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Patients' Perceptions of Community Pharmacists Giving Vaccinations

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Presenters

Darlington O. Njoku, Vineeta Rao, Morgan R. Bailey, Matt Madden, Joshua A. Sitler, and Tracy R. Frame

Background

Vaccinations are an important aspect of a community. Not only do vaccines protect patients from disease, but they play a crucial role in creating herd immunity for the rest of society. Previous research suggests that the vaccination rates are below ideal levels.¹ Healthcare professionals are seeking the best way to improve the vaccination rates.^{2,3} This prompted the need to conduct a survey to find out what patients' perceptions are concerning vaccinations and to examine how pharmacists could help improve immunization rates among the population.

The purpose of the study was:

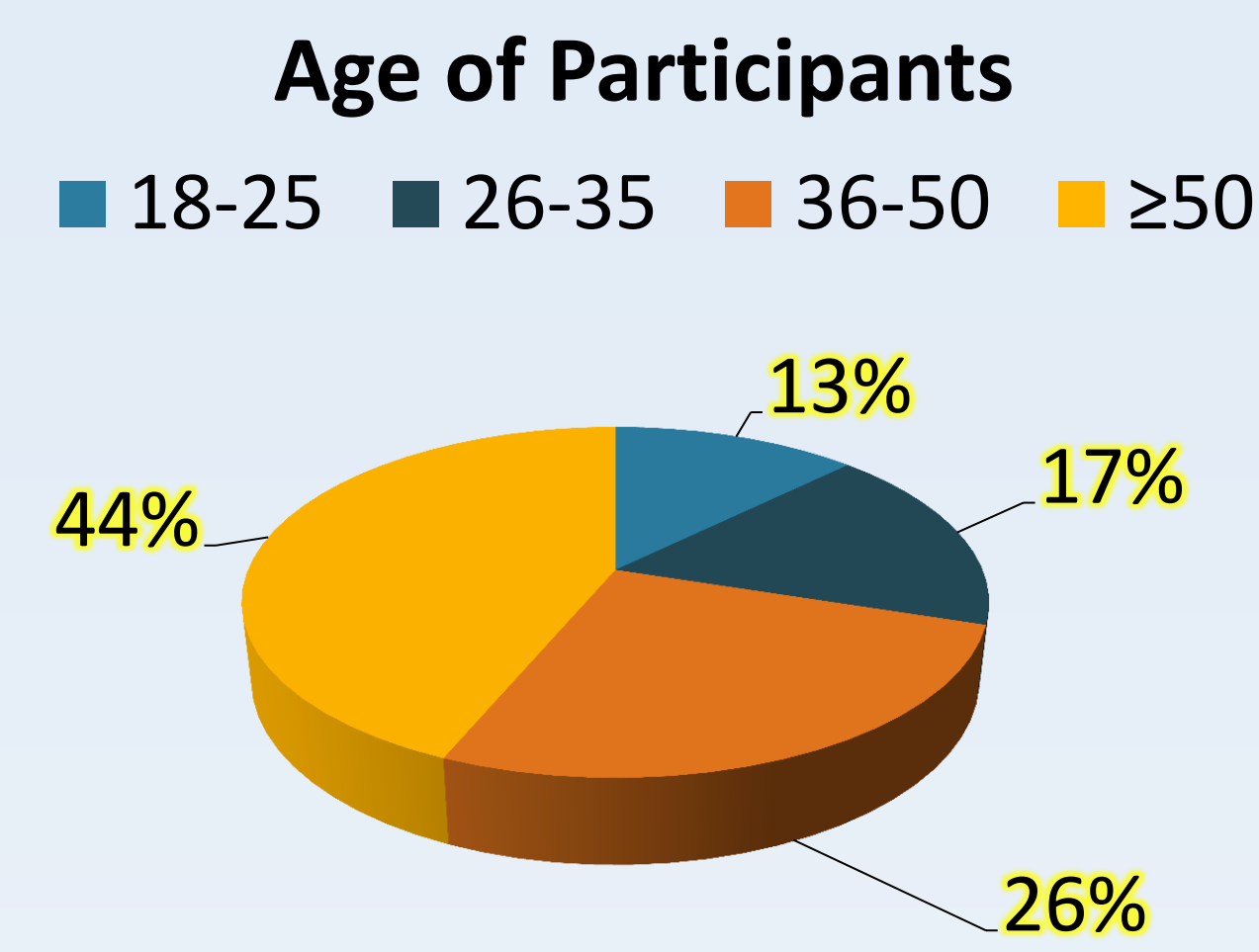
- 1.) To see why many patients do not go to their pharmacies to receive their vaccinations.
- 2.) To find the common fears and misconceptions that led the patients not to go to the pharmacies for their medications.
- 3.) To examine possible correlations with demographics

Methods

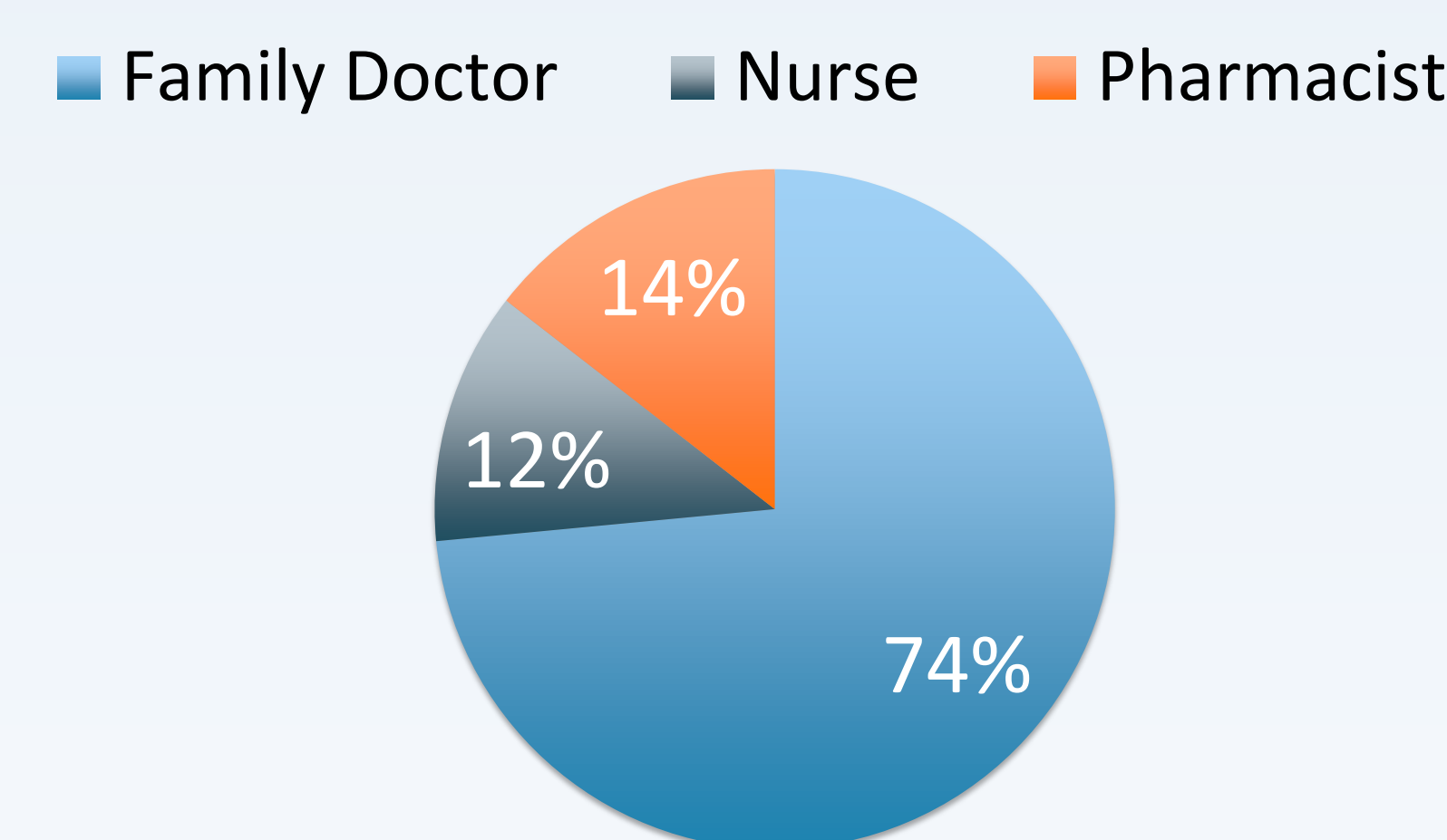
- A 9-question survey was created and asked questions regarding:
 - Demographics such as age, ethnicity, income, and level of education
 - Whether patients received vaccines at all
 - From what healthcare provider the patients preferred to receive vaccines
 - Whether patients received vaccines from a pharmacist
 - Patients' reasons for not choosing to be vaccinated by a pharmacist
- Patient surveys were handed out to 1 pharmacy in Springfield and 1 pharmacy in Cedarville
- IRB approval was obtained
- Informed consent was obtained from patients
- The surveys were analyzed for correlations using the program IBM SPSS v 19.0

Results

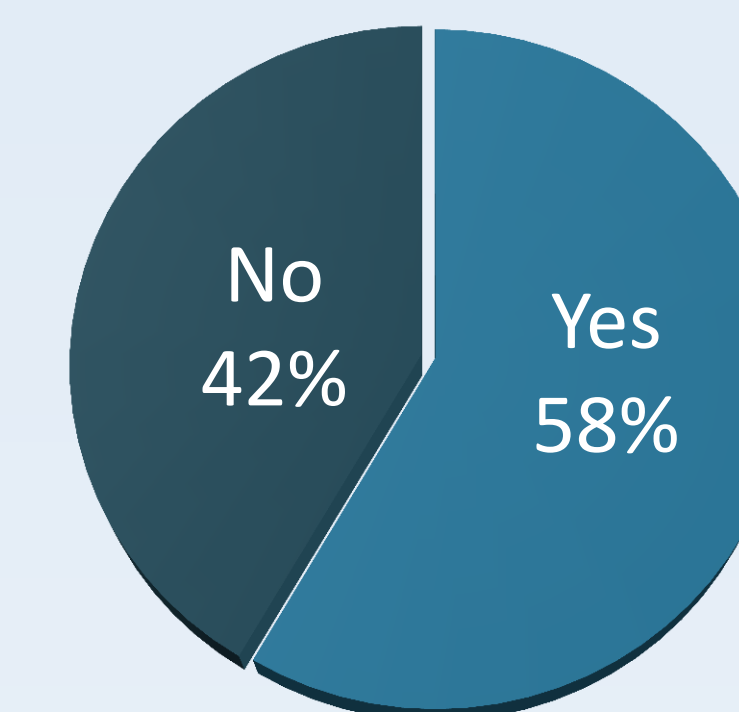
Demographic Information (n=89)



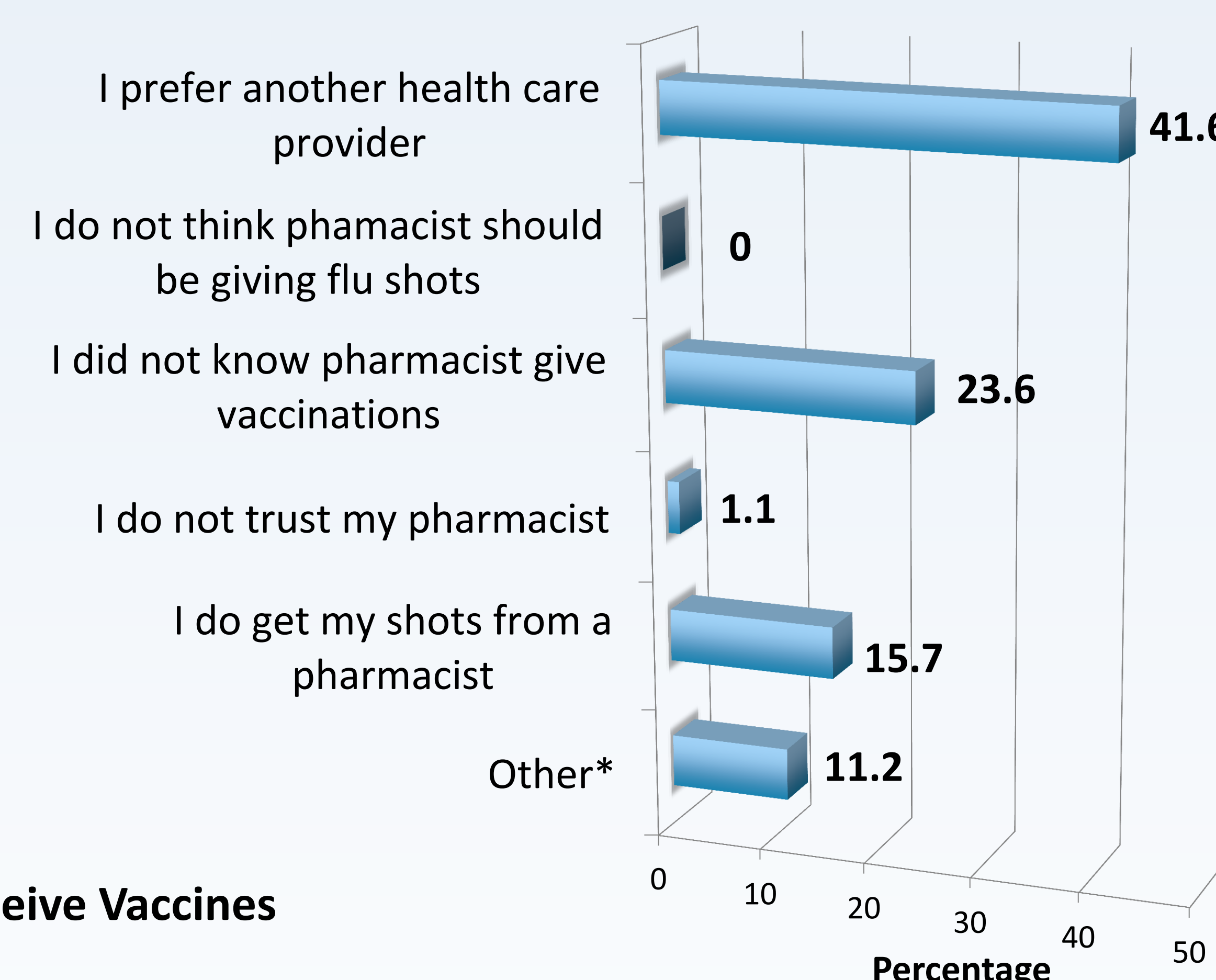
Healthcare Provider that Participants Preferred



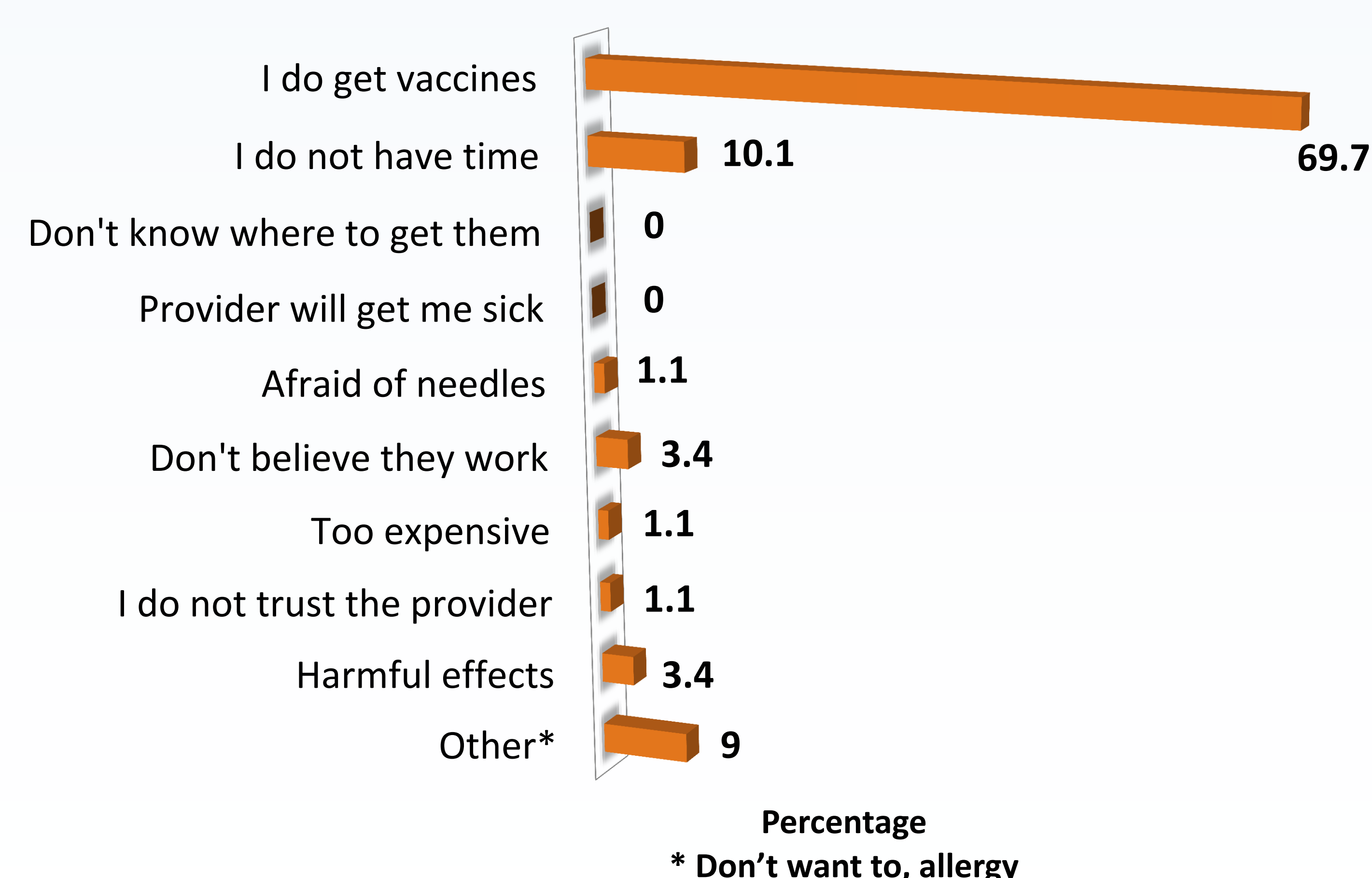
Percentage of Adults Getting Vaccinations



Reasons Participants Did Not Choose Pharmacists for Vaccinations



Reasons Patients Do Not Receive Vaccines



* Don't want to, allergy

Conclusion

According to the results, there was a high percentage of patients who preferred to go to their family doctor to receive their vaccinations instead of going to a nurse or pharmacist. Looking at the reasons why patients do not receive their vaccines from a pharmacist, we can conclude that health care provider preference and lack of knowledge were the two primary reasons patients did not get vaccinations from pharmacist.

Perhaps additional health education could resolve both factors simultaneously. If patients know that pharmacists are qualified for dispensing vaccinations, then they may prefer a pharmacist over another health care provider, especially given the convenience of getting your vaccinations and medications from the same location.

A simple strategy to make patients aware of this health care option might be to advertise pharmacies through media as alternatives for receiving vaccinations.

Acknowledgements

Thanks would like to be given to Cedarville Pharmacy in Cedarville, OH and Madison Avenue Pharmacy in Springfield, OH for allowing surveys to be handed out in their pharmacies.

References

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2. Andrawis M A, Rehm SJ. Health-system pharmacists' role in improving immunization rates. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2012; 69(1): 74-76.
3. Skiles MP, Cai J, English A, Ford CA. Retail pharmacies and adolescent vaccination—An exploration of current issues. *J Adolesc Healt*. 2011 48(6): 630-632.