

COVID-19 VACCINE CONFIDENCE SURVEY 2021/22 REPORT

AIDS VANCOUVER

aejiegbu@student.ubc.ca
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA

COVID-19 VACCINE CONFIDENCE REPORT

By December 1, 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) and its variants, led to over 5.5 million deaths worldwide; more than 26,000 occurred in Canada. The pandemic also promoted the fastest vaccine development seen in modern history, with 19 vaccines authorized by at least one national regulator. In Canada, four vaccines have been approved for use: Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD. Despite the availability of vaccines, it is believed that about 15% of Canadians choose not to get vaccinated against COVID-19; this percentage might be higher within specific population groups. A cross-sectional pilot study via a 12-question printed survey was carried out to explore the attitudes of People living with HIV (PLHIV) who attended the Holiday grocery programs at AIDS Vancouver in December 2021. The survey was self-administered and explored the reasons – barriers – behind vaccine hesitancy and the facilitators – enablers – behind vaccine uptake. The barriers and facilitators can help inform the development of a community-based intervention to address vaccine hesitancy.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

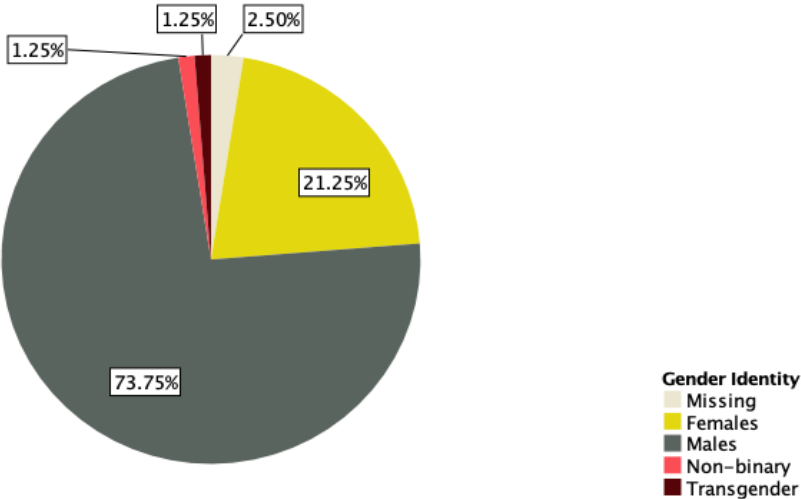
A total of 80 respondents participated in the survey: mean age of 50.22 years.

Table 1: Age of Respondents (Years)

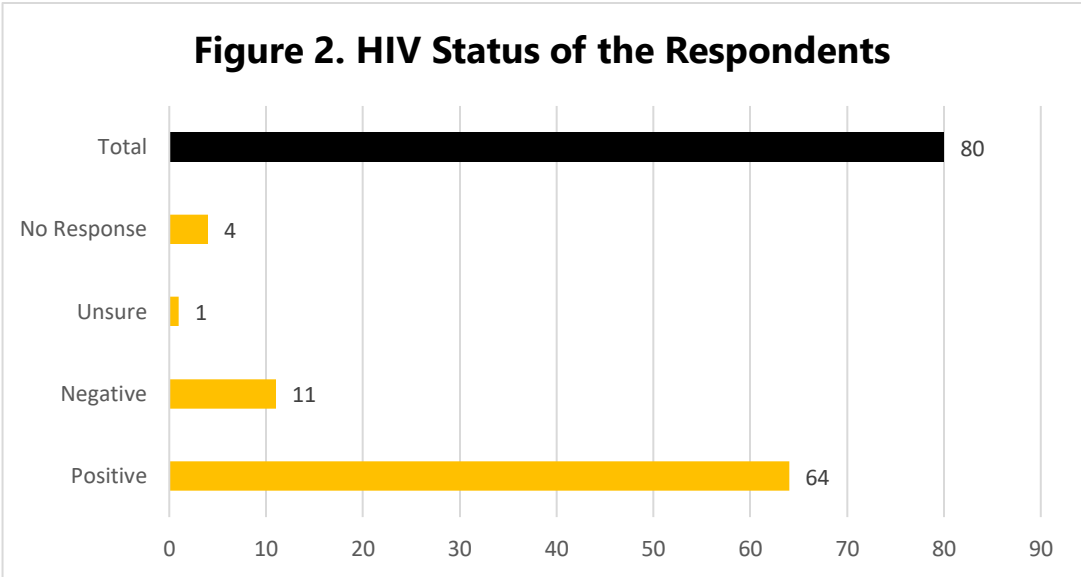
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age (Years)	78	23	72	50.22	11.270
Valid N (listwise)	78				

Out of the 80 respondents, 59 self-identified as males, 17 females, 1 non-binary, and 1 was trans-gender.

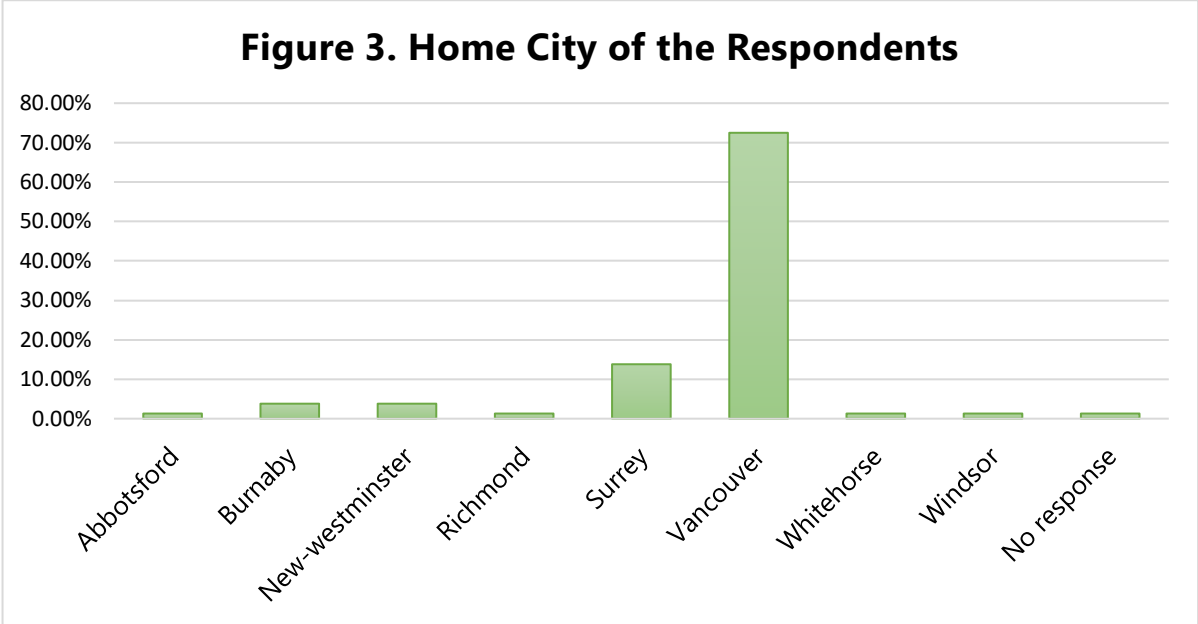
Figure 1. Gender Distribution



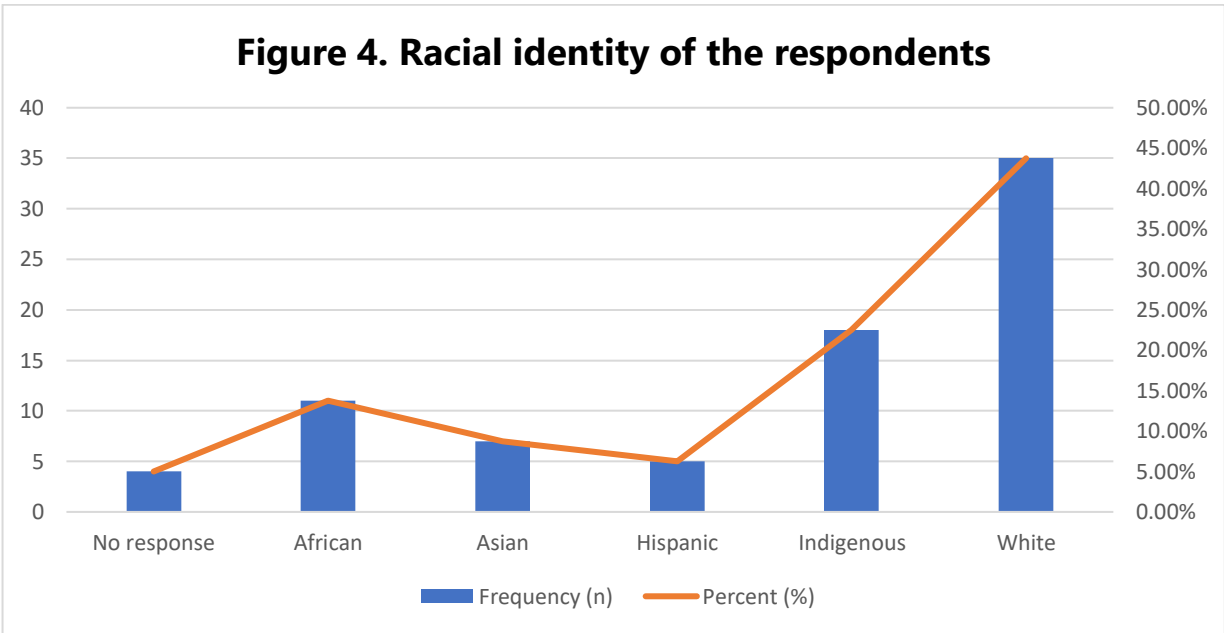
In terms of the HIV status of the participants, Figure 2 shows its distribution among the participants.



The majority of the respondents resided in Vancouver, with 3.8% of them reporting their living situation as unsheltered (Figure 3).



Almost half of the respondents (43.75%) self-identified themselves as white, while 22.5% of them were part of the indigenous population.



COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS AND BELIEFS

Almost all the respondents reported to have received at least one-dose of any of the COVID19 vaccines, while 8.8% have not received any dose.

Table 2. Covid-19 Vaccination Status

	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
Not Received	7	8.8
Received	73	91.3
Total	80	100.0

Unvaccinated Respondents and their beliefs

The respondents who did not receive the vaccine highlighted concerns about the long-term effect of COVID19 vaccine as the main reason for not getting vaccinated, followed about concerns about contracting COVID-19 via the vaccine. These two concerns shown in Figure 5 associated with the barriers identified in Figure 5 attest for the lack of adequate information about the vaccines.

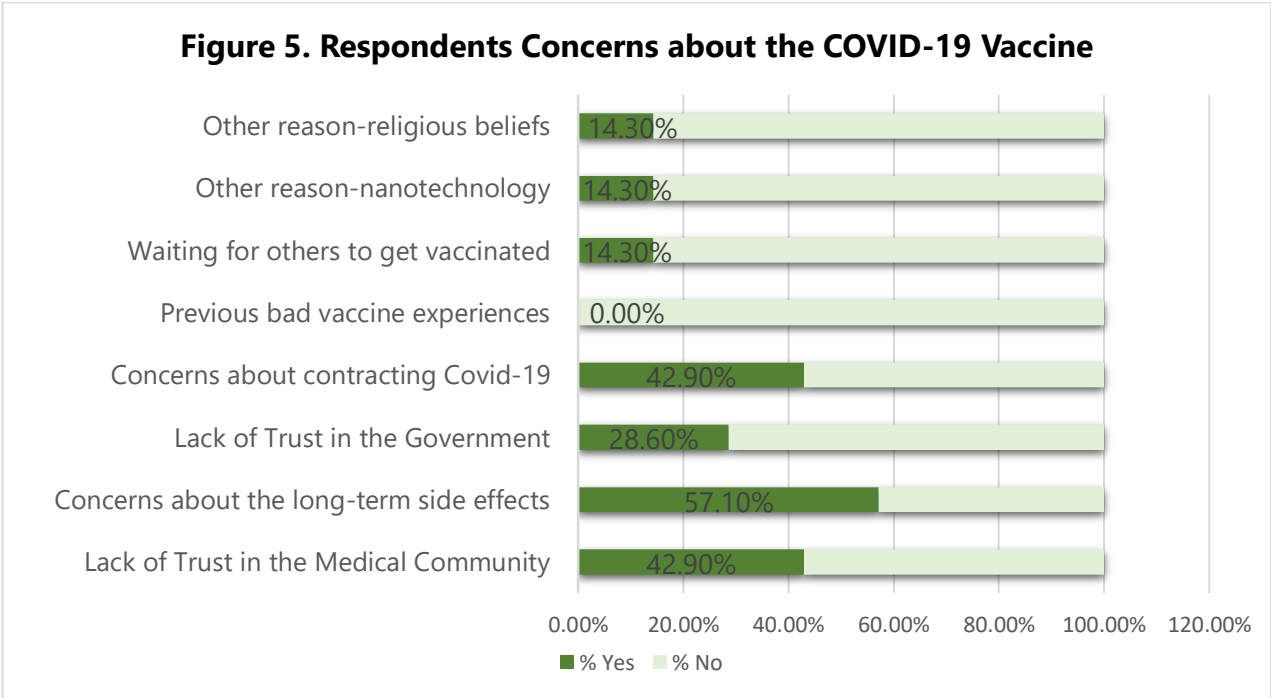
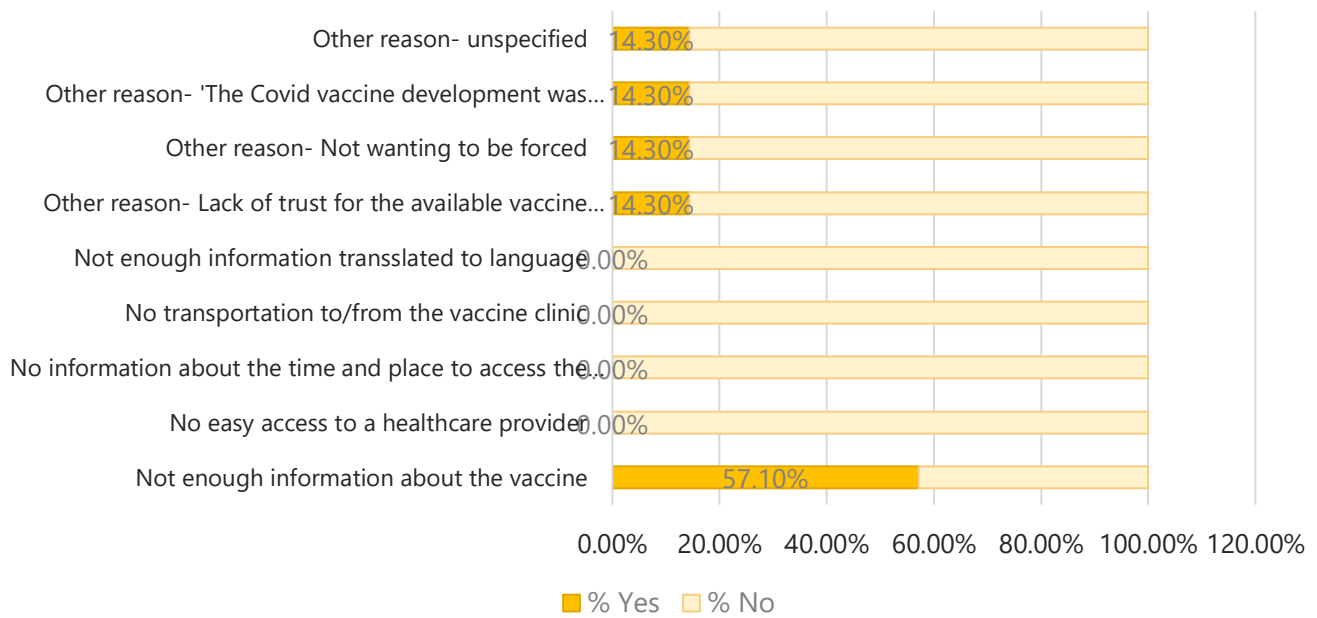
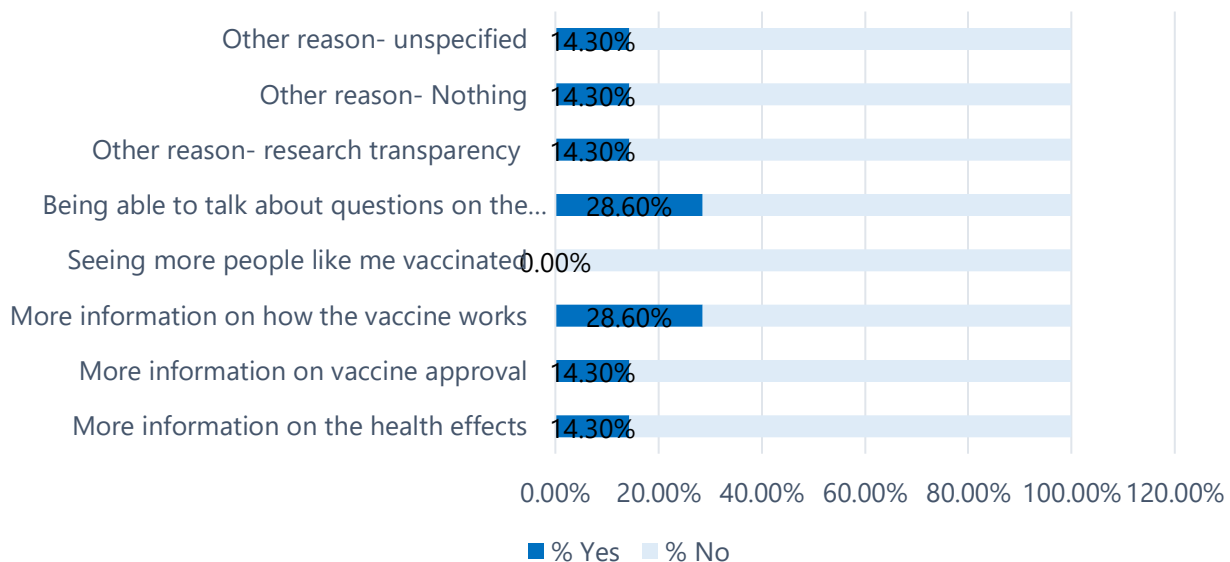


Figure 6- Barriers to Covid-19 Vaccination

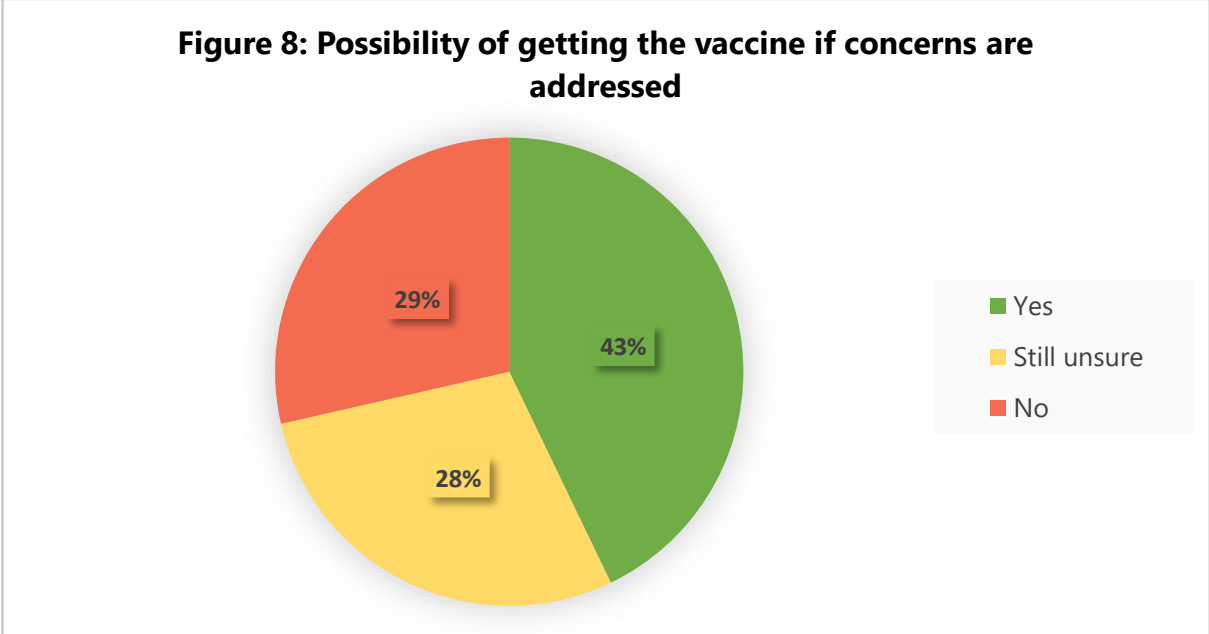


Respondents who were unsure about getting the Covid19 vaccine indicated that availability of more information on how the vaccines work and how they are approved by Health Canada would further help them in making a decision concerning vaccination.

Figure 7. Possible vaccine decision influencers

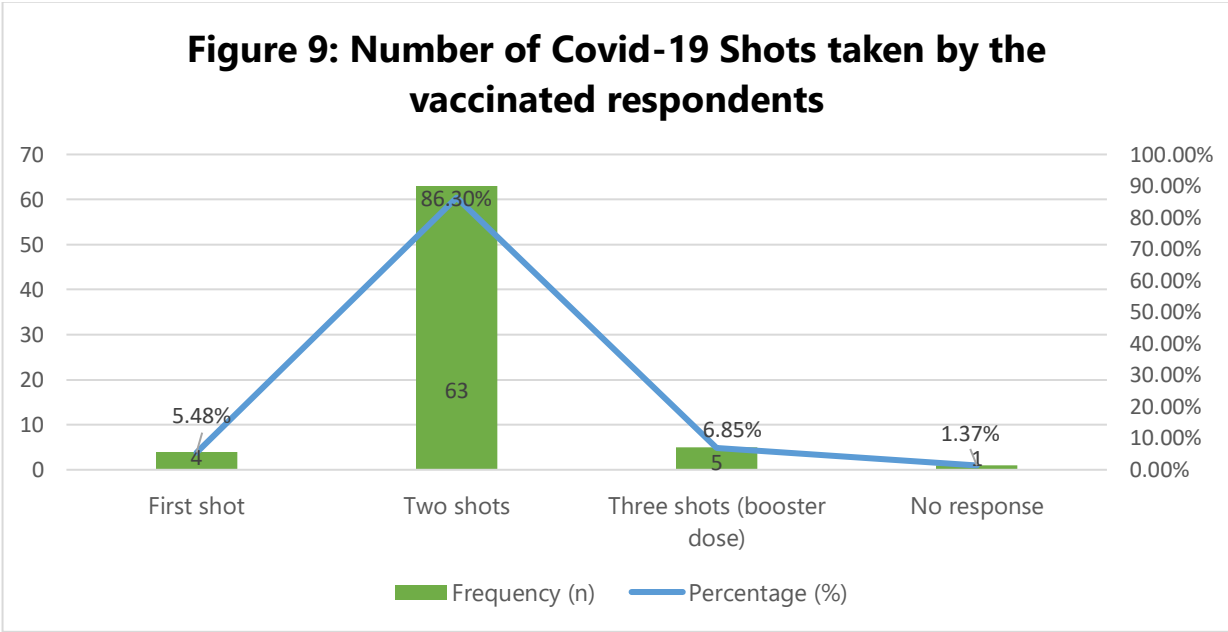


Three out of seven of the unvaccinated respondents reported that they will consider getting the vaccine if their concerns are addressed.

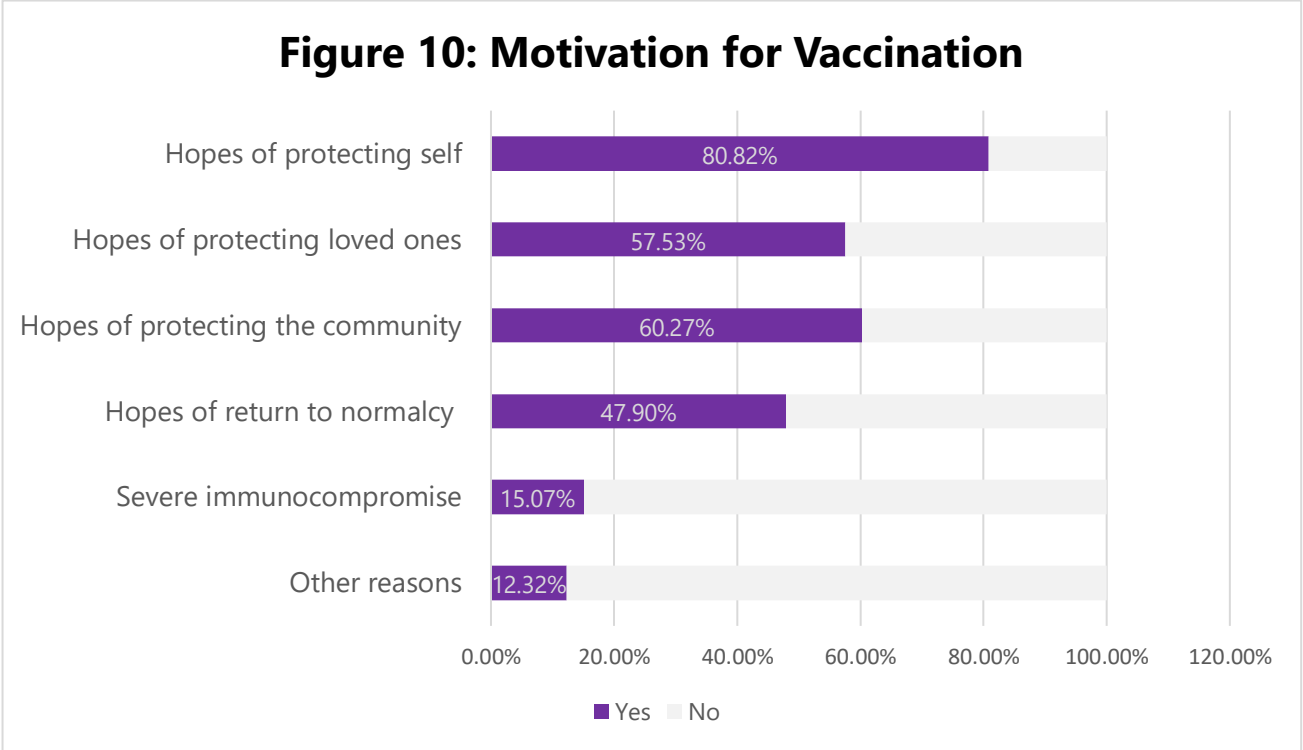


Vaccinated Respondents and their motivation

Out of the 73 respondents who stated they were vaccinated, 86.3% were had gotten the two-doses and 6.85% had gotten the third dose as booster according to the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) in Canada. ¹



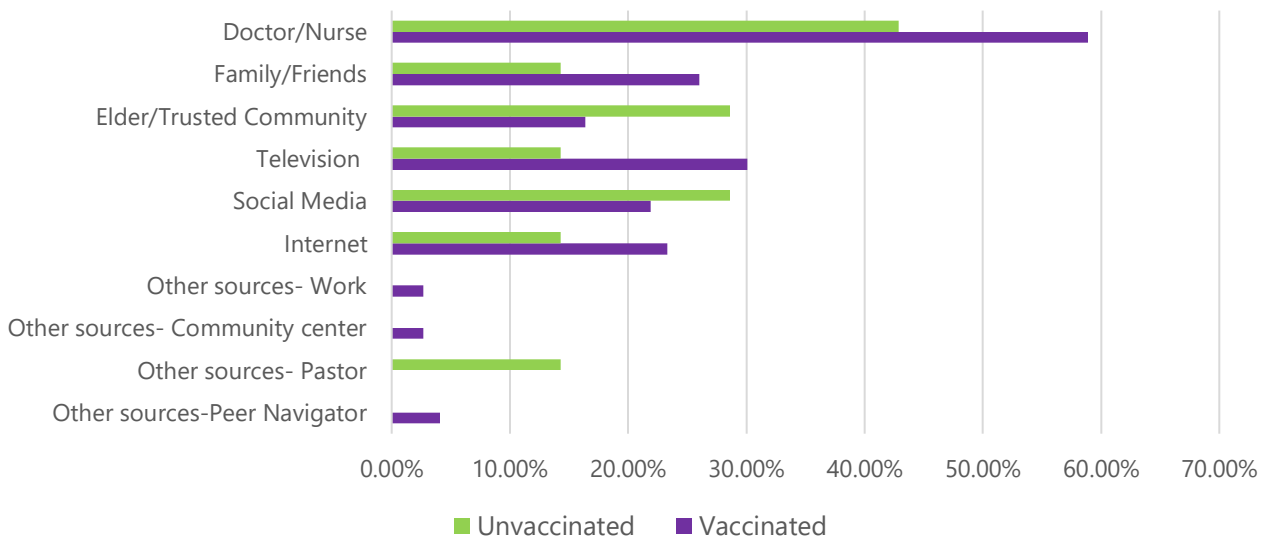
Furthermore, the majority of vaccinated respondents identified being motivated to get the vaccine in order to protect themselves and their community as the main reasons.



Comparison between Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Respondents based on Source of Information

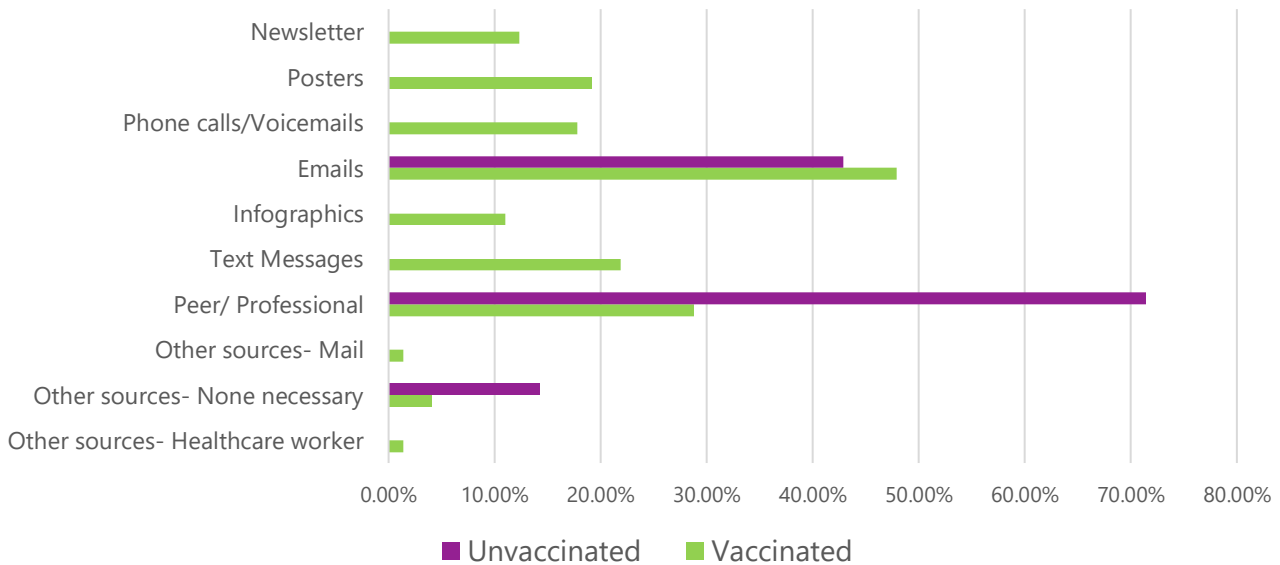
Both the vaccinated and unvaccinated respondents received their covid-19 vaccine information from healthcare professionals, including doctors and/or nurses and/or pharmacists. However, for those who choose to not get vaccinated identified other influential information sources including social media and trusted community members such as the pastor. This is not the case with the vaccinated respondents.

Figure 11: Comparison of the Covid-19 Information Sources between Vaccinated & Unvaccinated respondents



Lastly, the unvaccinated respondents seem to prefer new information communicated with them through emails and through their peers or other professionals (Figure 12). However, 1 unvaccinated respondent did not think any new information would be necessary, and would likely not change their decision.

Figure 12: Comparison of the Preferred Source of New Covid-19 Information between Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Respondents



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the participants who took the time to fill out the surveys, the AV staff and volunteers and the financial support offered by the Doctor Peter Center that made this study possible.