

COVID-19 Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy

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Introduction/ Background

- Healthcare workers have shown hesitancy towards getting vaccinated against COVID-19.¹ Many are concerned about long-term effects of the vaccine, possible implications on fertility, or other safety reasons.^{1,2}
- Low vaccination rates could prolong the spread of COVID-19.^{1,3}

Objectives

- To determine whether there is an association between misinformation and vaccine hesitancy among healthcare and public health workers.

Methods

- A cross-sectional online survey was conducted for 3 weeks between April and May 2021.
- The survey was sent to healthcare and public health workers via email, as well as posted on several social media platforms.
- 68 responses were recorded.
- Individuals were asked whether they've been vaccinated, their sources of information, whether they encourage others to get vaccinated, what their concerns about getting vaccinated are, as well as several demographic questions.

Results

Demographics	Number of People (n=68)
Age	
18-24	31
25-34	12
35-44	8
45-54	8
55-64	7
65+	2
Gender	
Female	54
Male	11
Other	3
Occupation	
Hospital	22
Medical Office	12
Health Dept.	7
Dental Office	4
Pharmacy	3
Community Health	2
None of these	18

Table 1. COVID-19 Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy Project April-May 2021 survey. N=68 adults ages 18+. For results based on all ages n=54 for vaccine accepting and n=14 vaccine hesitant.

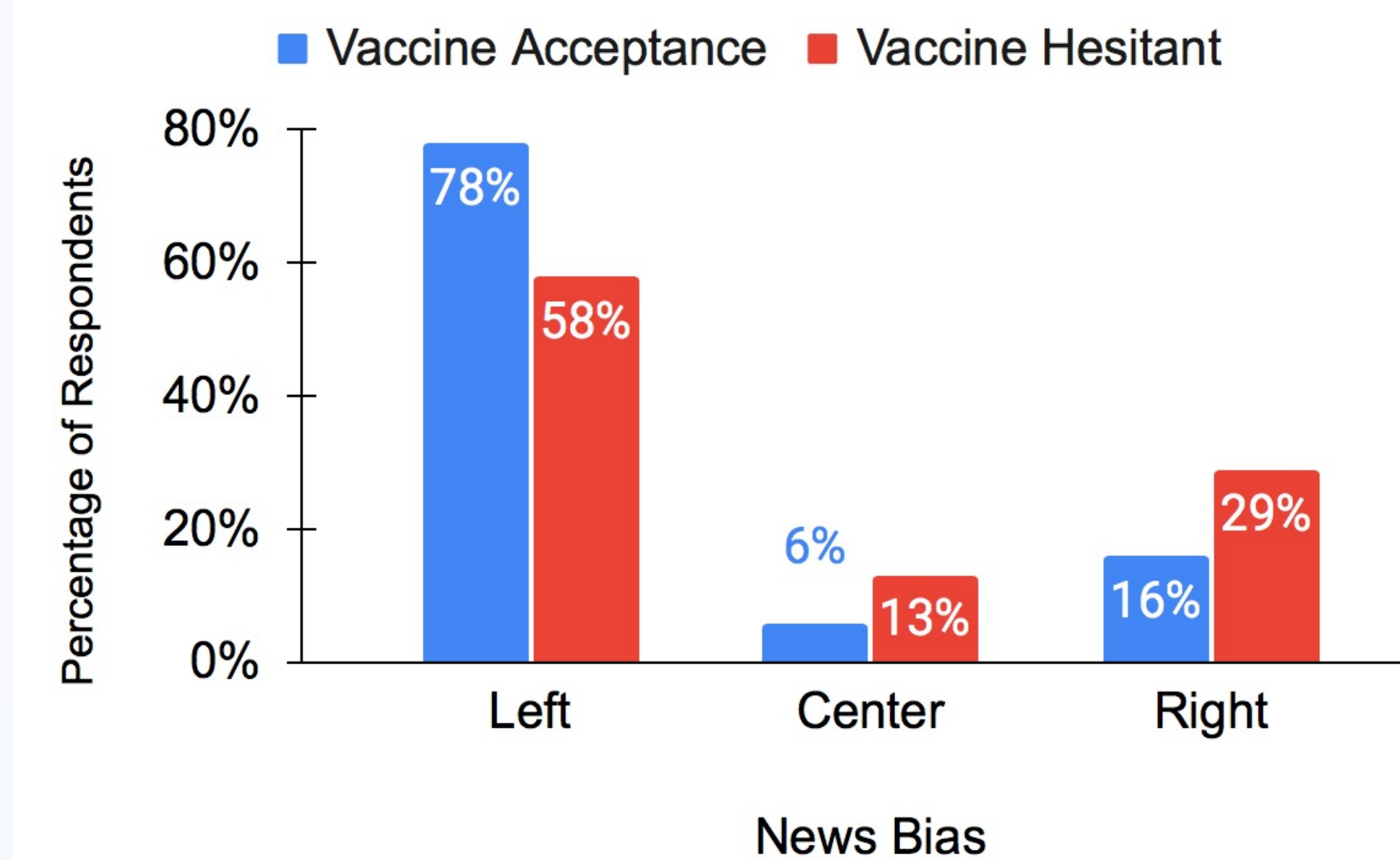


Figure 1. Majority of our respondents that were vaccine accepting viewed left sided news. Majority of respondents that were vaccine hesitant viewed left sided as well as right sided news. (n=124)

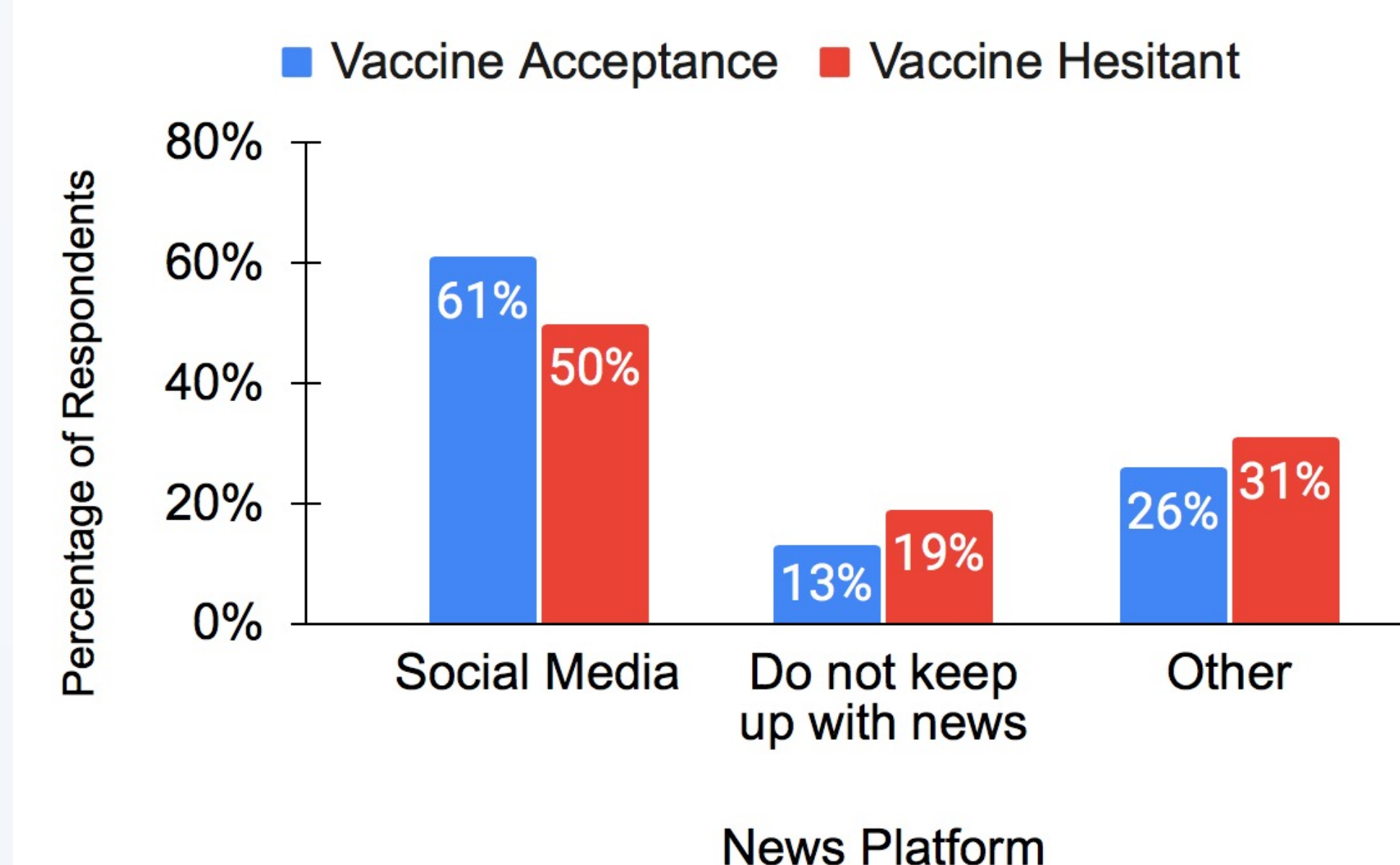


Figure 2. Both vaccine hesitant as well as vaccine accepting respondents used social media as a news platform. Other responses included the CDC, work bulletin, or employer. (n=78)

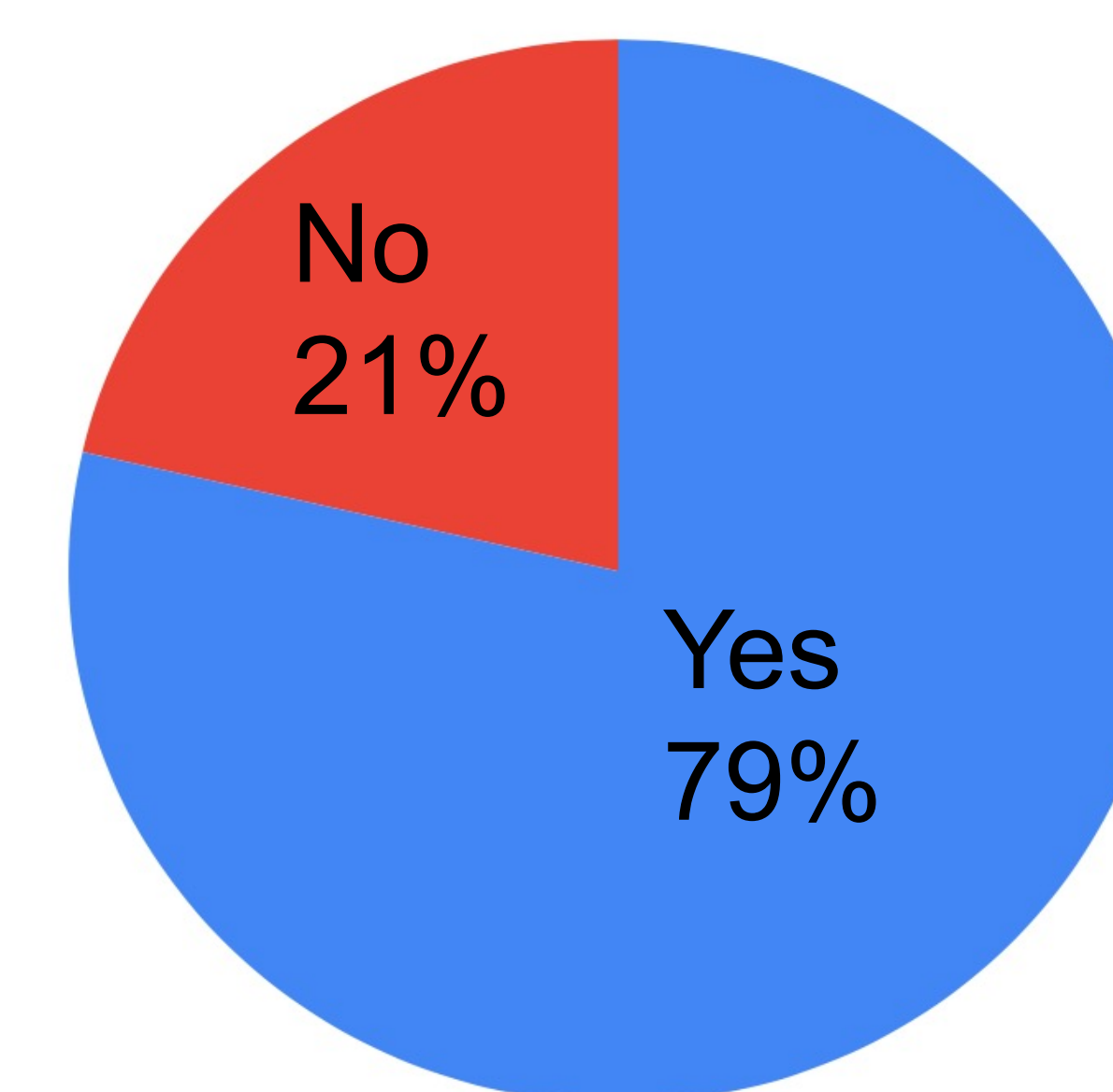


Figure 2. 78.6% of respondents who said they were vaccine hesitant would still encourage their family, friends, and the public to get vaccinated. (n=14)

Conclusion

- Healthcare and public health workers who were hesitant encouraged others to receive the vaccine, yet they were more likely to not keep up with the COVID-19 vaccine news.

Policy Implications

- Educational materials that address COVID-19 vaccine safety should be distributed throughout healthcare organizations to encourage vaccination.

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Referenced

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