**Table S.1.** Characteristics of the studies (n=43) on varicella epidemiology in European countries before universal childhood immunization that were included in the analyses.

| **First Author, year of publication** | **Country** | **Years of data collection** | **Population and method of sera collection** | **Age range/mean age\*** | **Sample size** | **Laboratory method** | **Diagnostic test** | **Equivocal results** | **Ref** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Leuridan, 2011 | Belgium | 2006 - 2008 | Pregnant women, population-based | 18 - 40 y | 213 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [1] |
| Thiry, 2002 | Belgium | 1999 - 2000 | General, residual sera | 1 - 44 y | 1673 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Reported | [2] |
| Vandersmissen, 2000 | Belgium | 1996 - 1997 | Health care staff, population-based | 37.2 y\* | 4923 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested | [3] |
| Alanen, 2005 | Finland | 2000 | Pregnant women, population-based | 16 - 45 y | 558 | ELISA | In - house | NP | [4] |
| Koskiniemi, 2007 | Finland | 1995 - 1996 | Hospitalized patients with suspected viral infection, population-based | 0 - 80 y | 2842 | ELISA | In - house | NP | [5] |
| Nardone, 2007 | Finland | 1997 - 1998 | General, residual sera | 1 -29 y | 2123 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Considered positives after validation by FAMA | [6] |
| Khoshnood 2006 | France | 2003 - 2004 | General, residual sera | 1 - 30 y | 1257 | ELISA | Trinity Biotech | Re-tested and reported | [7] |
| Pinquier, 2009 | France | 2005 - 2007 | Children with a scheduled blood sample, population based | 0 - 15 m | 345 | TRFIA | In - house | NP | [8] |
| Saadatian-Elahi, 2007 | France | 2005 | Pregnant women, population-based | 19 - 43 y | 486 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [9] |
| Sauerbrei, 2004 | Germany | 1995 - 1996 | Pregnant women, population-based | 19 - 37 y | 215 | IFAT | In - house | NP | [10] |
| Wutzler, 2001 | Germany | 1995 - 1999 | General, residual sera | 0 - 70+ y | 4602 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested | [11] |
| Kavaliotis, 2003 | Greece | 1999 - 2001 | Children hospitalized, population-based | 1 - 13 y | 632 | ELISA | Genzyme Virotech | NP | [12] |
| Thorarinsdottir, 2009 | Iceland | 2001 - 2002 | General, residual sera | 0 - 18 y | 280 | ELISA | NP | Re-tested and excluded | [13] |
| Knowles, 2004 | Ireland | 2002 | Pregnant women, population-based | 20 – 24 y | 4794 | ELISA | Diamedix | Reported | [14] |
| Nardone, 2007 | Ireland | 2003 | General, residual sera | 1 -29 y | 1575 | ELISA | Diamedix | Considered positives after validation by FAMA | [6] |
| Alfonsi, 2007 | Italy | 2001 - 2002 | Women reproductive age, residual se | 17 - 42 y | 728 | ELISA | Vircell | Re-tested and reported | [15] |
| Fedeli, 2002 | Italy | 1998 - 2001 | Health care staff, population-based | 23 - 60 y | 333 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Reported | [16] |
| Gabutti, 2001 | Italy | 1996 - 1997 | General, residual sera | 0 - 60+ y | 3179 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [17] |
| Gabutti, 2008 | Italy | 2003 - 2004 | General, residual sera | 0 - 50 y | 3094 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and reported | [18] |
| Guido, 2012 | Italy | 2008 - 2009 | General, population-based | 15 - 49 y | 539 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Reported | [19] |
| Trevisan, 2006 | Italy | 2004 | Health care students, population-based | 23.4 y\* | 1024 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Considered negative | [20] |
| Trevisan, 2007 | Italy | 2003 - 2005 | Health care students, population-based | 22.9 y\* | 616 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Considered negative | [21] |
| Mossong, 2004 | Luxembourg | 2000 - 2002 | General, population-based | 4 y - 60+y | 2679 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Fixed cut off pos/neg used | [22] |
| de Melker, 2006 | Netherlands | 1995 - 1996 | General, population-based | 3m - 79 y | 2038 | ELISA | Human | NP | [23] |
| van Lier, 2013 | Netherlands | 2006 - 2007 | General, population-based | 0 - 79 y | 6383 | RT-PCR | Luminex | Fixed cut off pos/neg used | [24] |
| van Rijckevorsel, 2012 | Netherlands | 2004 | General, population-based | 17 - 90 y | 1341 | ELISA | Euroimmun | Considered negative | [25] |
| Siennicka, 2009 | Poland | 1995 - 2004 | General, population-based | 1 - 19 y | 1268 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and excluded | [26] |
| Nardone, 2007 | Slovakia | 2002 | General, population-based | 1 -29 y | 2511 | ELISA | Euroimmun | Considered positives after validation by FAMA | [6] |
| Socan, 2010 | Slovenia | 2006 | General, residual sera | 6 m - 60+ y | 3689 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and considered negative | [27] |
| de Juanes, 2005 | Spain | 2003 | Health care staff and students, population-based | 18 - 40 y | 269 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [28] |
| Diez Domingo, 2005 | Spain | 2003 | General, population-based | 6 - 15 y | 184 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [29] |
| Gil, 1998 | Spain | 1993 | Students, population-based | 14 - 17 y | 1191 | ELISA | Menarini | NP | [30] |
| ISCIII - CNE, 2000 | Spain | 1996 | General (attending health centres), population-based | 2 - 39 y | 3687 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and considered positive | [31] |
| Perez-Farinos, 2008 | Spain | 1999 - 2000 | General (attending blood extraction centres), population-based | 2 - 40 y | 1829 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [32] |
| Plans, 2007 | Spain | 2003 | Pregnant women, population-based | 15 - 49 y | 1522 | ELISA | Vircell | NP | [33] |
| Salleras, 2000 | Spain | 1996 | General, population-based | 6 - 65+ y | 2136 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [34] |
| Salleras, 2008 | Spain | 2002 | General, population-based | 5 - 65+ y | 2619 | ELISA | Enzygnost | NP | [35] |
| Aebi, 2001 | Switzerland | 1997 - 1998 | General (hospital inpatients and outpatients), population-based | 0 - 16 y | 927 | IIF | In - house | NP | [36] |
| Baer, 2005 | Switzerland | 1999 - 2003 | Health care students, population-based | 22 - 48 y | 149 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and considered negative | [37] |
| Heininger, 2001 | Switzerland | 1992 - 93 1995 - 96 | General, population-based | 6 - 15 y | 1709 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Reported | [38] |
| Heininger, 2005 | Switzerland | 1999 - 2000 | General (hospital inpatients), population-based | 1 - 18 y | 449 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and reported | [39] |
| Heininger, 2006 | Switzerland | 1994 - 1999 | General (hospital inpatients), population-based | 0 - 16 m | 253 | ELISA | Enzygnost | Re-tested and considered negative | [40] |
| Kudesia,2002  | UK | 1992 | General, residual sera | 1 - 39 y | 262 | ELISA | Bio-Stat | NP | [41] |
| Nardone, 2007 | UK | 1996 | General, residual | 0 - 29 y | 2091 | ELISA | Diamedix | Considered positives after validation by FAMA | [6] |
| Pembrey, 2013 | UK | 2008 | Pregnant women, population based | 20 – 34 y | 949 | ELISA | Diasorin | Reported | [42] |
| Talukder, 2007 | UK | 2001 - 2002 | Pregnant women (born in the UK), population-based | 28 y\* | 266 | ELISA | Enzygnost/Diamedix | NP | [43] |

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