



Background

- Influenza is an acute, highly contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses ³.
- It impacts approximately 20 percent of the population each year ³.
- There are approximately 26 million cases, 250,000 hospitalizations, and 14,000 deaths in in result of Influenza each year ².
- There is a preventive vaccine readily available with a 40 - 60% success rate ¹.
- Influenza vaccination rates are low for the general population, and extremely low among university aged individuals ¹.

Objectives

- To determine possible barriers to receiving an influenza vaccination among UC San Diego college students.

Methods

- Conducted a cross-sectional, online survey that was emailed to undergraduate Public Health students through the Public Health academic advising office.
- Survey was also shared on UC San Diego affiliated Facebook groups.
- Our exposure variable is barriers to obtaining the influenza vaccine and our outcome variable is influenza vaccination.
- The survey was open for 3 weeks during May 2020 and had a total of 65 responses.

Results

- Less than 50% of college students were aware of how much it would cost for them to obtain an influenza vaccine.
- 90.0% of college students who did not get the influenza vaccine last year reported that they did not know how much it would cost, although 70.0% of this group reported that they were aware of where to obtain the influenza vaccine.
- 45.0% of those who did not receive the influenza vaccine last year listed inconvenience as a reason for their lack of vaccination.

Age	Count	Percentage
18-20	23	35.4%
21-24	39	58.5%
25-29	3	4.6%
30+	1	1.5%
Gender		
Female	55	84.6%
Male	9	13.8%
Nonbinary	1	1.5%
Major		
Public/Global Health	35	55.4%
Human/General Biology	11	16.9%
Other	19	27.7%
Student Status		
1st year undergraduate	13	20.0%
2nd year undergraduate	7	10.8%
3rd year undergraduate	6	9.2%
4th year undergraduate	34	53.8%
5th+ year undergraduate	2	3.1%
Prefer not to answer	3	4.5%
Primary Source of Insurance		
Parent's Plan	43	66.2%
College/University Sponsored Plan	13	20.0%
Public Plan	6	9.2%
Another Plan	3	4.6%

Figure 4. Reason for Not Getting Influenza Vaccine

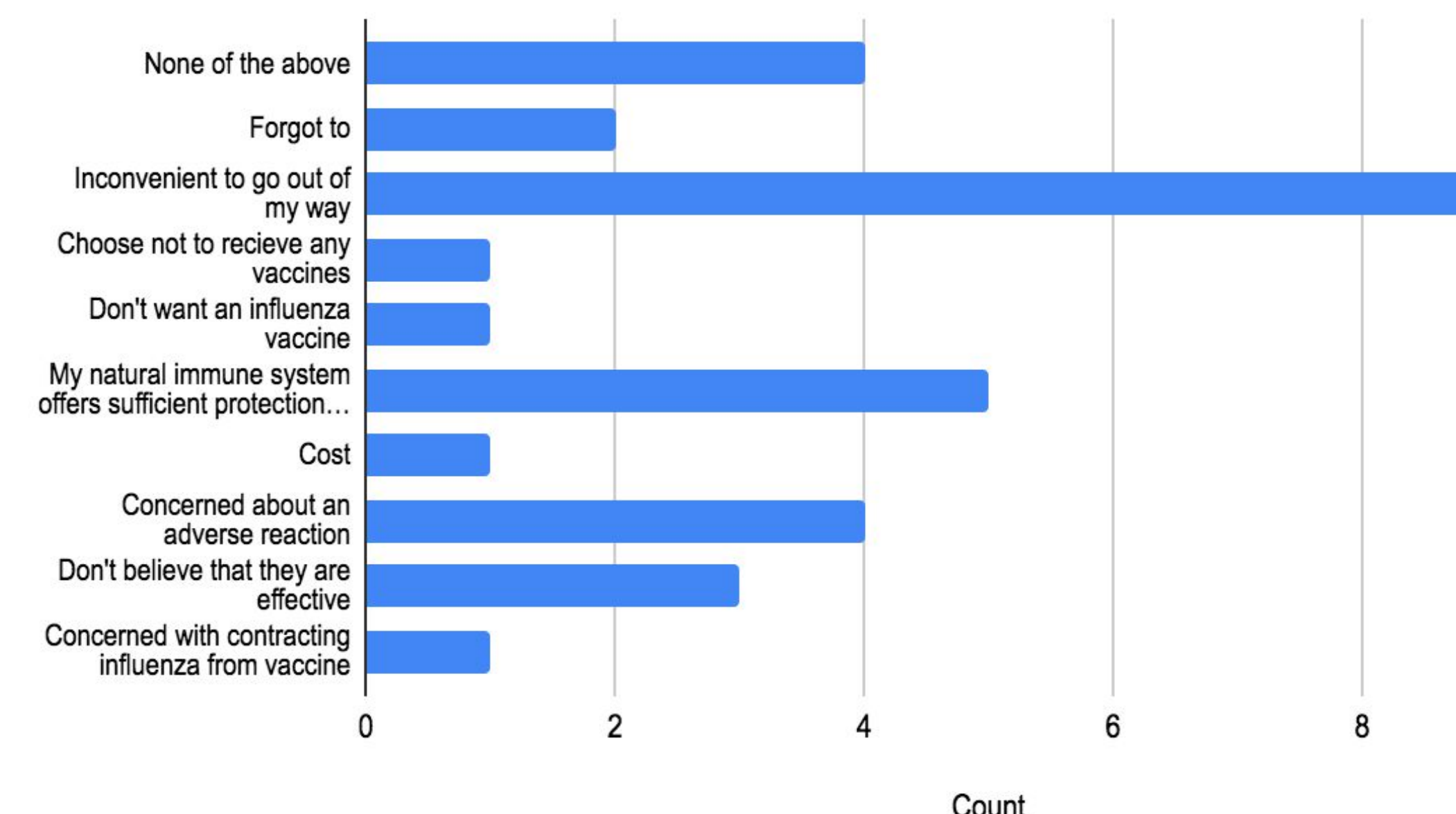


Figure 1. Awareness of Where to Obtain the Influenza Vaccine

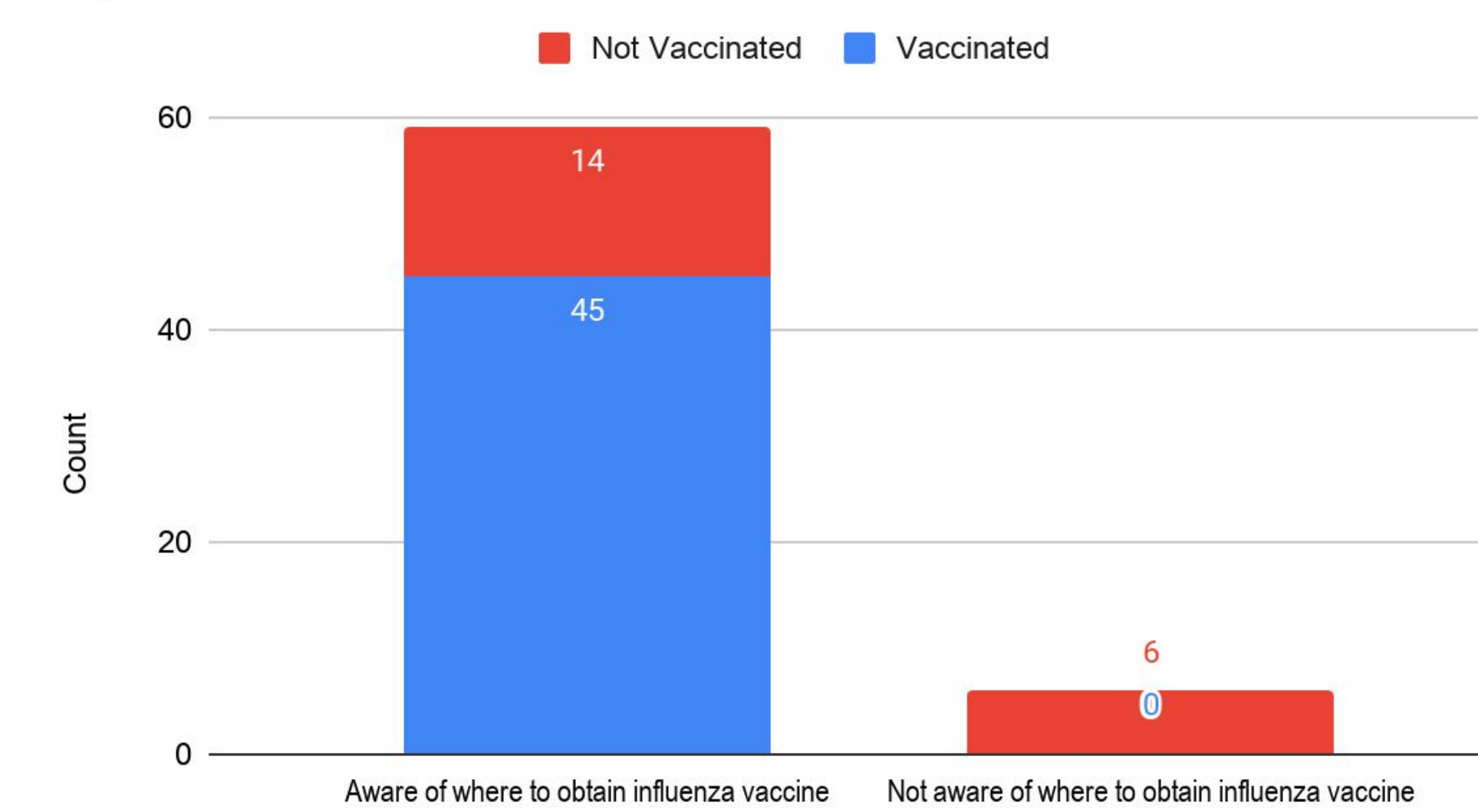


Figure 2. Awareness of Cost of Influenza Vaccine

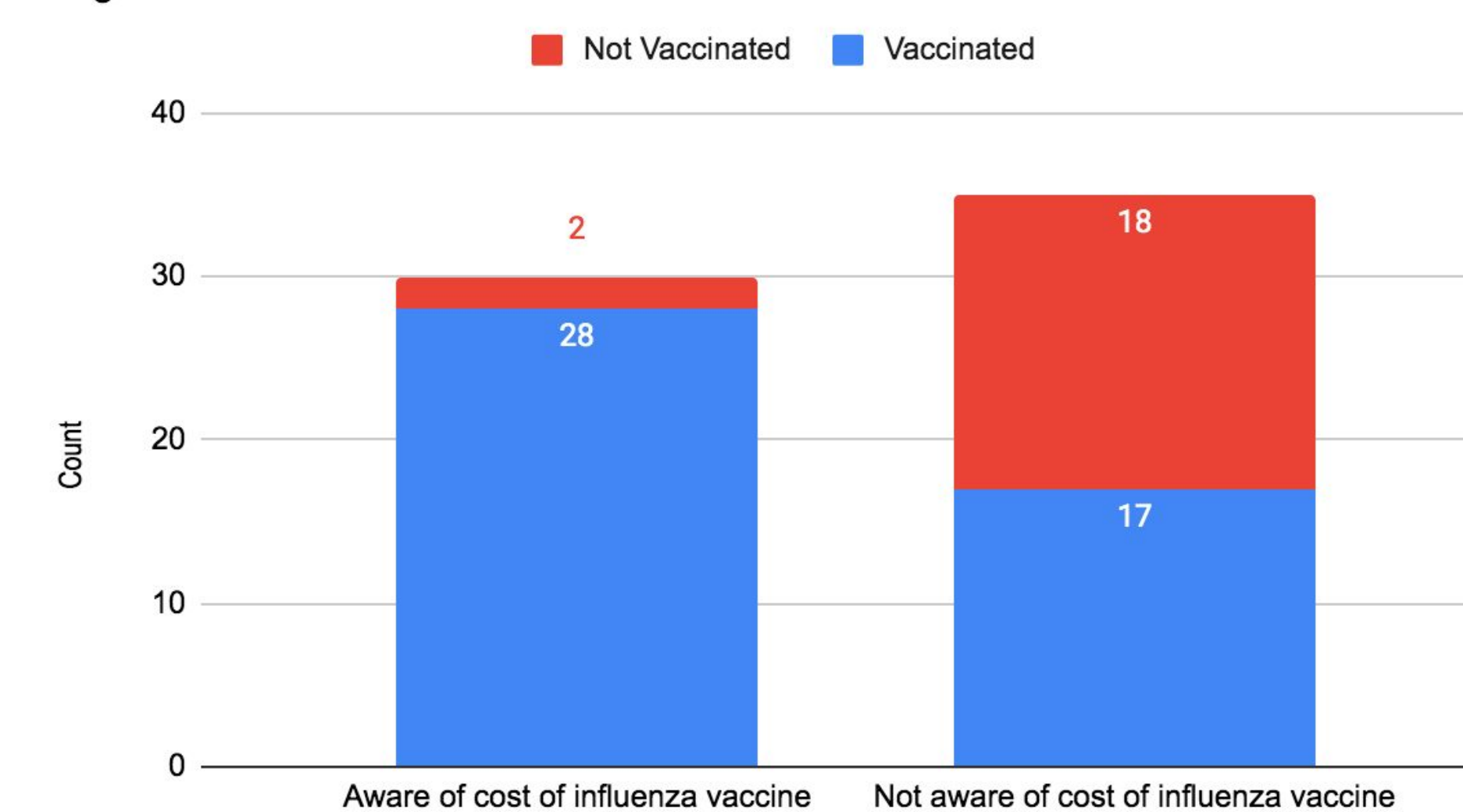
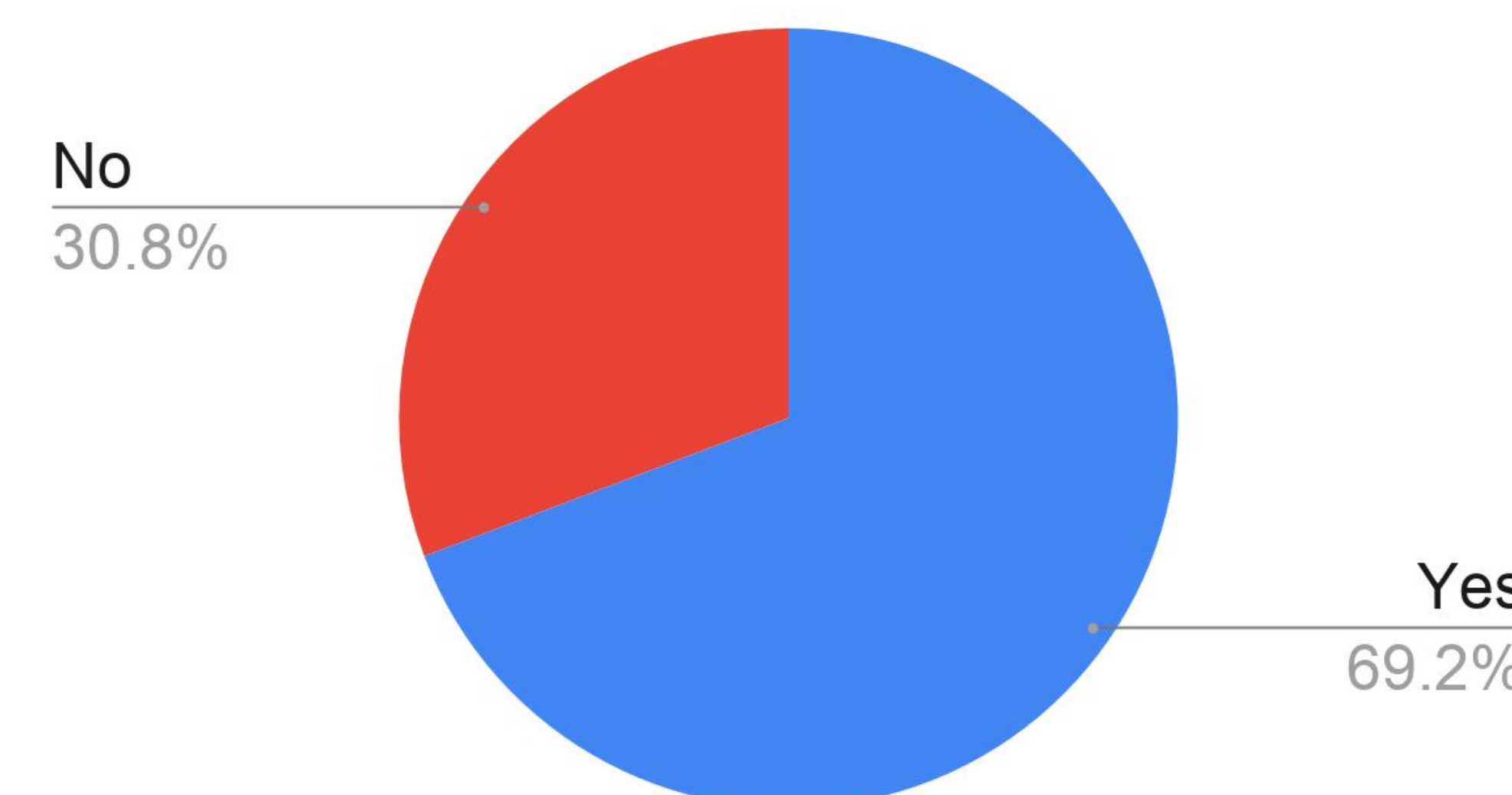


Figure 3. Influenza Vaccination Status for the 2019 - 2020 influenza season



Conclusions

- A majority of university students remain on their parent's health plan and are unaware of individualized costs for influenza vaccines.
- Perceived inconvenience is a key barrier to vaccination.

Policy Implications

- These findings support the development and proposal of a targeted information campaign emphasizing accessibility and affordability of influenza vaccines for those outside of university affiliated insurance.
- This campaign should be disseminated by Student Health Services.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, September 26). Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, 2018–19 Influenza Season. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/coverage-1819estimates.htm>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, February 14). Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>
3. Huang, J. J., Francesconi, M., Cooper, M. H., Covello, A., Guo, M., & Gharib, S. D. (2018). Community health workers on a college campus: Effects on influenza vaccination. *Journal of American College Health, 66*(4), 317–323. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2018.1440582>