

Background: Several guidelines exist for infectious conditions that cause the most mortality in children. Despite this, implementing the recommendations is suboptimal due to lack or poor access to guideline implementation (GI) tools.



To map and describe existing guidelines for the leading infective causes of under-five mortality (tuberculosis, pneumonia, sepsis, malaria and diarrhoea) and their implementation tools.

Database Search: MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, Global Index Medicus, Global Health, and TRIP databases from 2015 through 24th August 2024, plus Google and guideline websites (NICE, WHO, GIN, Guideline Central, and ECRI)

Data extraction: Screening and extraction were carried out in duplicate and independently.

Reporting: PRISMA-ScR, CPG characteristics/implementation tools reported using summary statistics.



Of the guidelines included, 216 GI tools were identified in 54% (n=58) of CPGs included. Algorithms (n=122, 56%) and clinician support (n=159, 74%) were the most frequent GI and GI tool categories, respectively. Funding was found to be associated with the presence of GI tools (p=0.034). Many GI tools did not possess features considered as desirable by the International guideline community.

Many guidelines on leading infective causes of child mortality did not include any GI tools. While this may vary by guideline developer, this evidence suggests the need to design and include implementation tools in future guidelines.

Conclusion

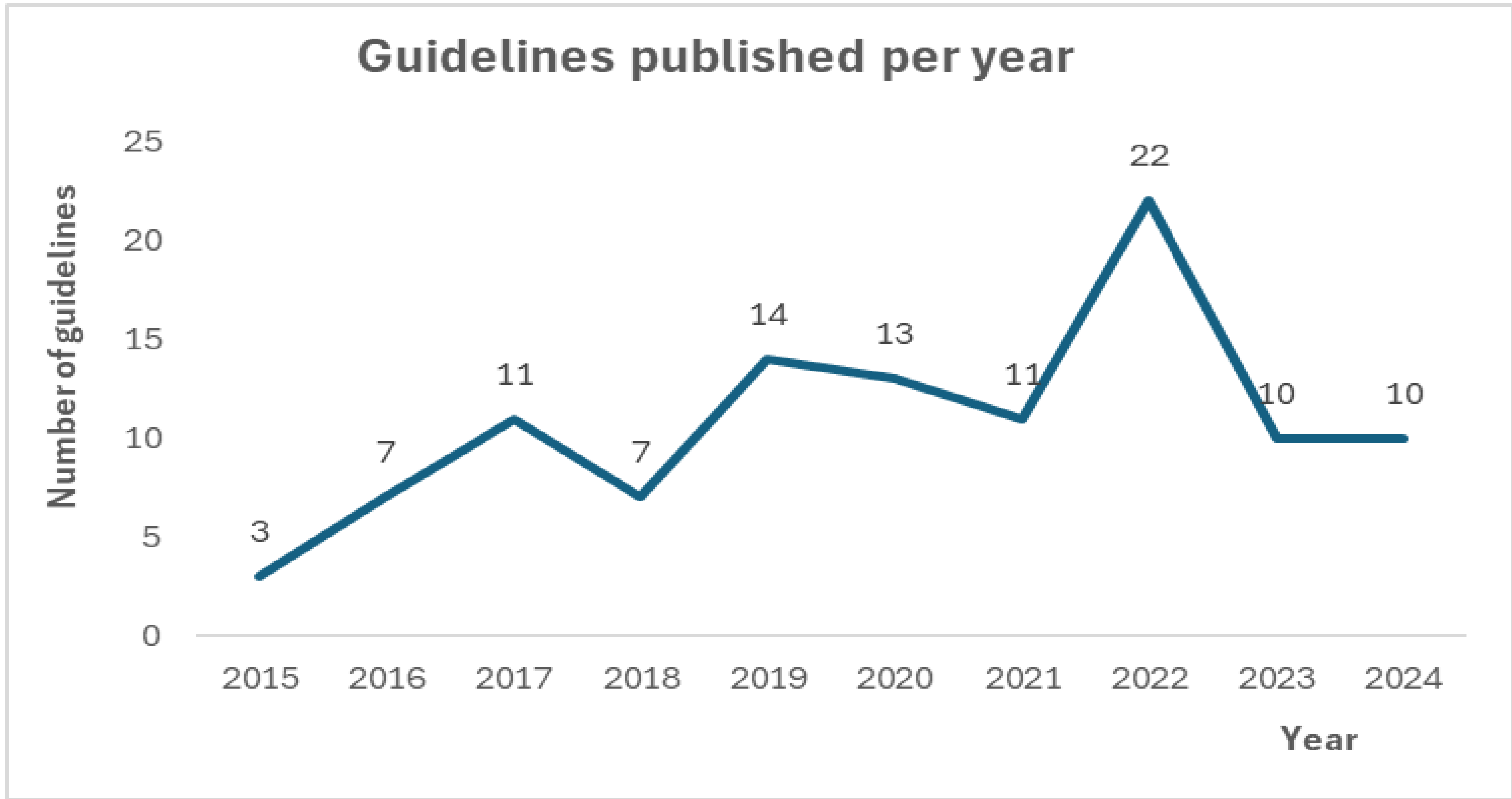


Fig. 1 Included guidelines published per year from 2015 to 2024

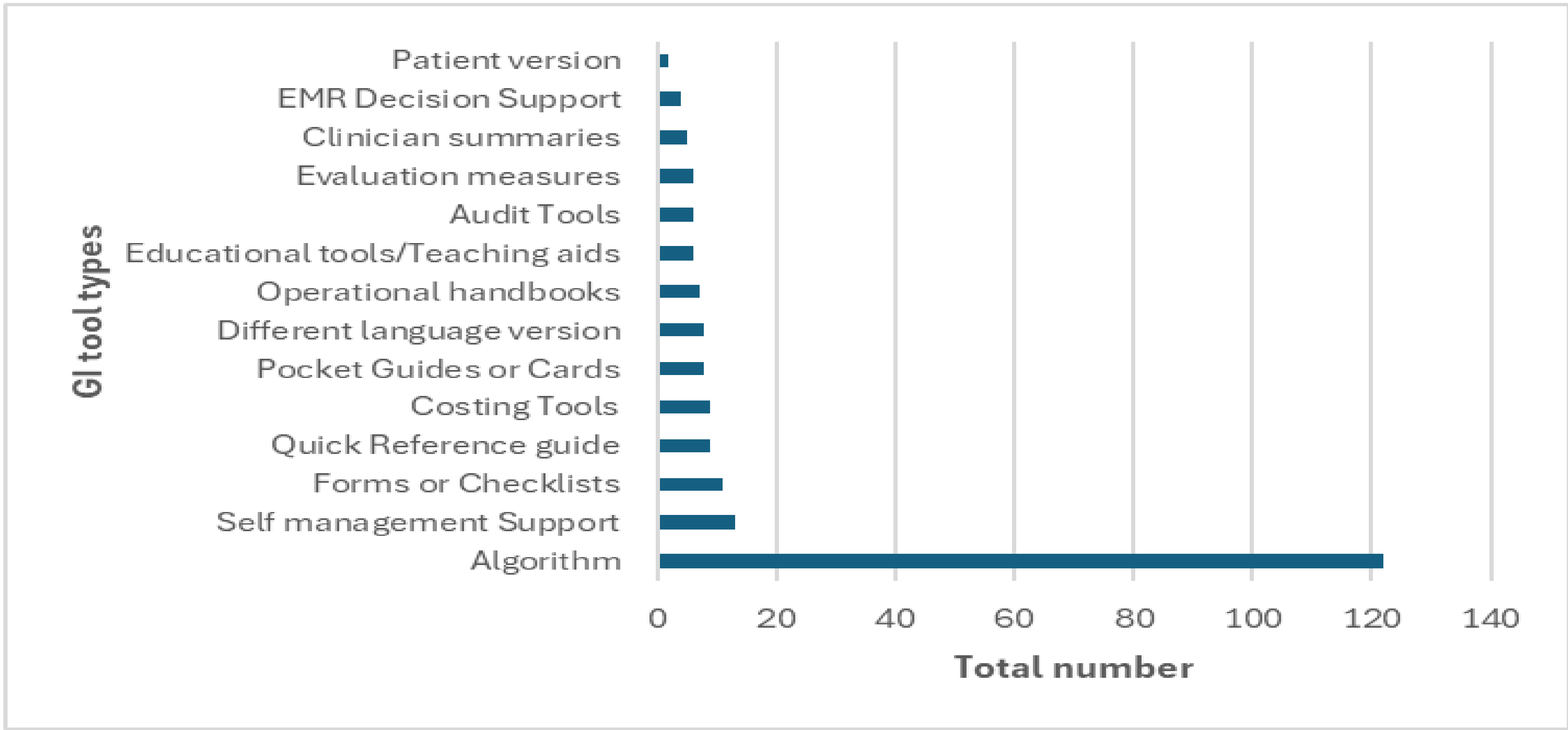


Fig. 2 Total number of GI tools by type from 2015 to 2024

