

Vaccine Hesitancy

Summary of results

Public Health Sudbury & Districts
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Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

Vaccine Hesitancy – Summary of Results

Public Health Sudbury & Districts conducted a bilingual vaccine hesitancy survey from August 5 to 18, 2021. The purpose of the survey was to gain an understanding from the general public about reasons for vaccine hesitancy in the community. The survey was targeted to members of the public and was administered by volunteers in public locations near vaccination clinic sites (for example grocery store parking lots or municipal parks).

Sample

- 714 respondents completed the survey
- 99% of respondents conducted the survey in English
- 1% of respondents completed the survey in French
- 87% reported residency in Greater Sudbury*
- 13% reported residency in the districts**
- 42% of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 45

* Greater Sudbury includes Capreol, Coniston, Falconbridge, Garson, Skead, Wahnapiatae, Walden, Lively, Azilda, Chelmsford, Valley East, Onaping Falls and Copper Cliff

** The districts include the Espanola area, Chapleau area, Sudbury East area, and Manitoulin Island

Reported place of residency	Percentage/ Count (n)
Greater Sudbury	87 (622)
Lacloche Foothills/Espanola area	4 (25)
Sudbury East	5 (42)
Chapleau area	0 (0)
Manitoulin Island	4 (25)
Total	714

Participant age	Percentage/ Count(n)
12 - 17	14 (94)
18 -24	14 (91)
25 -34	21 (142)
35- 45	21 (142)
46 - 56	16 (106)
57- 67	11 (70)
68 - 105	3 (18)
Total	100 (663)

Intention to become vaccinated

Key Findings:

- 67 respondents did not receive a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine
- 100% intended on becoming vaccinated

Intend to be vaccinated	Percentage/ Count (n)
Yes	100 (67)
No	0 (0)
Total	67

Received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Key Findings:

- 90% of respondents reported receiving at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine
- 9% of respondents reported not receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

Have you received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine?	Percentage/ Count (n)
Yes	90 (649)
No	9 (68)
Total	721

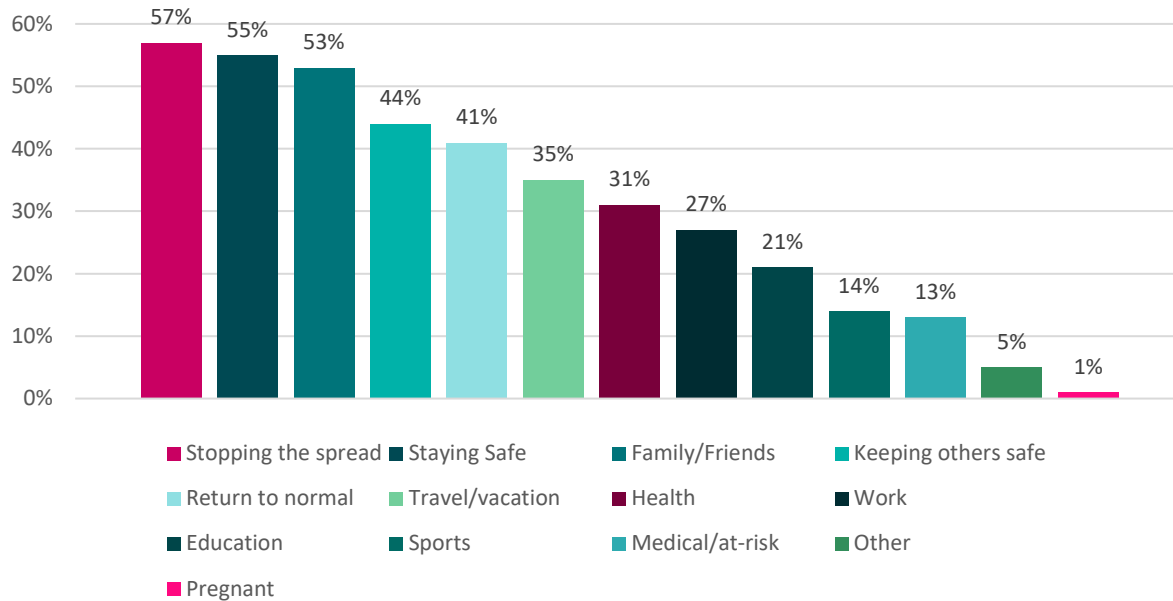
Reasons for vaccination

Key Findings:

Respondents who reported being vaccinated, identified the following reasons for their choice:

- 57% reported to stop the spread of COVID-19
- 55% identified to stay safe
- 53% reported for family and friends
- 44% identified keeping others safe
- 41% reported a return to normal
- “Other” specified reasons shared included: protecting elderly family members, protecting colleagues at work, reducing the spread of the Delta variant, and preventing future lockdowns

What was your reason for vaccination ?



What was your reason for vaccination?	Percentage/Count (n)
Stopping the spread	57 (370)
Staying safe	55 (357)
Family/friends	53 (341)
Keeping others safe	44 (283)
Return to normal	41 (263)
Travel/vacation	35 (229)
Health	31 (198)
Work	27 (177)
Education	21 (133)
Sports	14 (91)
Medical/ at-risk	13 (84)
Other	5 (32)
Pregnant	1 (7)
Total	648

Responses shared in the “other” category include the following quotes.

“Preventing the spread to elder family members”

“Required by public health.”

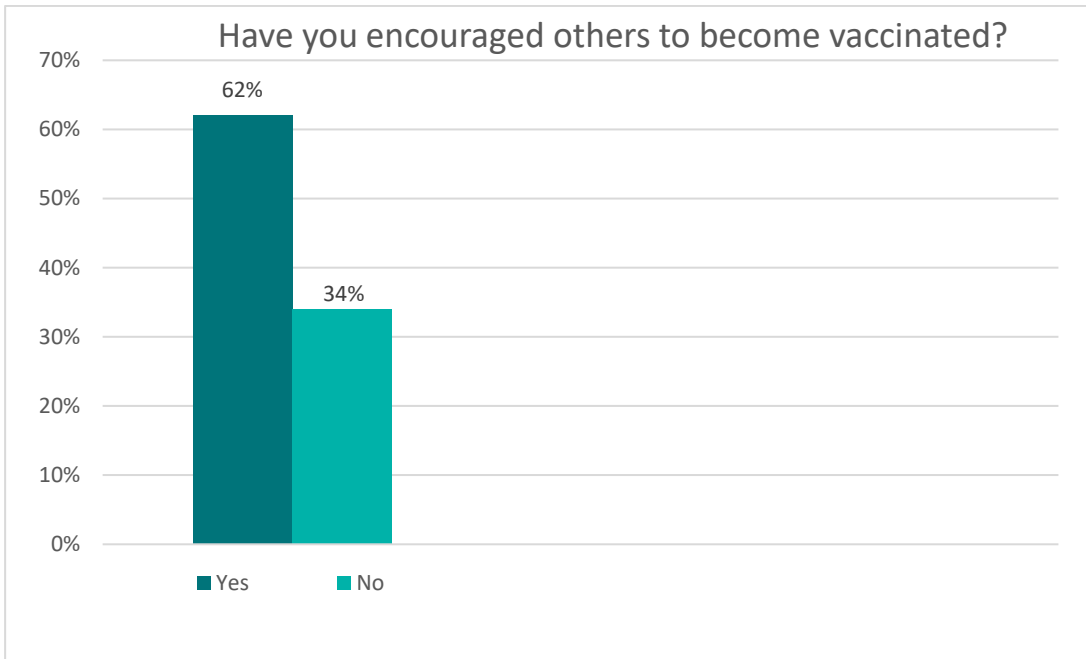
“Willing to make a difference”

“Peer pressure and I’m worried about the delta variant.”

Encouragement of others to become vaccinated

Key Findings:

- 62% of respondents that received at least one dose of vaccine encouraged others to become vaccinated
- 34% of respondents reported not actively encouraging others to become vaccinated

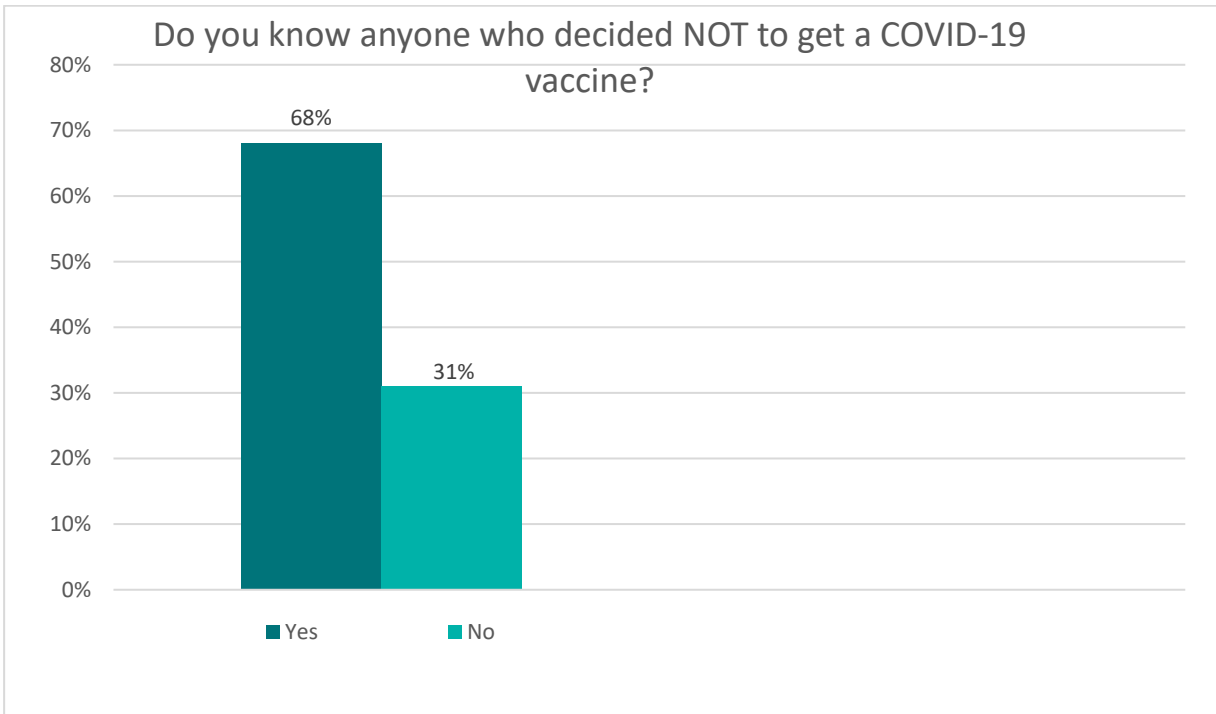


Have you encouraged others to become vaccinated?	Percentage/Count (n)
Yes	62 (406)
No	34 (220)
Prefer not to answer	4 (29)
Total	655

Knowledge of others who decided not to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Key Findings:

- 68% of respondents that have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine reported knowing someone who is unvaccinated
- 31% reported not knowing anyone who is unvaccinated

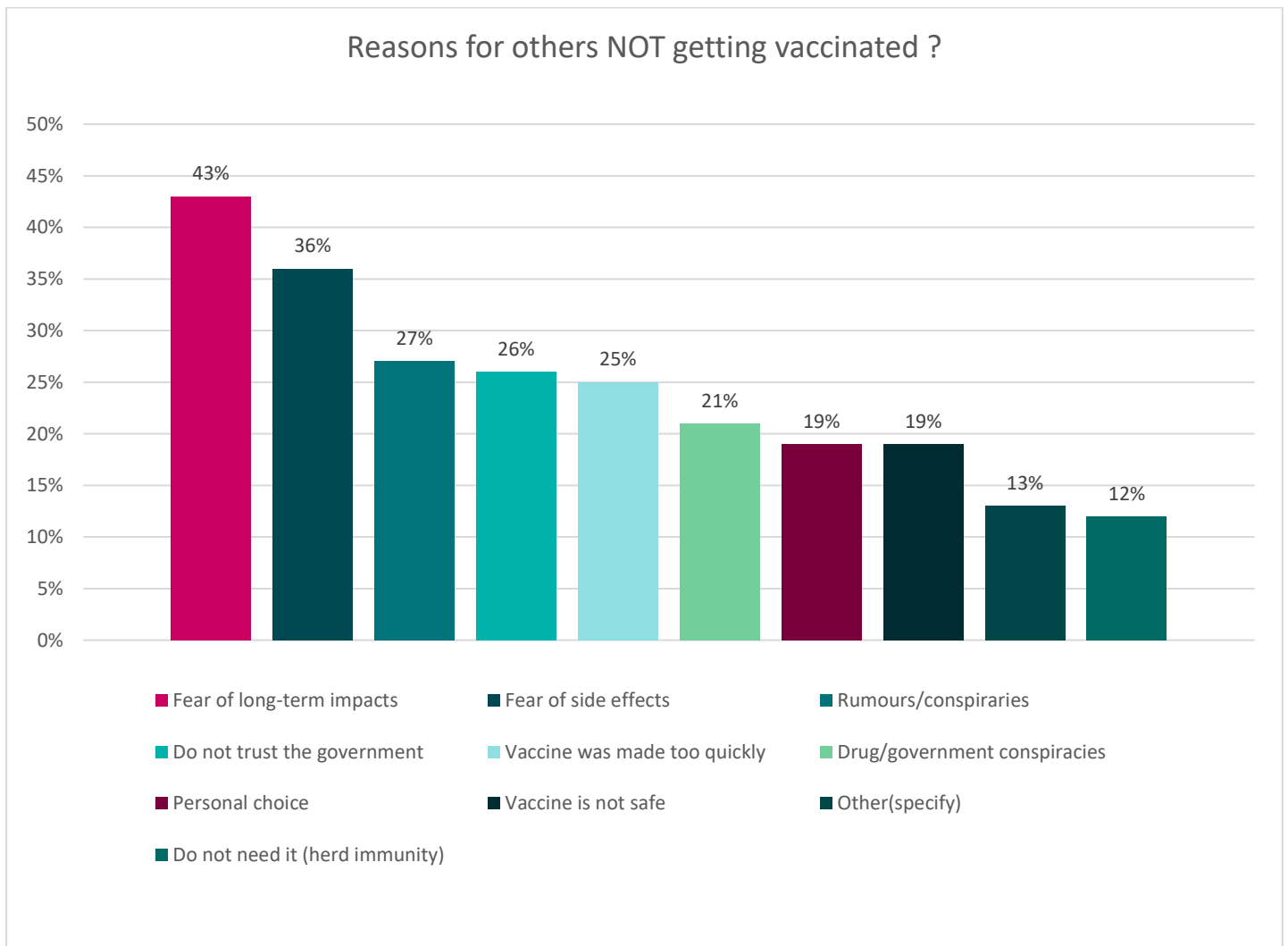


Have you encouraged others to become vaccinated?	Percentage/ Count (n)
Yes	68 (474)
No	31 (219)
Prefer not to answer	1 (12)
Total	694

Reasons why others are not becoming vaccinated

Key Findings:

- 517 respondents identified reasons why others are not becoming vaccinated
- 43% identified fear of long-term impacts of the COVID-19 vaccine
- 36% identified fear of side-effects from the COVID-19 vaccine
- 27% reported influence from COVID-19 rumours and conspiracies
- 26% noted lack in government trust
- 25% indicated the speed of which the vaccine was fabricated
- “Other” specified reasons identified, included: allergies to vaccines (anaphylactic), medical issues, religious beliefs, eugenics, and mental health and addiction challenges



Reasons of others NOT getting vaccinated.	Percentage/Count(n)
Fear of long-term impacts	43 (221)
Fear of side effects	36 (188)
Rumours/conspiracies	27 (141)
Do not trust government	26 (134)
Vaccine was made too quickly	25 (129)
Drug/government conspiracies	21 (108)
Personal choice	19 (98)
Vaccine is not safe	19 (96)
Other (specify)	13 (67)
Do not need it (herd immunity)	12 (63)
Do not trust health care	11 (56)
I'm young/healthy	10 (53)
Fear of blood clots	10 (50)
Do not like needles/afraid	9 (45)
Won't make a difference	9 (44)
Survival rate is high	9 (44)
COVID does not/will not affect me	9 (44)
Will alter my DNA	8 (42)
Friends say "don't"	7 (37)
Unnatural product	6 (30)
Had a bad reaction to vaccine	6 (30)
Waiting	4 (22)
Reproductive impacts	4 (21)
Prefer alternative medicine	4 (21)
Religious/cultural	4 (21)
Will catch COVID from vaccine	4 (20)
Had bad medical experience	3 (18)
Parent/guardian says "don't"	3 (14)
Doctor says "don't"	3 (15)
No time to get vaccinated	2 (9)
Already had COVID	2 (9)
Do not want to line up	2 (9)
Pregnant	2 (9)
Wait for one-shot	2 (9)
Cannot get to a clinic	1 (6)
Cannot take time off work	1 (5)

Respondents shared various statements about alternative reasons why others are not becoming vaccinated.

“Cannot receive due to health.”

“Distrust in media.”

“Should go to others who are more in need.”

“More fear of vaccine than Covid.”

***“Concerned about the science that there haven’t
been adequate clinical trials.”***

Conclusion

Public Health Sudbury & Districts is aware that vaccine hesitancy is an important issue. To better understand how to support the public with hesitations, this survey was initiated. These results will be used to inform planning of ongoing vaccination opportunities and development of website content and communications messaging. Tips and practice scenarios for talking with others about the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the following webpage [A conversation guide to build vaccine confidence in our communities](#).