

# VIEWS ON SARS COVID-19 VACCINE AMONGST ADOLESCENTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS ATTENDING PAEDIATRIC AND YOUNG PERSONS HIV SERVICES IN SOUTH- EAST LONDON

Daya Nayagam,<sup>1,2</sup> Dami Seriki,<sup>1</sup> Chantelle Osei-Antwi,<sup>1</sup> Elin Fuller,<sup>1</sup> Sally Hawkins,<sup>1</sup> Colin Ball,<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Hamlyn<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Caldecot Centre, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK, <sup>2</sup>Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

## Background & Aims

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for UK adults over 16 years of age, including people living with HIV (PLWHIV) who may be at higher risk of developing severe disease.

We conducted a survey to evaluate knowledge and acceptability of COVID-19 vaccination amongst adolescents & young people (YP) living with HIV and parents of children attending our family clinics.

## Methods

A link for an anonymous web-based survey evaluating patient reported knowledge and acceptability of COVID-19 vaccination was sent by text message to 87 families and YP attending the paediatric and YP HIV services at Kings College Hospital, London, in April 2021.

## Results

Of 22 respondents, 73% were female. Ages were grouped as follows: 18 to 25 (42.9%), 26 to 35 (28.6%), 36 to 45 (4.8%).

90% had heard about COVID-19 vaccine. On a scale of 0 to 10, 70% rated their knowledge as above 6. Sources of information on COVID-19 vaccination to date included from the internet, doctors, newspapers and social media in 73%, 55%, 50% and 41% respondents, respectively.

All respondents wanted more information about vaccination; 52% said they preferred one to one information from a doctor, 47% wanted to talk to someone who had received the vaccine, 47% wanted information leaflets (Figure 1).

Most participants indicated that they would accept a COVID-19 vaccine for themselves and for their family members (Figure 2).

A small number reported that they would not accept a COVID-19 vaccine. Reasons for not accepting the vaccine are shown in Figure 3.

All participants had been offered COVID -19 vaccine; 75% had received a least one dose. Of those who had received vaccination, 53% had received the Astra Zeneca vaccine and 47% had received Pfizer.

27% reported past COVID-19 infection, none requiring hospitalisation.

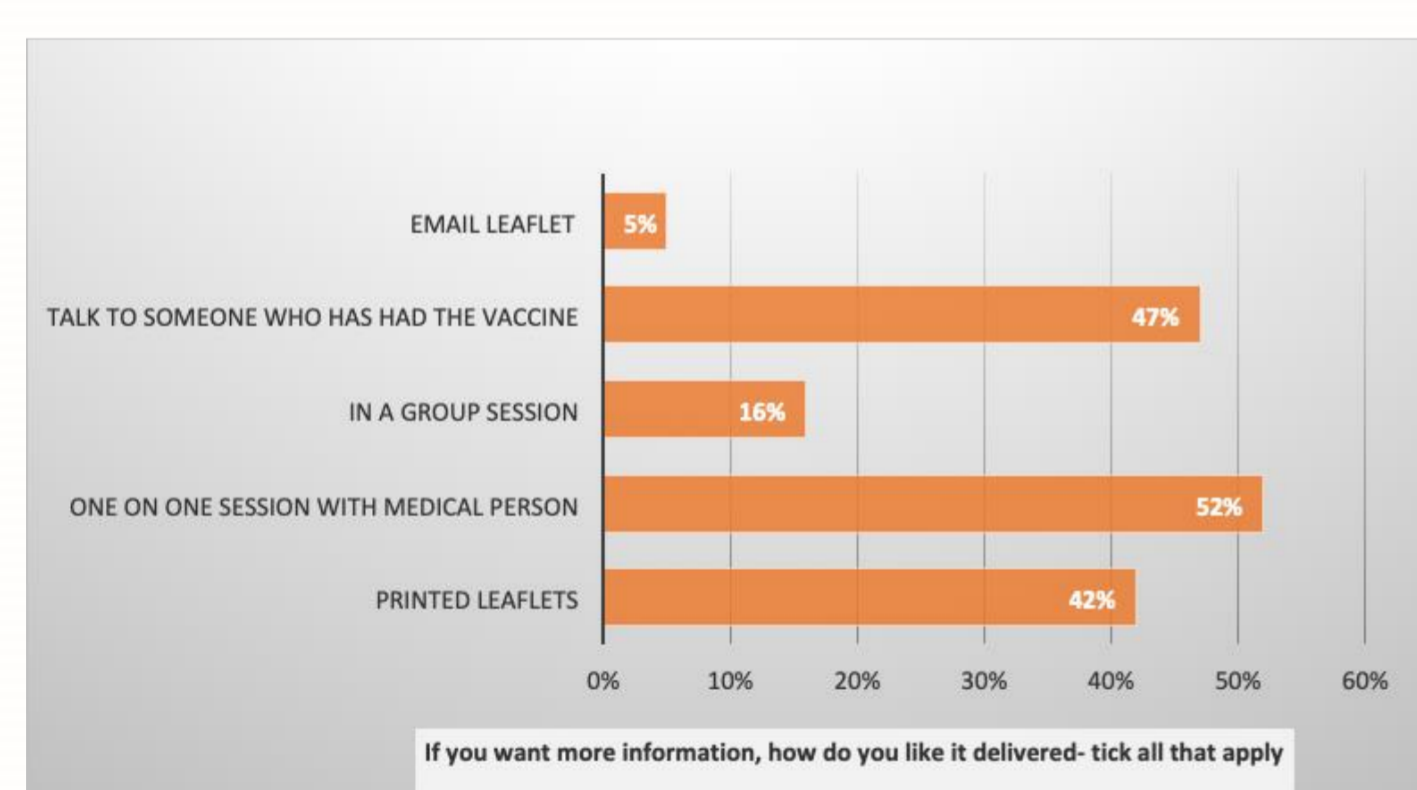


Figure 1: Preferences for receiving information on COVID-19 vaccination

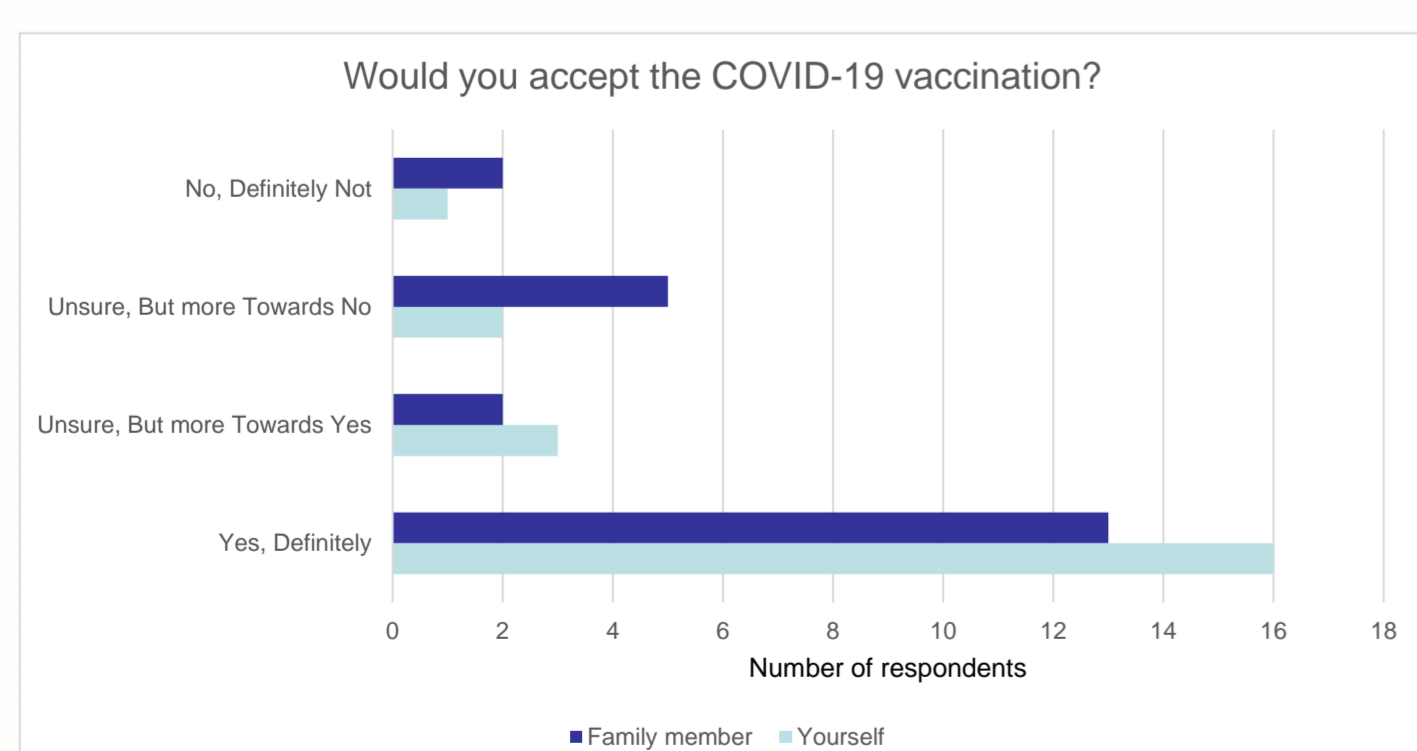


Figure 2: Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination for patient and family.

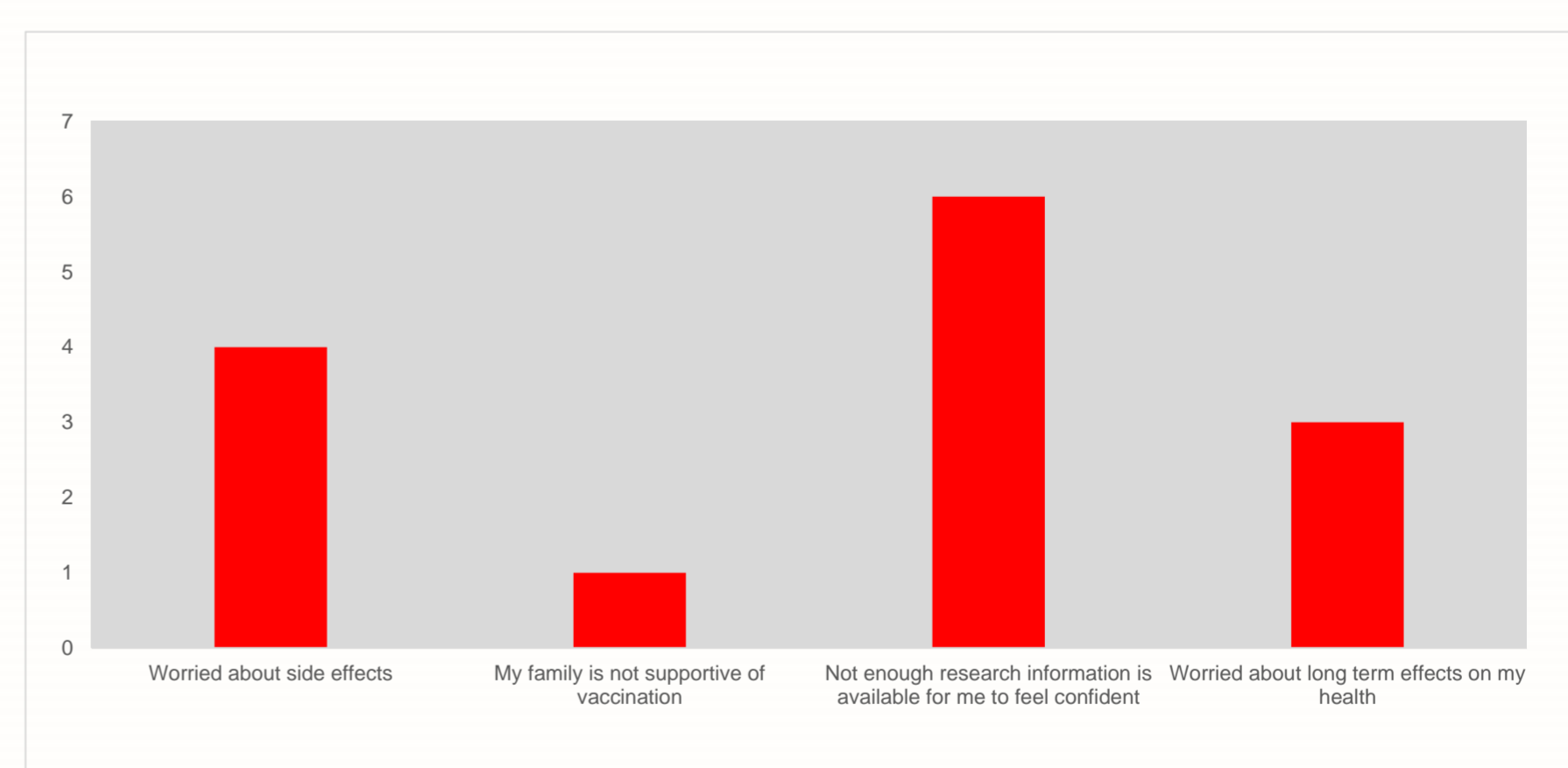


Figure 3: Reasons for not accepting the COVID-19 vaccine\*  
\*participants were able to select multiple responses

## Conclusions

In this small pilot questionnaire, the majority of participants were willing to accept a COVID-19 vaccine for themselves and their family members, however a small but significant number had not yet been vaccinated or were not willing to accept vaccination.

All respondents were open to receiving more information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations from their HIV clinic. Efforts must be made to provide information and address concerns during clinic consultations in order to optimise uptake of COVID-19 vaccination amongst PLWHIV.

This study is limited by the low number of respondents and may overestimate the uptake of vaccination in this population. Further work is required to evaluate the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in young people and families affected by HIV.