

# Review of: "Consequences of Neglecting Epidemiology by Global Polio Eradication Initiative"

Hannah Charles<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UK Health Security Agency

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the article titled "Consequences of Neglecting Epidemiology by Global Polio Eradication Initiative".

I appreciate the author's passion and advocacy on an important public health issue and source of inequalities globally. However, I have some concerns with the article as it stands currently.

I find the structure of the article unclear. My impression from this article is that it is currently a lot of information about Polio virus, all of which is important, but it's not clear how the authors are suggesting the GPEI to incorporate this information into their strategy, the authors have simply highlighted that this was not done. It would be more helpful if the authors were able to suggest or recommend how these epidemiological features could be incorporated in future, using evidence from other countries. I also do not find the purpose of the article very clear and it is unclear who the intended audience is.

It is not clear what is meant by the word "who" in the sub-title "transmission vectors of WPVs: who infects infants and young children?".

I think it is also important for the authors to reflect on the structural constraints of low income countries, and factors other than which vaccine is used, such as sanitation, nutrition and living conditions, all of which will be important for Polio virus eradication. The authors need to more explicitly discuss the cost of vaccination as well, and the instability of many healthcare systems in low income countries.