

Vaccine Equity Project:

A snapshot of Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic peoples in Brighton and Hove and their view on vaccine confidence (COVID-19)



Bridging Change CIC

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Thanks and appreciation go to all the respondents in Brighton and Hove who took the time to engage with us and to Kiran Sasidharan who conducted the interviews as a community researcher.

Introduction: Vaccine equity project

Vaccine equity describes a landscape whereby everyone has equal access to vaccines. This short report provides a snapshot of 20 people who identified as Black, Asian and/or minoritised ethnic and they were able to share their experience of COVID-19 vaccines. The respondents responses were captured by a paid community researcher. All respondents were given a £15 voucher for their time.

As members of Bridging Change, we are known and trusted as a community organisation as opposed to a medical organisation, and this more likely to be trusted by the Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic community, especially those who mistrusted medical institutions/pharmaceuticals, and as a result we were able to conduct a Black Asian and minoritised ethnic targeted project looking at vaccine uptake. Thus getting people involved in the project was not a challenge.

The respondents came from 12 different ethnic groups, people were able to self-ascribe their ethnic origin, the ages spanned from the 18-85, were predominantly female (58 per cent female and 48 per cent male). Of the respondents 35 per cent identified as Muslim, 25 as atheist, 20 per cent as Christian, 10 per cent as Hindus, 5 per cent as Sikh and 5 per cent as other. Of the respondents 25 per cent said they their day-to-day activities were limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months and 20 per cent of respondents said they were carers.

Response overview

Of the 20 respondents, 80 per cent (16 people) had all three vaccines/booters and a further three people had four vaccines/boosters (limited availability at the date of this report). Four respondents did not have the vaccine at all.

Of those who were expressing “vaccine hesitancy”, they expressed quite complex and context specific reasons and factors as to why they refused the vaccine.

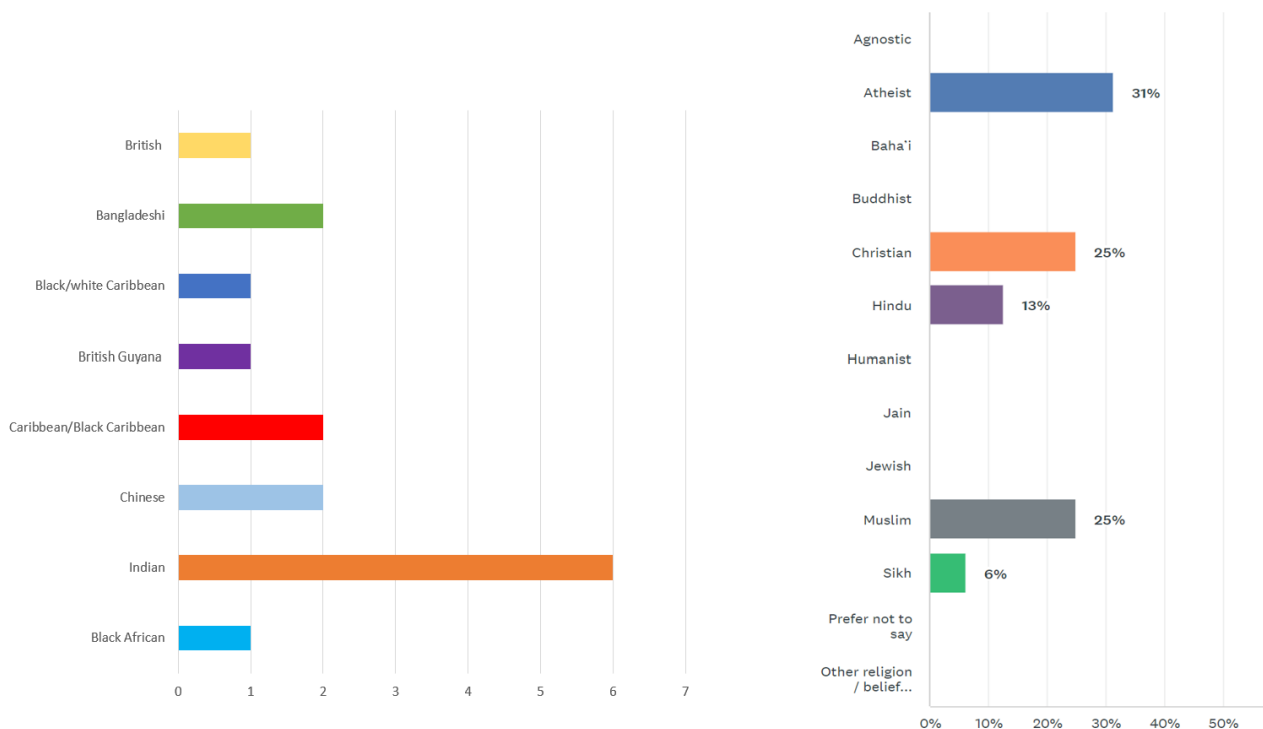
There were multiple-choice options as well as opportunities to mention additional factors or issues. There were also two open response questions with the intention of learning why individuals did/did not have the vaccine; also a question about the impact of COVID-19 on individuals and their families.

Important note

This report intentionally shares its observations on respondents’ accounts. It is problematic drawing broad conclusion from such a small scale study, so it remains a snapshot of 20 minoritised ethnic people living in Brighton and Hove.

Responses from those who took the vaccine

Of the 16 people who took the vaccine, all 16 had the three vaccines, and a further three people had a fourth vaccine (as the fourth vaccine has been available only to a relatively small cohort). The take up of the vaccines was broadly reflective of the overall cohort, perhaps significantly the results show that individuals were disproportionately more likely to take the vaccine if they were in the older age group 66-75 and 76-85 age group – all respondents in this age group had had their vaccine. The gender split was also very similar to the whole cohort. There was a broad range of respondents from different ethnic groups and religions who chose to take the vaccine.



Of the 16 respondents who were vaccinated, they were much more likely to have a disability (8 per cent higher than the overall group). Three out of the sixteen of the respondents who had taken the vaccine were carers.

Of those who took the vaccine, the reasons given were centred around keeping safe from COVID-19 and keeping others safe:

Why did you take the vaccine?

“Because I wanted to be protected from COVID and did not want to get a strong infection and if I do it will be a milder version and so that is why I took it.”

“I thought it was sensible and I did not want to fall ill.”

“To protect myself, family and the community from COVID-19.”

“Prevent the impact of covid.”

“To stay safe from COVID.”

“Own health and protection of public.”

“Because of age, told by the NHS app and called.”

“Protecting myself and others.”

“Stay safe for yourself and others.”

“Keep virus away.”

“To stay alive.”

“To protect everyone.”

“Protect myself from COVID.”

“Been given out info and fear of getting COVID.”

“Doctors advised and also diabetic.”

What information influenced your decision?

“I trusted the Health Secretary and the NHS.”

“I am a great believer of vaccines and so I sought correct information - not opinions or feelings – listened to NHS and scientific professionals.”

“The alternative SAGE was quite helpful - they were reputable health professionals who questioned some of SAGEs decisions but were measured and evidence based and gave some really helpful insights. I also read articles in medical journals. I listened to debates and discussion.”

“Science based information of COVID vaccine being effective.”

“NHS information.”

“Nothing.”

“News and NHS.”

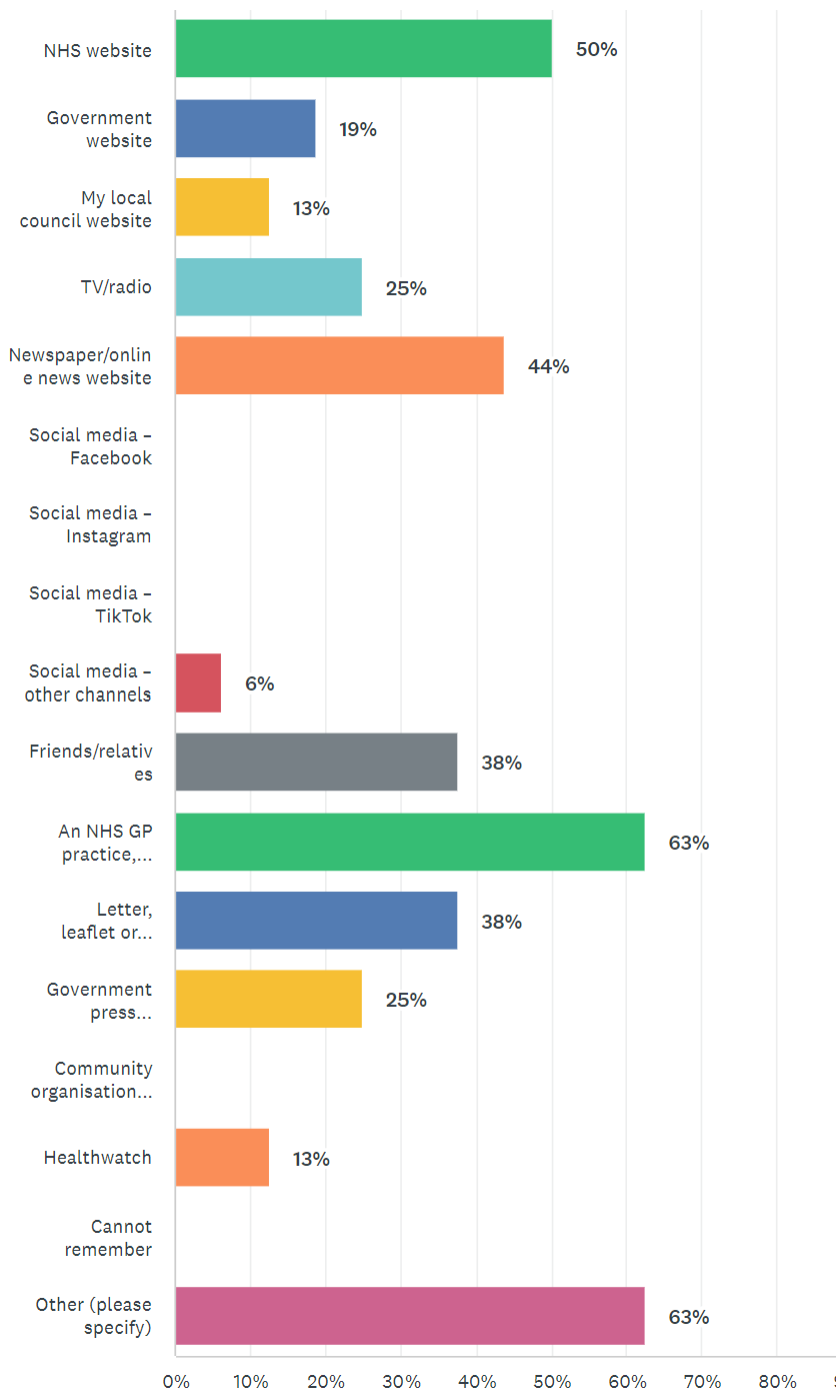
“Daughter’s a doctor and involved in the problem and carer for husband.”

“Family and doctor said the importance,”

trust the NHS

always trust HNS- visit them often- have dialysis so there everyday

Where did you get your information from about the vaccine?



Were there sources you did not trust, if not why?

Some people in the community were sharing rumours about the side-effects but I did not believe them.

I didn't trust social media

Information shared by some family/friends who had got information from 'unreputable' websites and rumours

social media platforms mainly twitter

on social media since there was no science through their comments

WhatsApp

social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter

Facebook

social media particularly Facebook

Six people did not express mistrust in information

Responses from those who did not take the vaccine

Of the four people who did not take the vaccine, three of them were in the 46-55 age group, one was in the 18-25 age group. They all came from different ethnic groups, two identified as female and two identified as male. No one had a disability, although one of them said that their day to day activities were limited because of a health problem or disability which lasted, or is expected to last at least 12 months. One person was a carer, 3 identified as Muslim and one other identified as other religion or belief. All respondents were asked why they decided not to take the vaccine, they said:

Why did you not take the vaccine?

“Because I do not believe it, I believe it was created with a purpose - no trust in the companies that are created the vaccine -not trustworthy.”

“Had COVID earlier on and felt there was no need to get the vaccine plus didn't want to in the first place.”

“Not certain about the vaccine, having it [the vaccine] often can have an effect on the immune system risk myself health-wise human body react differently stick to nation vaccine differently.”

For all of the respondents who had not taken a vaccine the delay was not due to the lack availability of vaccination services nearby, accessibility issues to vaccinations (i.e. transport, location, times of booking, difficulty in booking). When asked, ‘What stops you from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?’ Of those who did not take the vaccine, 75 per cent of people gave four main reasons from the options given:

What influenced your decision?

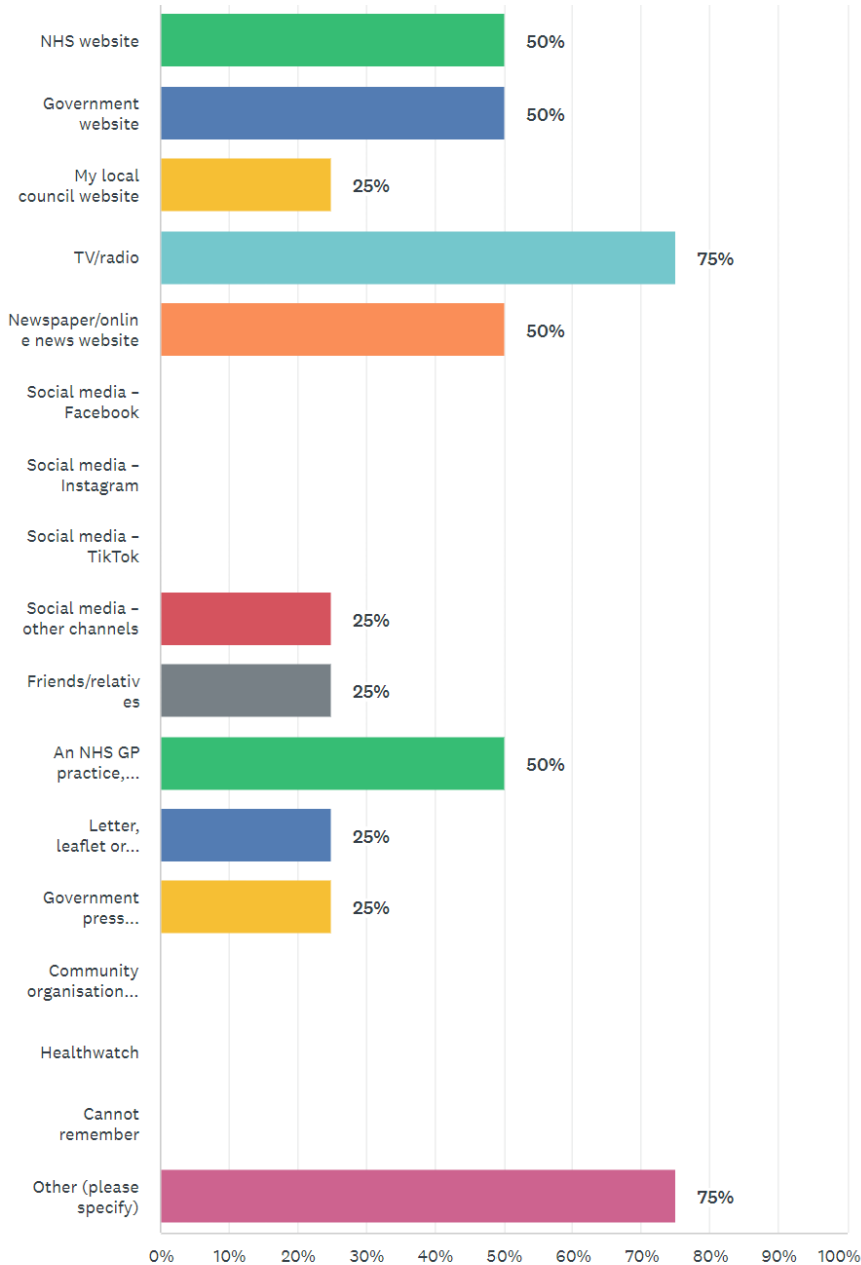
“I worry that there are negative impacts of the vaccine.”

“I am worried the vaccine will have side effects and I will be unable to work/socialize.”

“Feel that COVID-19 is no longer a threat.”

“Side effects listed on MHRA Yellow Card scheme”

Where did you get your information from about the vaccine?



Were there sources you did not trust?

This cohort had access to a wide range of information but expressed a mistrust of mainstream media, pharmaceuticals, the fear that the vaccine was rushed, mixed messaging, side effects, which would impact their work and social life and felt that COVID-19 was no longer a threat. There was also an expression of there being mixed messaging which were seen as inconsistent and an inconclusive long-term understanding of the impact of the vaccine.

All respondents

Impact Covid-19 had on respondents and their family?

“Not much, stayed at home already and husband going out.”

“Isolation having an impact on social life.”

“Financially- not being able to work, son not furloughed and lost work mental health affect from not seeing anyone.”

“Scared- with people dying impacted job and day-to-day living- weren't able to work from home.”

“Fear of getting COVID- isolating for long periods not nice.”

“Unable to work for a long period, daughter had COVID just before wedding so that broke and had no money back from the venue. Also had a mental health impact as couldn't see friends or family and could only speak through phone.”

“My money and business and jobs they were reduced and changed - doesn't matter - the grants were not enough the impact lasted many months - very hard to get out from that situation - all construction in the first lockdown it stopped and in the second lockdown the hours were reduced and the salary was also reduced. Had to take up other jobs like delivery which is not where my skills are.”

“It has meant that restriction of movement, like when even when you are not well you had to stay at home and I for instance because of my work, when I first started work, even if you are negative you still had to stay at home - work from home. So when one of the household got COVID we all had to stay at home - those kind of restrictions were very annoying - it also meant that my husband was unable to work and unable to earn and kids not being able to go to school.”

“Fell a bit ill through a sore throat, due to COVID had to take some days off work along with family as it was a family business, affected during A levels and due to finding online learning difficult so stopped studying.”

“Fed up with people talking about it. Feel bad for people working in NHS, racist comments from young people affected, friends who don't come close not coming to funerals.”

Conclusion

This report represents a snapshot which captures thoughts and opinions to better understand why **some** people made their decisions on whether to get vaccinated or not. Some were happy with the information received from the NHS and the government but others questioned the inconsistency and “lack of data”. Overall, everyone felt that they had made an informed decision. There was no sense from the information shared, that there was inequity in the access to getting vaccines nor inequity of access to information from the NHS or government. For the four respondents who did not take the vaccines, they did so because they had mistrusted pharmaceuticals, the government and/or the long-term impact of vaccines. They had read, listened and/or watched other sources that they felt made a convincing argument and were sources they trusted more.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Short interview/survey questions

EQUALITY QUESTIONS

We ask equality questions so that we can understand how different groups are impacted by services. The information we collect helps to check that services are fair and accessible. Collecting this information will help us understand the needs of our different communities and we encourage you to complete the following questions.

You will receive a £15 voucher for your time.

All your answers will be **treated in confidence** and will be **stored securely** in an **anonymous format**. All information will be stored in accordance with our responsibilities under the **Data Protection Act 2018**.

I read and/or understood the above

Respondent number: _____

In which age group do you fall? (Please tick one option only)

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 66-75
- 76-85
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

Are you: (Please tick one option only)

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to use my own term (please specify): -

How would you describe your ethnic origin? _____

(Please be as specific as you can, e.g. Nigerian, Japanese, mixed heritage – Indian and Italian heritage or Sri Lankan.)

Do you consider that you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are you a carer? (A carer provides unpaid support to family or friends you are ill, frail, disabled or have mental health or substance misuse problems)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your religion or belief?

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Baha'i
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Humanist
- Jain
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Prefer not to say
- Other religion / belief (please specify)

VACCINE QUESTIONS

1. Did you have the Vaccine

- Yes
- No

2. If you had a vaccine which one did you have (tick all that applies):

- 1st vaccine
- 2nd vaccine
- 3rd vaccine
- 4th vaccine
- Did not have a vaccine

3. Which vaccine did you have?

- Pfizer,
- Moderna
- AstraZeneca
- Other _____
- Did not have a vaccine

4. **Why did you decide to have/not have the Covid19 vaccine?**

5. **Where did you get your information from about the vaccine? (Circle all that applies)**

- NHS website
- Government website
- My local council website
- TV/radio
- Newspaper/online news website
- Social media – Facebook
- Social media – Instagram
- Social media – TikTok
- Social media – other channels
- Friends/relatives
- An NHS GP practice, pharmacy, clinic or hospital
- Letter, leaflet or poster by the NHS or Government
- Government press conference
- Community organisations/websites
- Healthwatch
- Cannot remember
- Other (please specify)

6. **Were there sources you did not trust, if not why?**

7. **What information influenced your decision?**

8. **Has your opinion on the vaccine changed in the last year?**

No

Yes (if yes please specify)

9. **Did you get COVID-19?**

Yes

No

Not sure

10. **Did you have long-COVID?**

Yes

No

Not sure

11. If you did have long-COVID, did you receive support for long-COVID?

- Yes
- No

12. Have other people in your immediate family circle taken the Covid19 vaccine?

- Yes
- No

13. Have you got any underlying health conditions?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

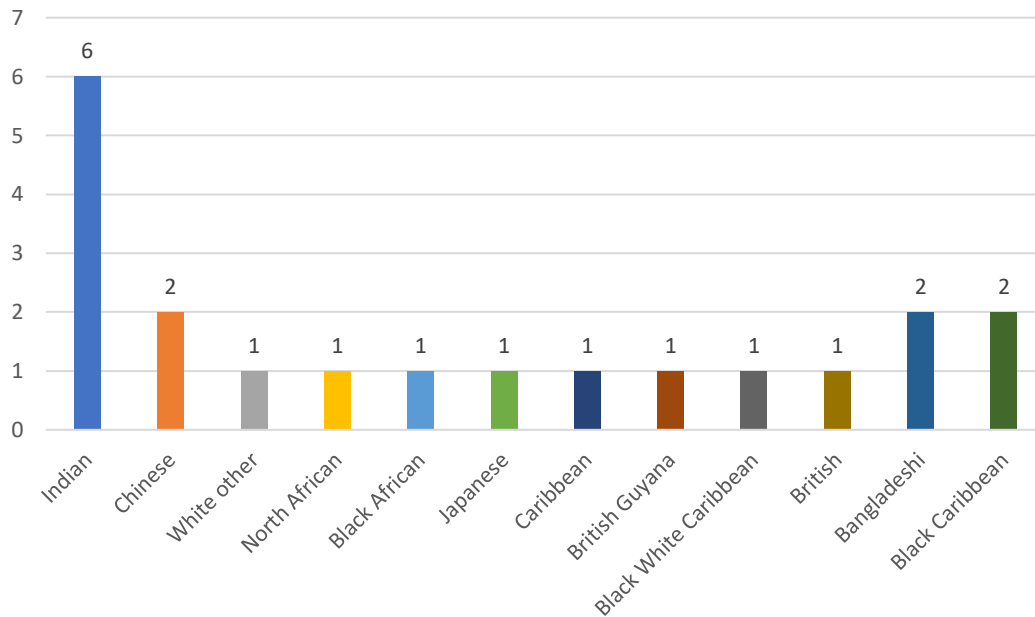
14. Is there anything that stops you from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Nothing would stop me from getting a COVID-19 vaccine or booster
- Transport – it is difficult getting there I would need public transport or a taxi
- The location of the vaccine centre is too far
- The times of the appointments are difficult
- Booking online is difficult
- I am unable to book an appointment at my GP surgery
- I worry that there are negative impacts of the vaccine
- I am worried the vaccine will have side effects and I will be unable to work/socialize
- Feel that COVID-19 is no longer a threat
- Don't know/not sure
- Other (please specify) _____

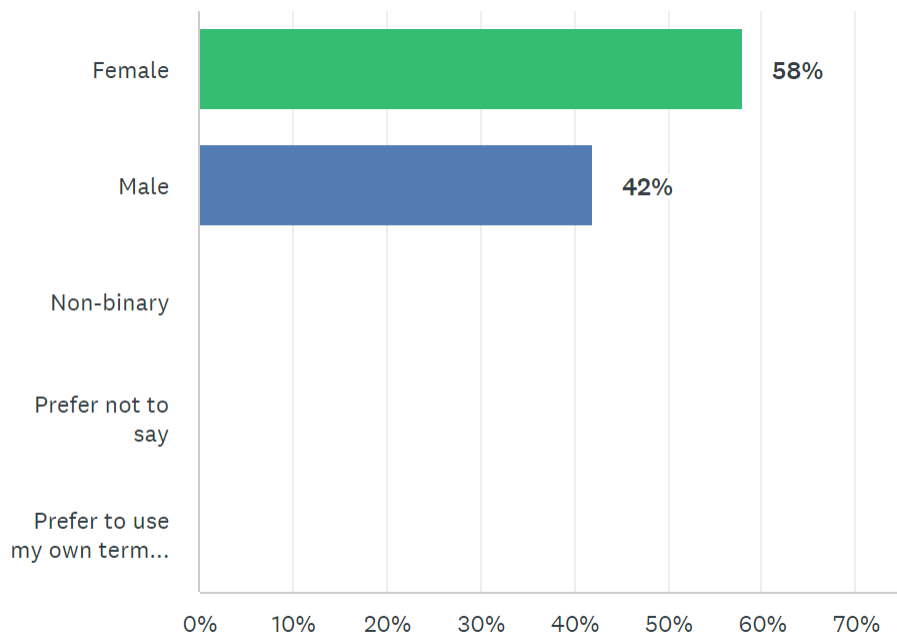
What has been the impact that COVID has had on you and your family's lives?

Appendix 2: Quantitative responses

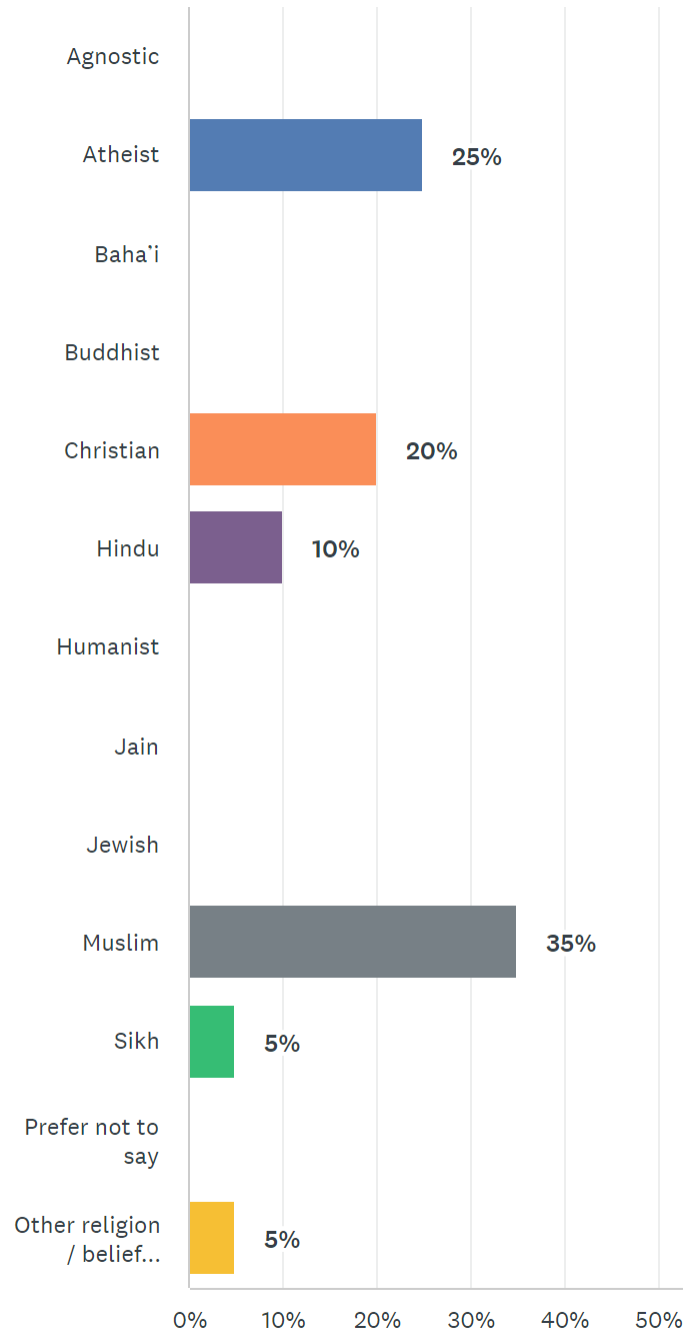
Ethnicity of respondent



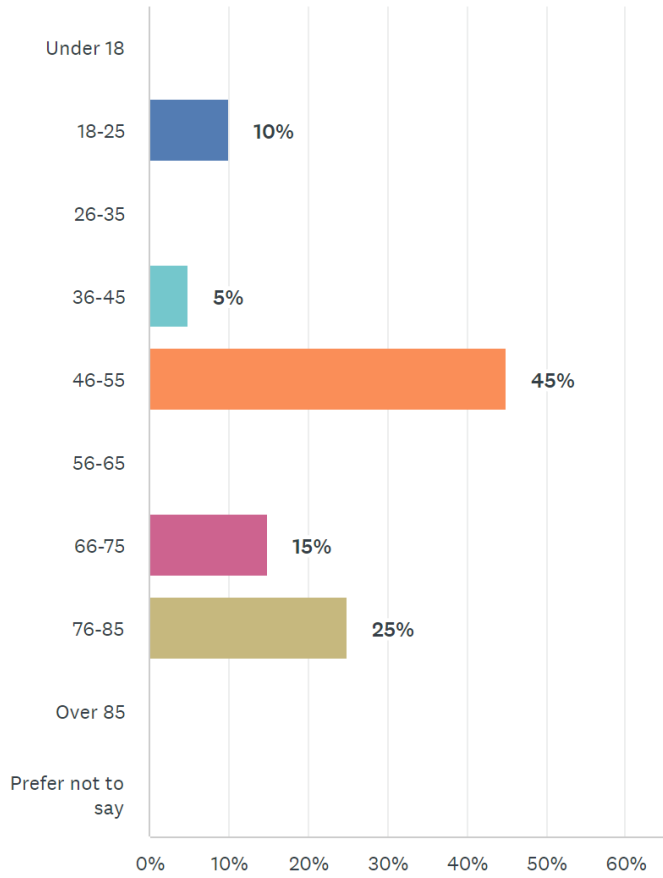
How do you identify?



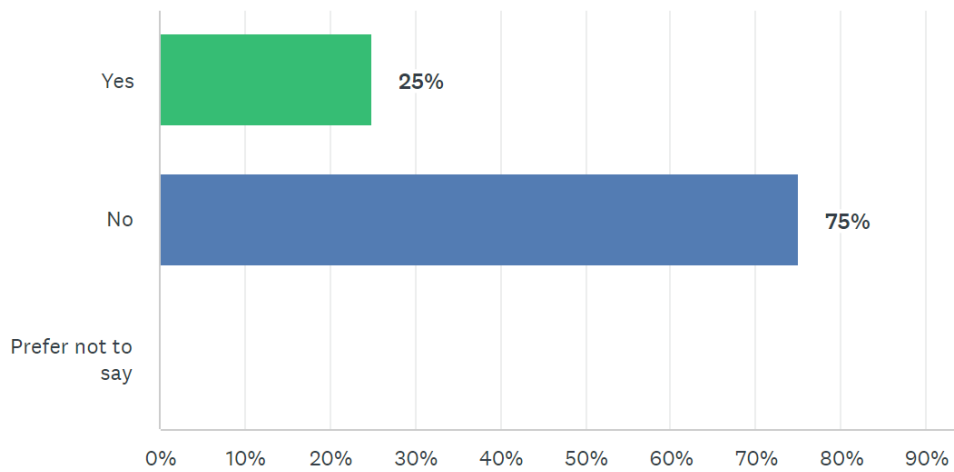
What is your religion or belief?



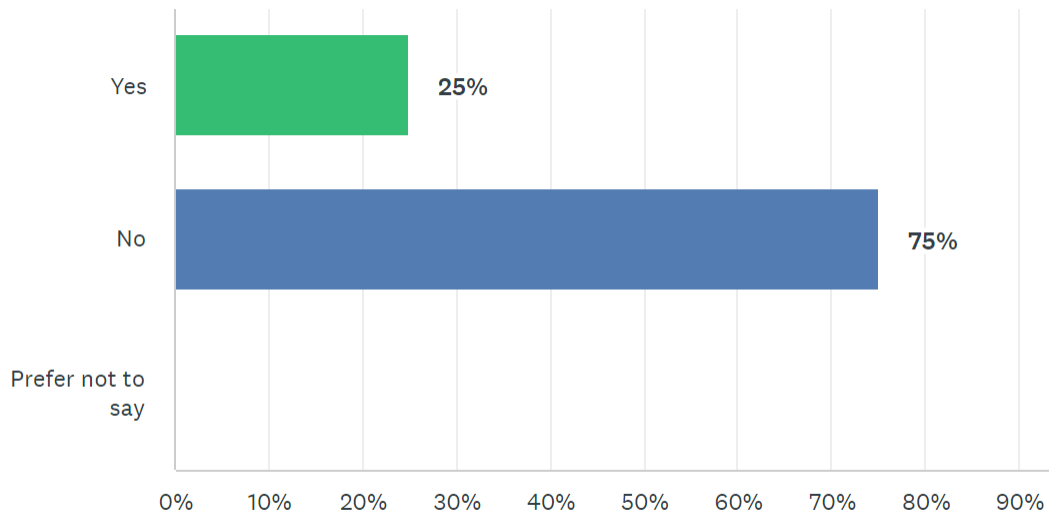
In which age group do you belong?



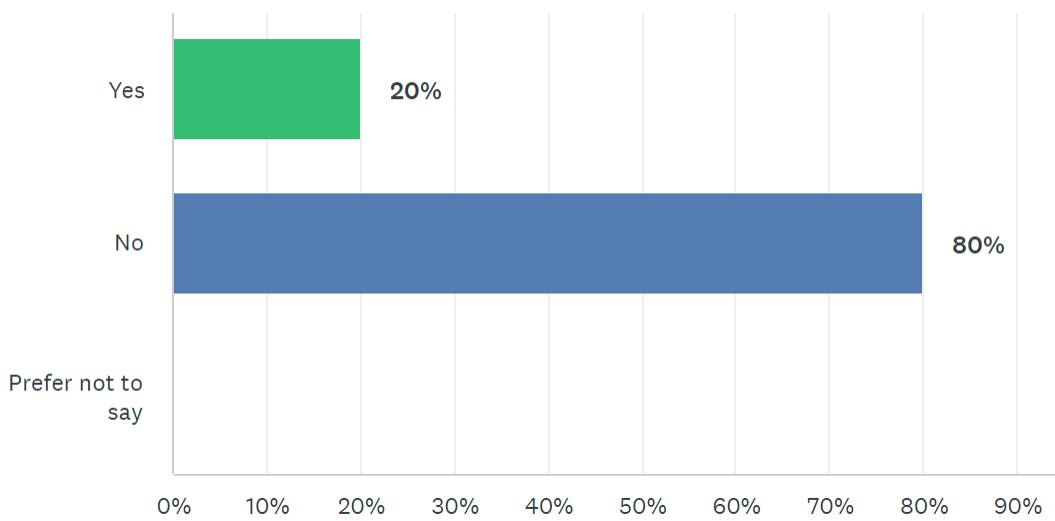
Do you consider that you have a disability?



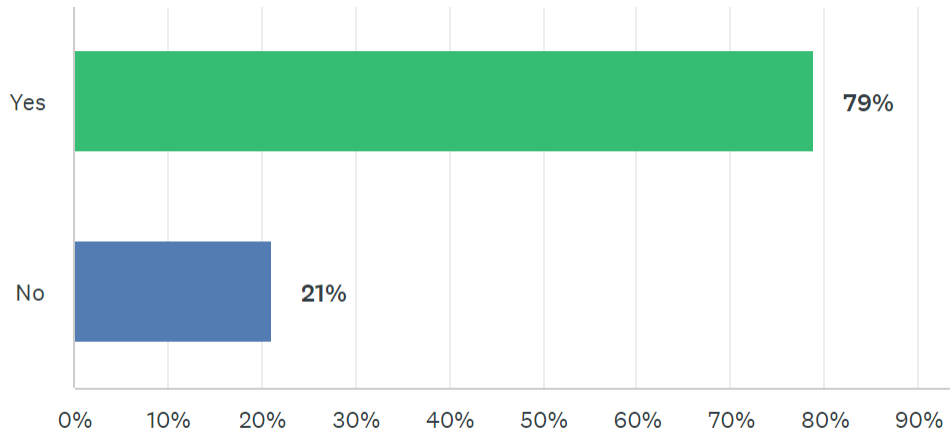
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?



Are you a carer?

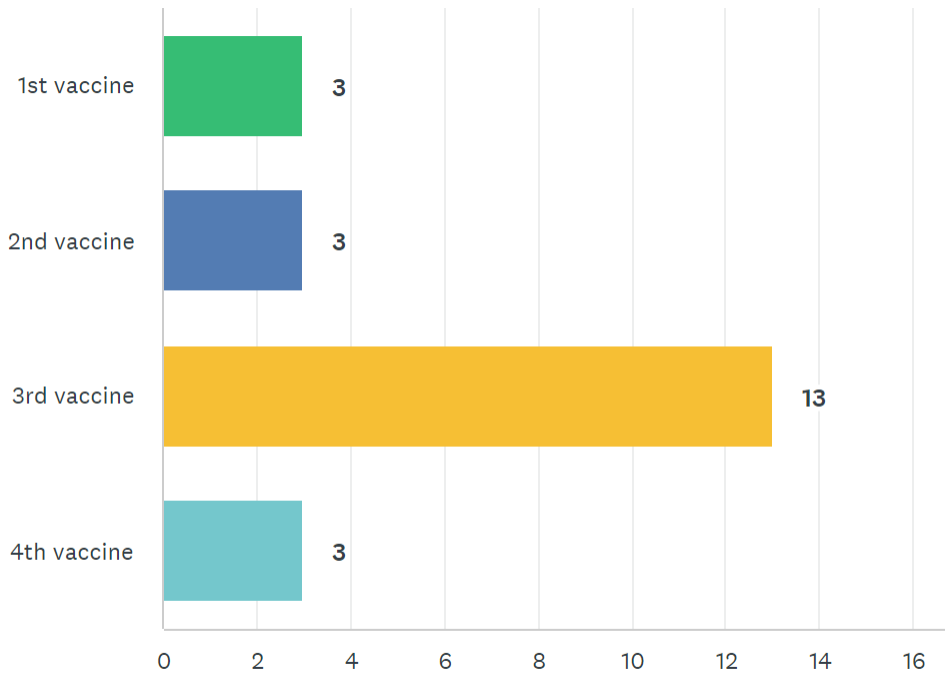


Did you have the vaccine?

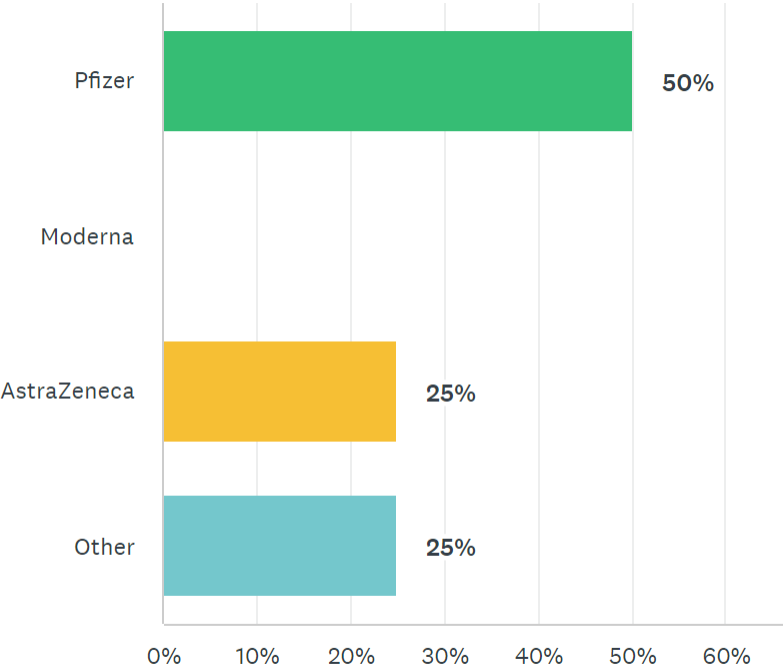


How many vaccines did you have?

Some people gave multiple answers, however, in total 16 out of 20 people overall had had the vaccine.

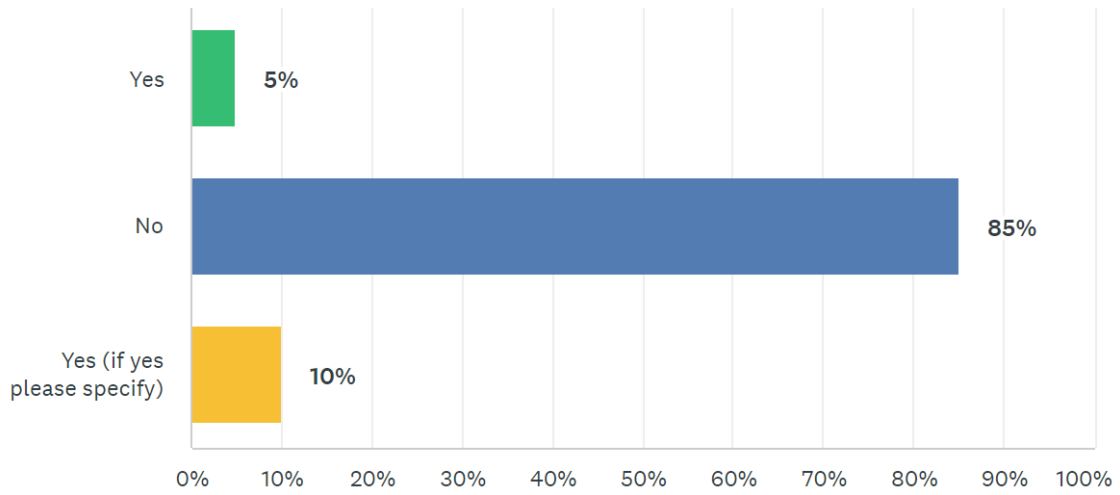


Which vaccine did you have?

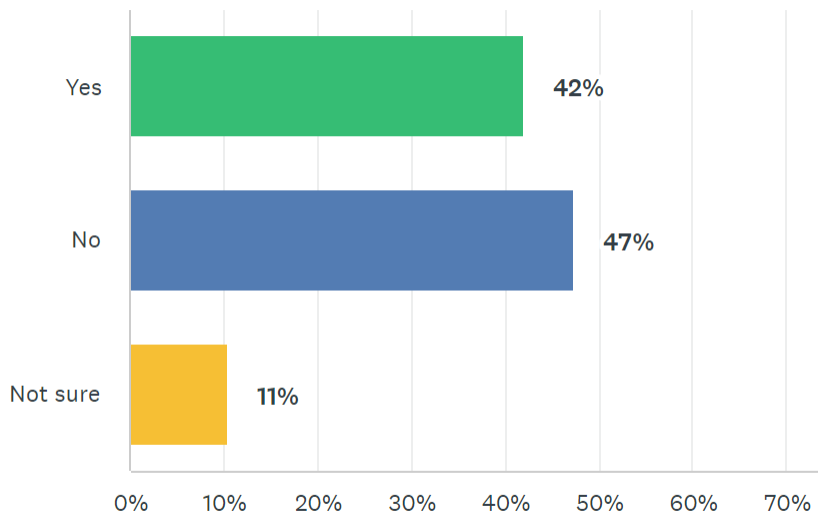


Note: 'Other' – was given as an option as some people had had a combination of vaccine types, most typically either AstraZeneca or Moderna in the first instance and then Pfizer as a their booster (third vaccine).

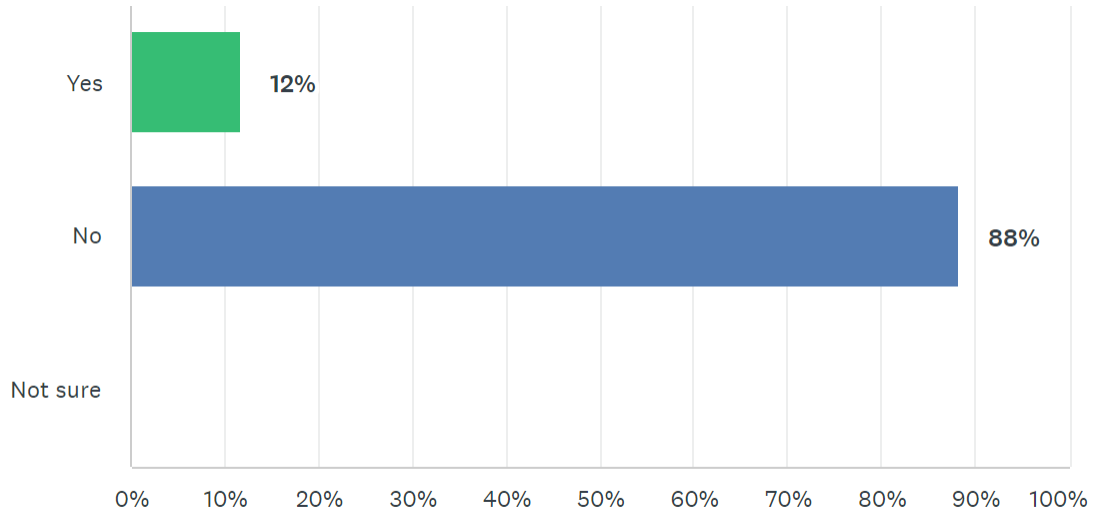
Has your opinion on the vaccine changed in the last year?



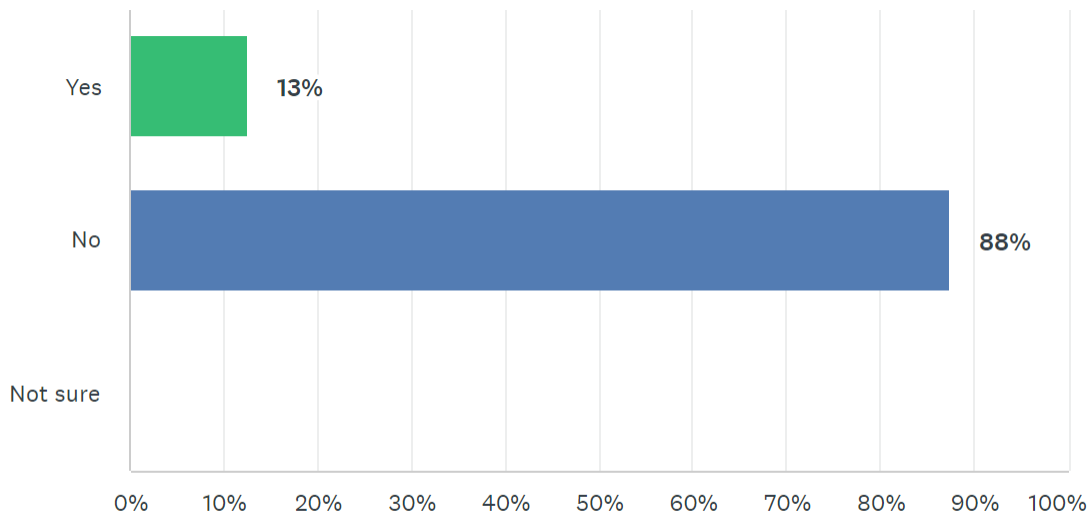
Did you get COVID-19?



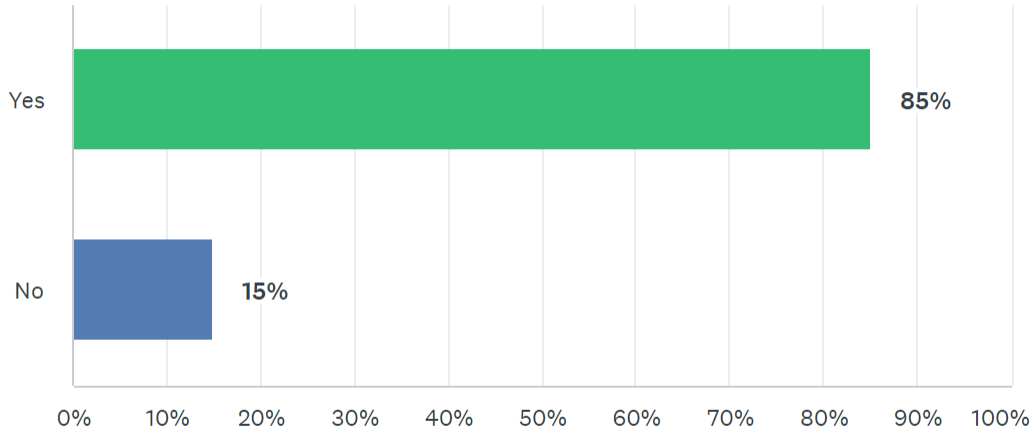
Did you have long-COVID?



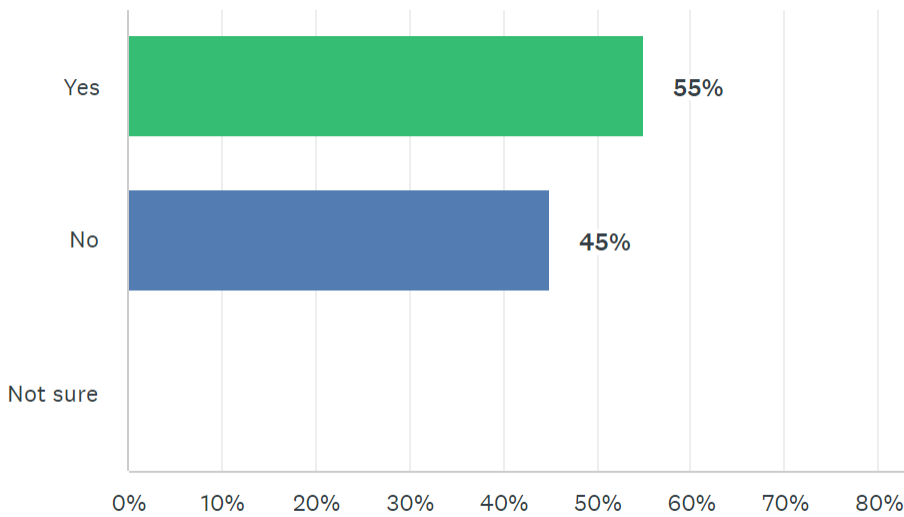
If you did have long-COVID, did you receive support for long-COVID?



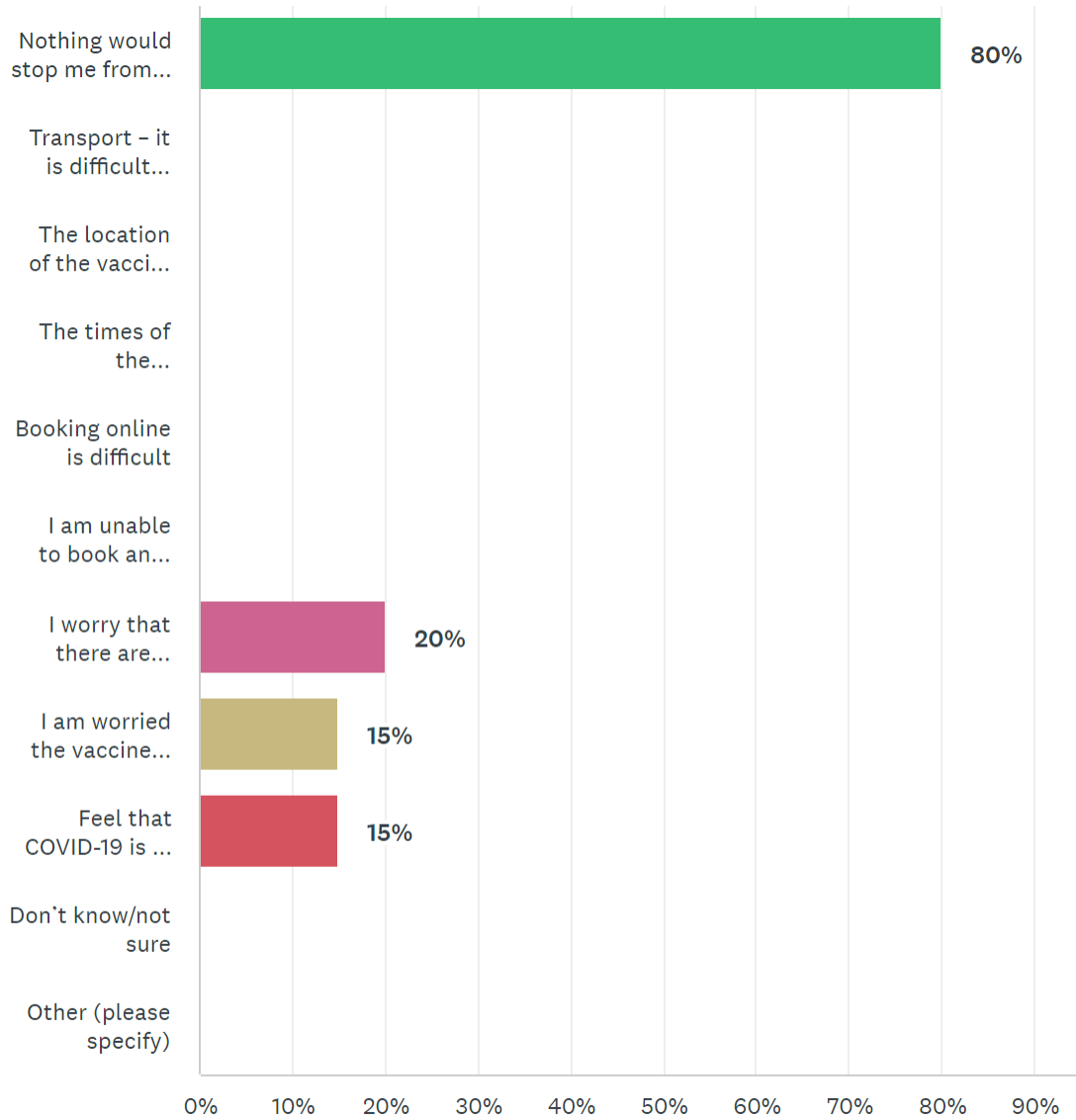
Have other people in your immediate family circle taken the Covid19 vaccine?



Have you got any underlying health conditions?



Is there anything that stops you from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?



Where did you get your information from about the vaccine?

