

Vaccine Hesitancy in Switzerland

Determinants of Vaccine Hesitancy and Under-Immunization with Childhood and Human Papilloma Virus Vaccines

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Background

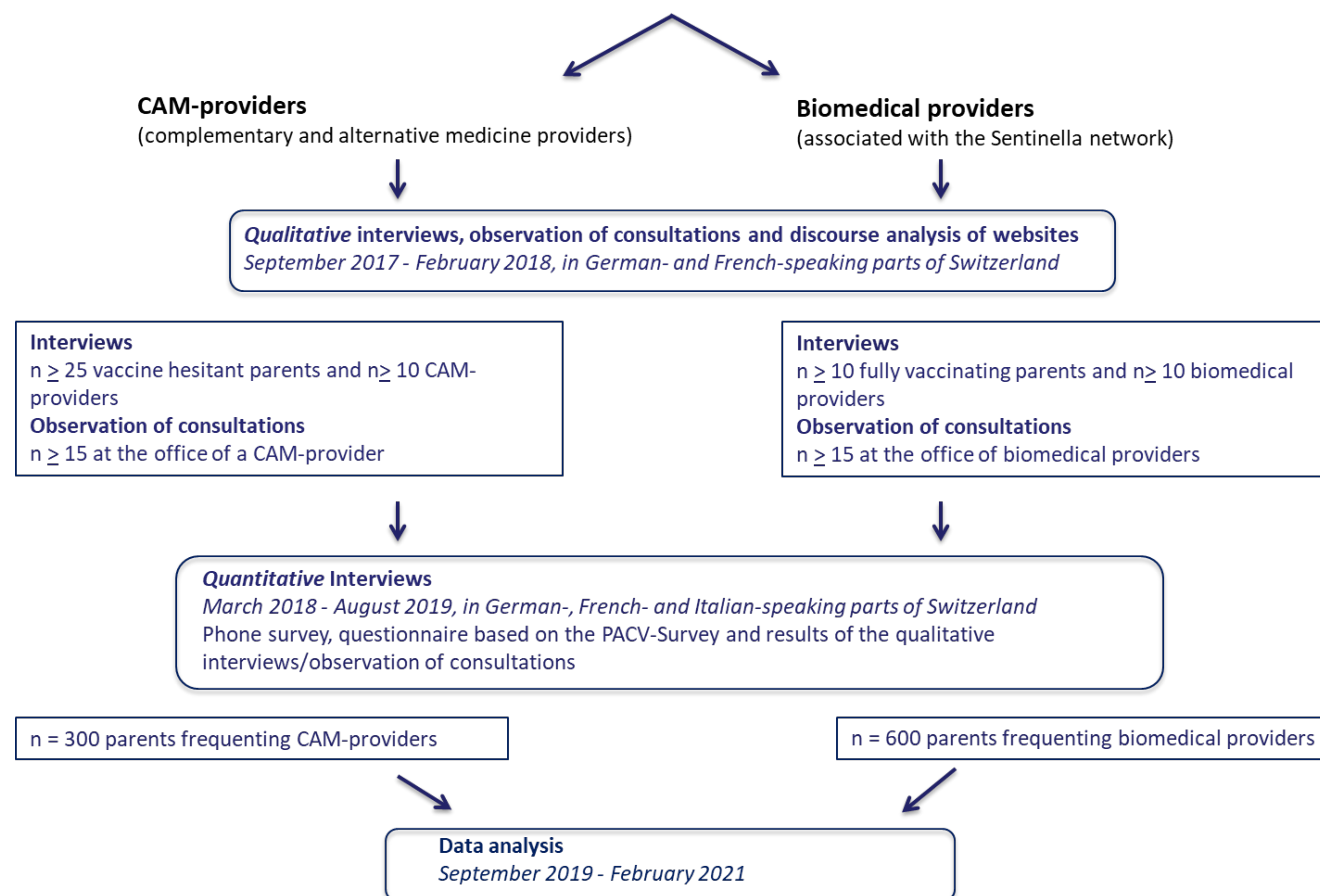
- A growing number of people have doubts about the safety, efficacy and benefits of vaccination in Switzerland, (“*vaccine hesitancy*”) → this prompted a call to action in 2015 by WHO [1-3]
- Consequences of vaccine hesitancy: low vaccination coverage, risk of disease outbreaks, vulnerable people at risk for infections, suboptimal prevention of chronic diseases (genital warts, cervical cancer, some ear nose and throat cancers, and anal cancer)
- Limited information of the factors that influence vaccine decisions by medical providers and parents in Switzerland [4-6]

Aim

- To better understand why certain parents and doctors are skeptical of vaccination in Switzerland; in particular, the perspectives of parents who consult providers of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)



Vaccine Hesitancy project



Methods

- Transdisciplinary collaboration that involves perspective of general internal medicine/pediatrics, infectious diseases/vaccinology, social sciences, and public health
- 2 subprojects: determinants of vaccine hesitancy and under-immunization with 1) childhood vaccines and 2) HPV vaccine (parents of children <11 and 11-14 years old, respectively)
- Mixed-methods (see **Figure 1** for an overview):
 - Qualitative methodologies (in-depth interviews with parents and providers, observation of medical consultations, and discourse analysis of vaccination hesitancy-related websites)
 - Qualitative findings will inform development of quantitative questionnaire which will also include the items of the established, validated parent attitudes about childhood vaccines (PACV) [7] survey
 - Quantitative questionnaire: phone interviews with 900 parents
 - Results will be used to develop an intervention for parents and medical providers who are skeptical about vaccination

Relevance

Study results will serve to:

- Gain better understanding of sociocultural factors that influence individual vaccination decisions
- Plan and implement interventions designed to increase vaccination rates in Switzerland

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Figure 1. Study timeline, methods, and recruitment process