

Perception and Willingness of COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake among Teachers in Oyo State and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria

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Most participants believe COVID-19 vaccine is effective and are willing to be vaccinated as well as encourage others to take the vaccine. The most common reason for vaccine hesitancy among the participants is because the vaccine is new.

BACKGROUND & CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

- The COVID-19 pandemic began in Wuhan, China in Dec. 2019 and was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO on Jan. 30, 2020.¹
- Nigeria had a consistent and widespread community transmission of COVID-19 and a daily increase in new cases and deaths since the detection of the first case.²
- Despite the reduction in cases, new cases and death are still being recorded in the country.²
- Globally, we have seen how quickly COVID-19 can spread in schools and infect large numbers of people of all ages.
- COVID-19 vaccines can provide immunity against coronavirus and have been found to be safe and effective.³
- Teachers are key players in schools and communities and are role models to many; hence, their perception about an issue can strongly influence people's behaviours.
- This study assessed the perception and willingness to take COVID-19 vaccines among school administrators and teachers in Oyo State and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

METHODS / ACTIVITY

- A descriptive cross-sectional survey conducted in Oyo State and the FCT, Abuja, Nigeria
- Study population were 277 teachers (primary and secondary schools) who attended a training program on COVID-19 between March and April 2021.
- Participants were recruited voluntarily through convenience sampling method.
- Data were collected daily, using a structured, self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of close and open-ended questions which assessed the respondents' socio-demographics, perception of and willingness to take COVID-19 vaccine, Vaccine in this study refers to all the types of vaccines available in Nigeria.
- Data analysis was carried out using SPSS version 27.

RESULTS

- A total of 277 school administrators and teachers participated in this study (132 in Oyo State and 145 in the FCT).
- Almost three-quarter (67%) of the participants were females in Oyo State while more than half (52%) males in the FCT.
- Majority of the participants from Oyo State and the FCT were aged 46–55 (50.7%) and 41–50 years (40.7%), respectively.

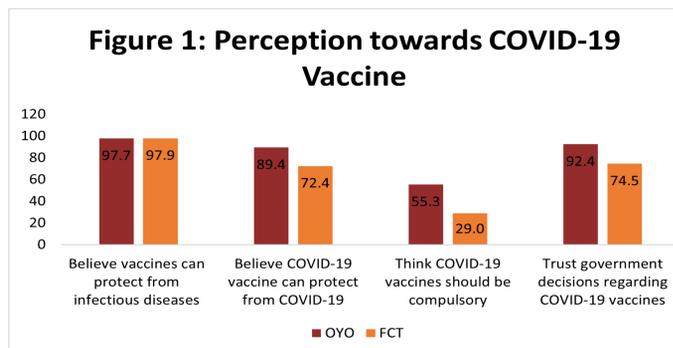


Figure 2: Willingness to take COVID-19 vaccine

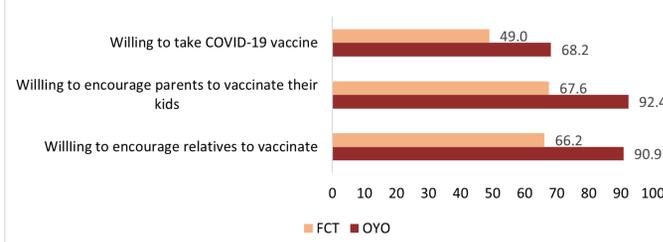
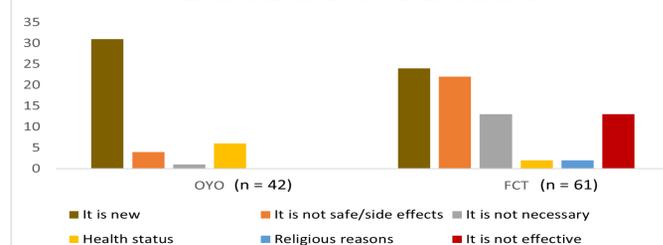


Figure 3: Reasons some of the respondents were hesitant to take COVID-19 vaccine



- Vaccine in this study refers to all the types of vaccines available in Nigeria.
- Language barrier was observed among a few of the teachers, especially the primary school teachers, and this was overcome by giving clarification as needed

FINDINGS

- Majority (62.8%) of the teachers from FCT and about half (47.0%) from Oyo State did not feel they had enough information about the COVID-19 vaccine and its safety.
- The major sources of information about COVID-19 vaccine among the teachers were social media (WhatsApp) (97.9%) and TV/Radio (52.3%) for Oyo State and FCT respectively.
- The most common reason why the teachers in Oyo State (23.5%) and FCT (16.6%) were hesitant to take the vaccine is because it is new.
- The findings revealed that most of the participants believe COVID-19 vaccines can protect against coronavirus; however, the proportions that were willing to take the vaccines were less. The participants indicated willingness to encourage others to vaccinate but felt they do not have enough information about the vaccine and its safety.

CONCLUSIONS

- To increase vaccine uptake, there is an urgent need to create more awareness and educate not only health professionals about the vaccine but also key stakeholders such as the school administrators and teachers who have influence on people in their community using different platforms, including the mass and social media.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MORE INFORMATION / REFERENCES

1. World Health Organization. (2020). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 37. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200226-sitrep-37-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2146841e_2
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