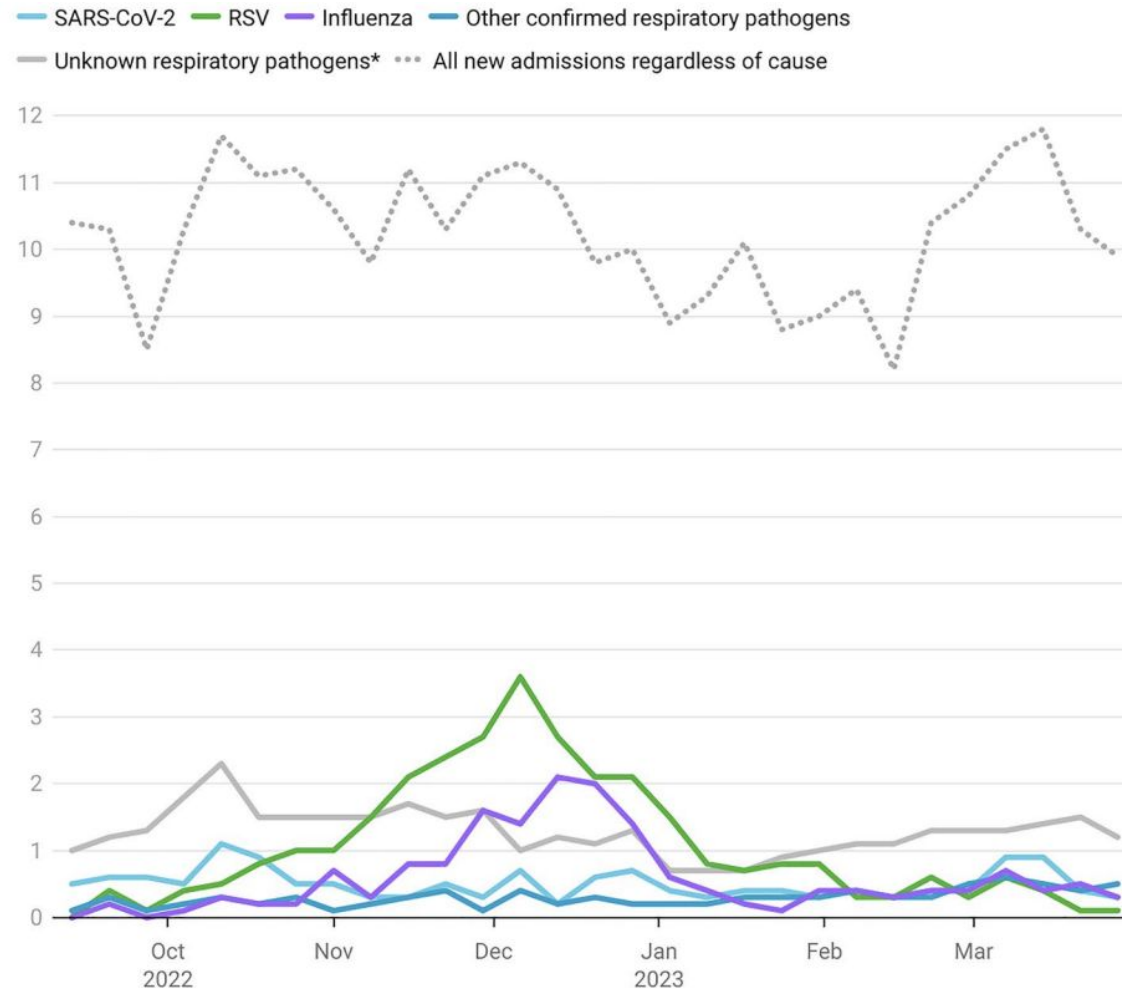
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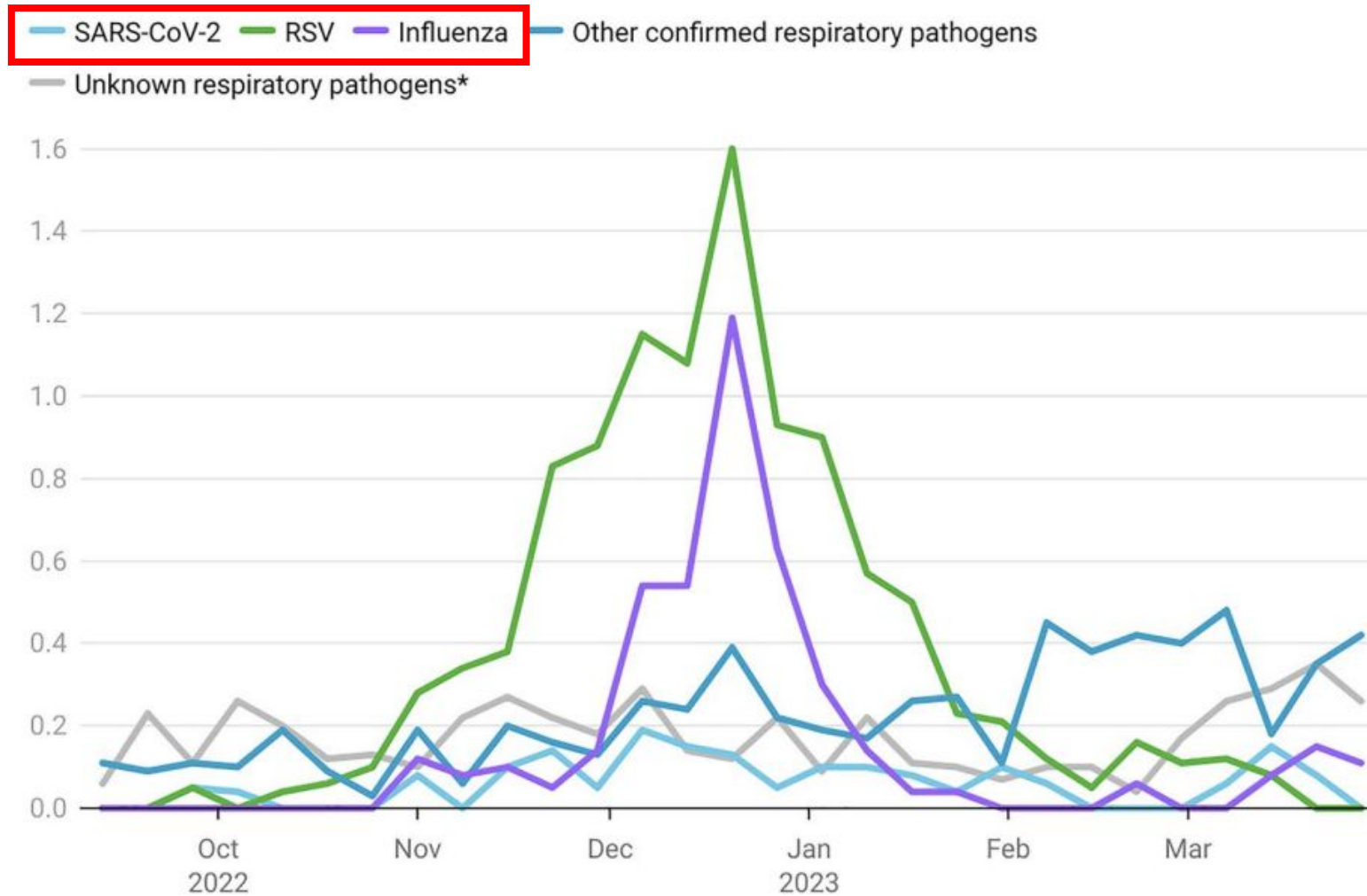
Respiratory tract infections leading to hospitalization in 2022–2023

76 centers in
Germany

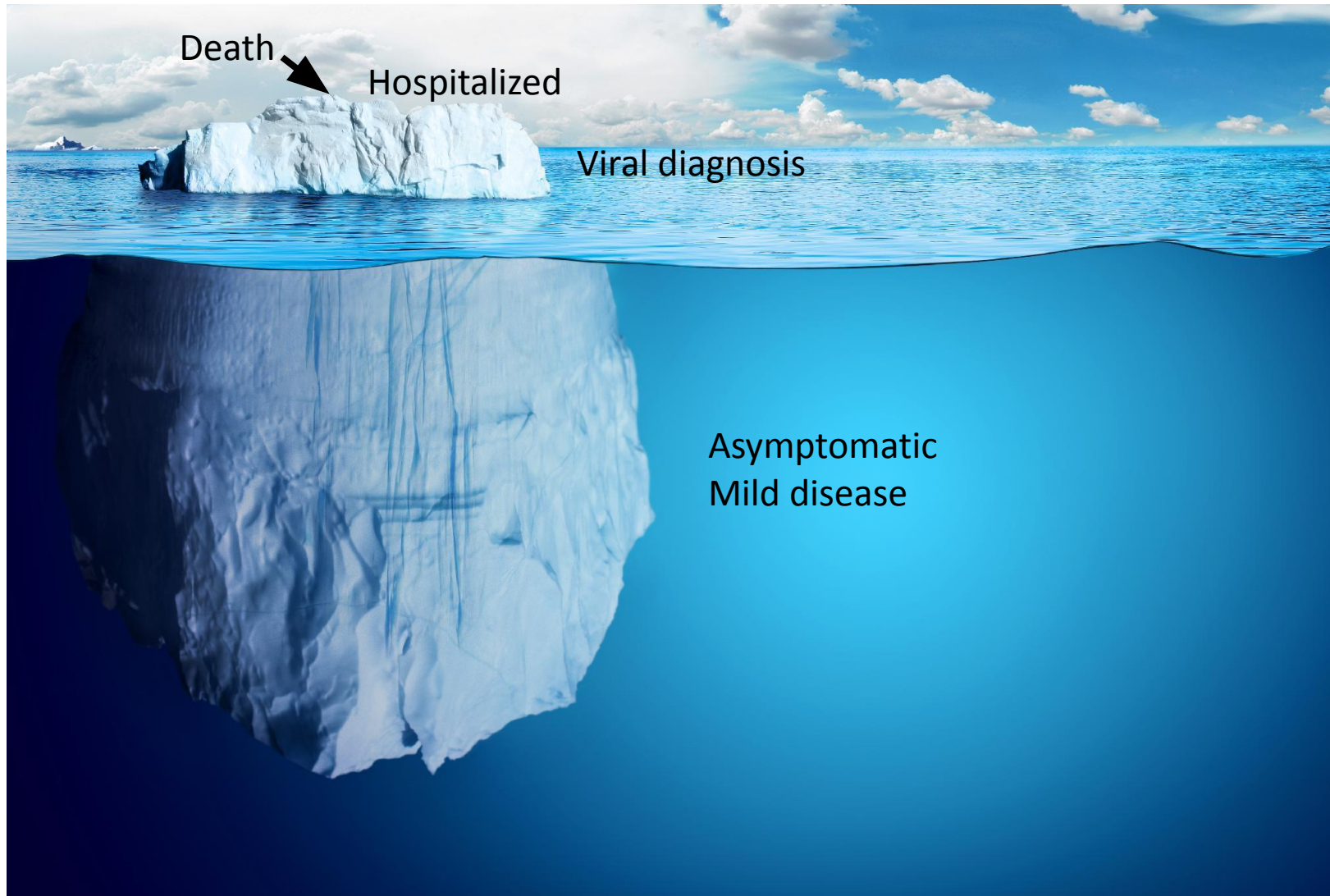
Cases/day/hospital



Intensive care unit admissions



We only see the top of the iceberg



Co-infections and antibiotic use

TABLE 3 | Clinical features and management of 1006 children hospitalized with respiratory syncytial virus infection.

Variable	Age group								
	<1 month (n = 137)	1 month (n = 205)	2 months (n = 127)	3–5 months (n = 165)	6–11 months (n = 113)	1 year (n = 120)	2–4 years (n = 112)	5–15 years (n = 27)	All (n = 1006)
Respiratory distress	111 (81.0)	177 (86.3)	118 (92.9)	155 (93.9)	90 (79.6)	84 (70.0)	66 (58.9)	7 (25.9)	808 (80.3)
Pneumonia	16 (11.7)	15 (7.3)	7 (5.5)	9 (5.5)	15 (13.3)	43 (35.8)	51 (45.5)	12 (44.4)	168 (16.7)
Acute otitis media	56 (40.9)	92 (44.9)	57 (44.9)	83 (50.3)	63 (55.8)	47 (39.2)	36 (32.1)	2 (7.4)	436 (43.3)
Antibiotic treatment	73 (53.3)	114 (55.6)	65 (51.2)	93 (56.4)	71 (62.8)	77 (64.2)	76 (67.9)	20 (74.1)	589 (58.5)
Duration of hospitalization, mean (SD), d	3.8 (2.6)	3.4 (3.4)	2.7 (2.2)	2.3 (1.8)	3.3 (7.9)	2.3 (2.5)	2.5 (3.3)	5.7 (8.6)	3.0 (4.0)
Duration of hospitalization, median (IQR), d	3 (2–5)	3 (2–4)	2 (1–3)	2 (1–3)	1 (1–3)	2 (1–3)	2 (1–3)	3 (1–4)	2 (1–4)
Rehospitalization	7 (5.1)	14 (6.8)	5 (3.9)	8 (4.8)	3 (2.7)	5 (4.2)	12 (10.7)	1 (3.7)	55 (5.5)
Intensive care treatment	34 (24.8)	26 (12.7)	13 (10.2)	10 (6.1)	7 (6.2)	15 (12.5)	8 (7.1)	4 (14.8)	117 (11.6)
Mechanical ventilation	3 (2.2)	2 (1.0)	2 (1.6)	1 (0.6)	1 (0.9)	3 (2.5)	0	1 (3.7)	13 (1.3)
Death	0	0	0	0	0	2 (1.7)	1 (0.9)	1 (3.7)	4 (0.4)

Note: Data are n (%) unless otherwise indicated.

Abbreviations: IQR, interquartile range; SD, standard deviation.

Why children are important in transmitting many viral infections?

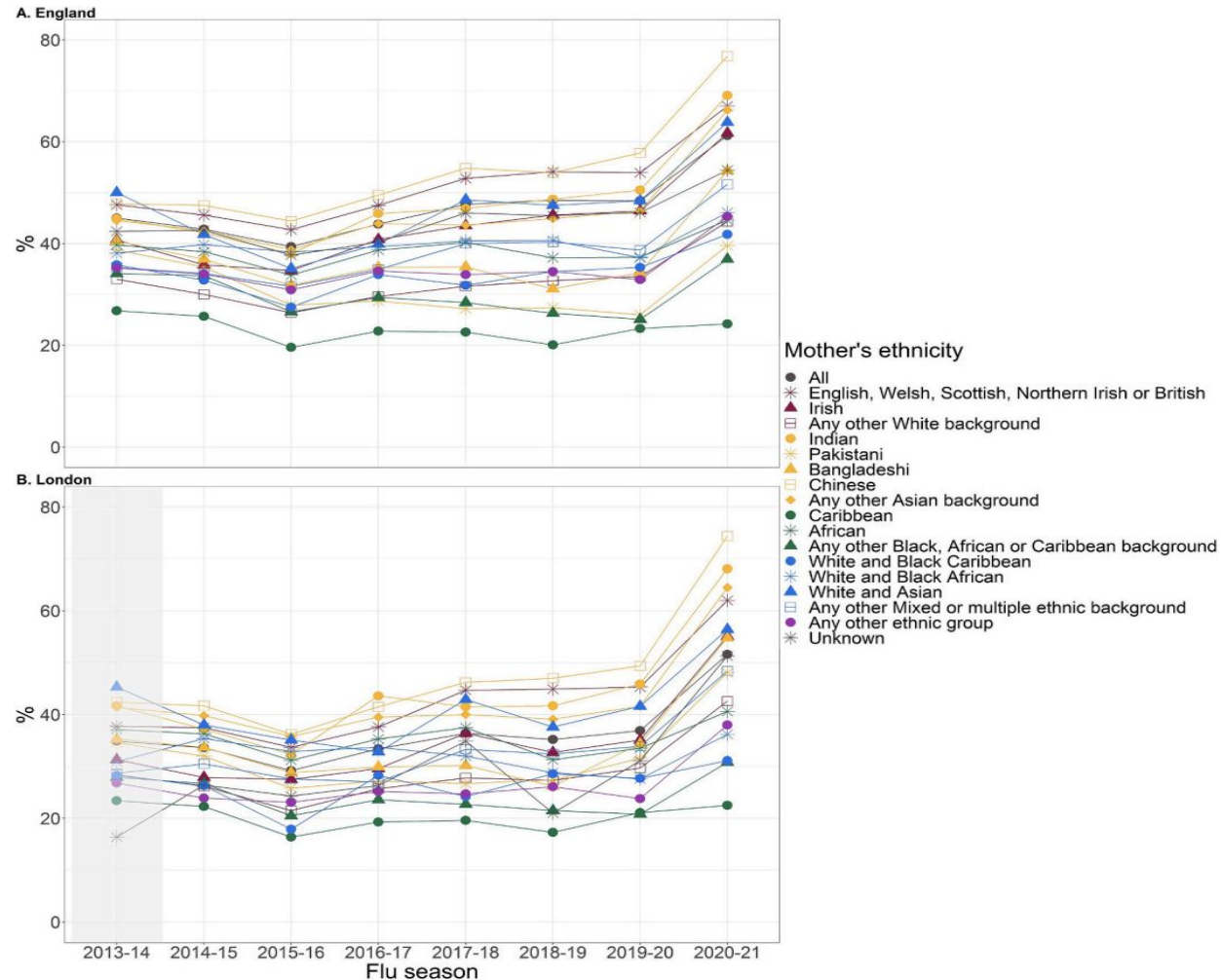
- Attack rates are highest in children
- Viral shedding is prolonged in children
- Viral loads are higher

Benefits of vaccinating children:

- For the children themselves
- For the community by reducing transmission



Ethnic inequities in childhood influenza vaccination coverage in England



- Children 2-3 years of age
- Influenza vaccination coverage in all ethnic groups < 60% in England and < 50 % in London.
- Most ethnic groups had lower coverage than the White British group across all influenza seasons
- Children born to mothers of Caribbean ethnicity had the lowest coverage (20-27 % across seasons)