

Understanding Indigenous Peoples' Relationship to Vaccines During COVID-19

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Introduction

Indigenous Peoples in Canada have been unequally affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (Huyser et al., 2022). Evidence suggests that Indigenous persons are more likely to get SARS-CoV-2 and be hospitalized than other racial and ethnic group (Chen & Krieger, 2021; Yellow Horse et al., 2020).

Vaccine access and uptake of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines has been one way in which Indigenous individuals can protect themselves, their families, and communities.

Objective

Primary objective: What was Indigenous Peoples' relationship to vaccines during COVID-19?

- ▶ Where do Indigenous People access COVID-19 vaccines?
- ▶ What are the reasons for vaccine motivation amongst Indigenous Peoples?
- ▶ What are reasons for vaccine hesitancy amongst Indigenous Peoples?

Methods

- ▶ This study involved a one-time questionnaire conducted in Fall 2022
- ▶ Recruitment: Qualtrics panel participants who live in Canada and the US
- ▶ Participant criteria includes:
 - Being at least 18 years old;
 - Living in Canada or the United States;
 - Identifies as an Indigenous person;
 - Able to provide informed consent;
 - Willing to follow survey procedures;
 - Able to communicate in English or French.
- ▶ Qualtrics software was used for descriptive analyses

Participant Demographics

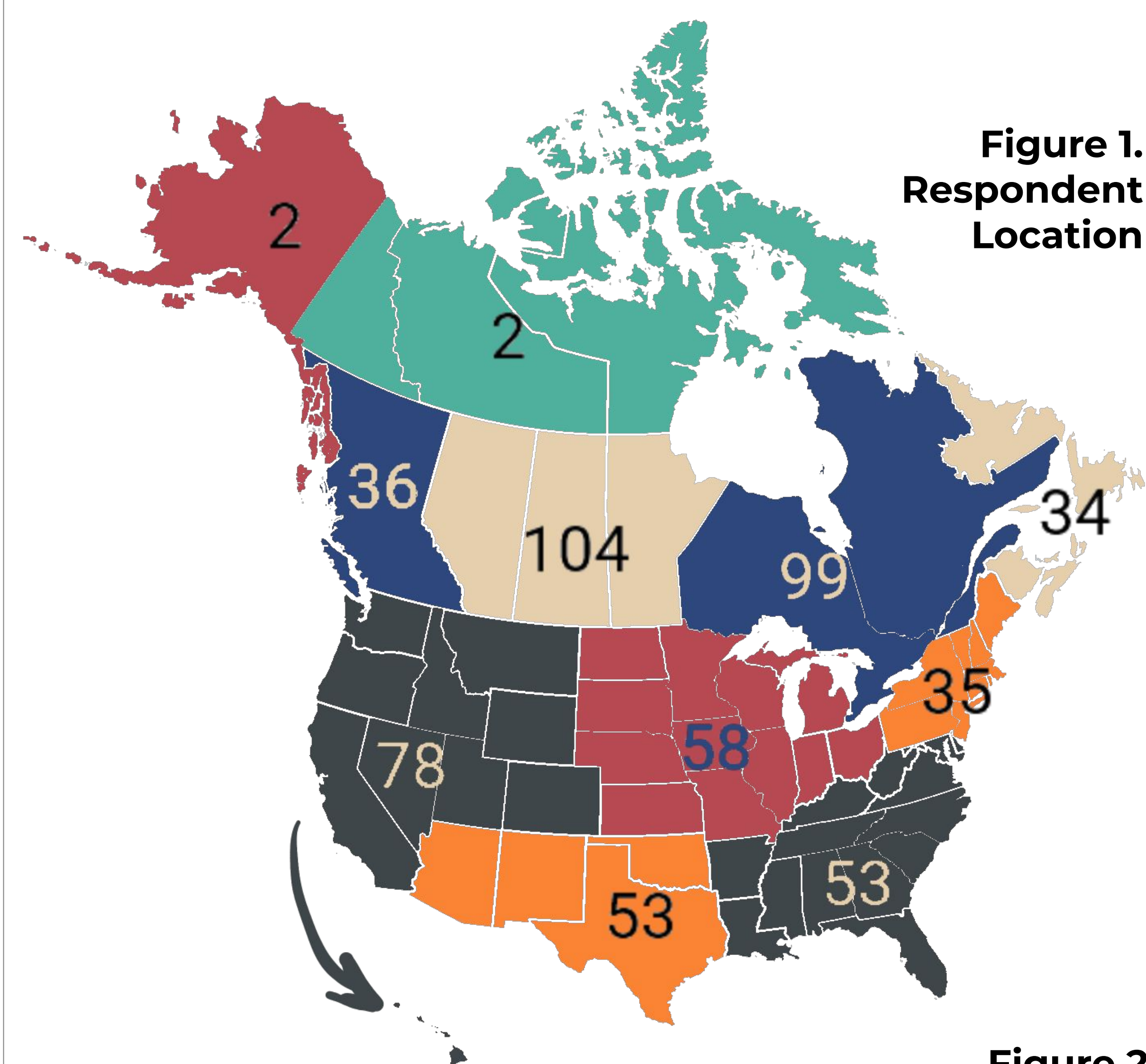


Figure 1. Respondent Location

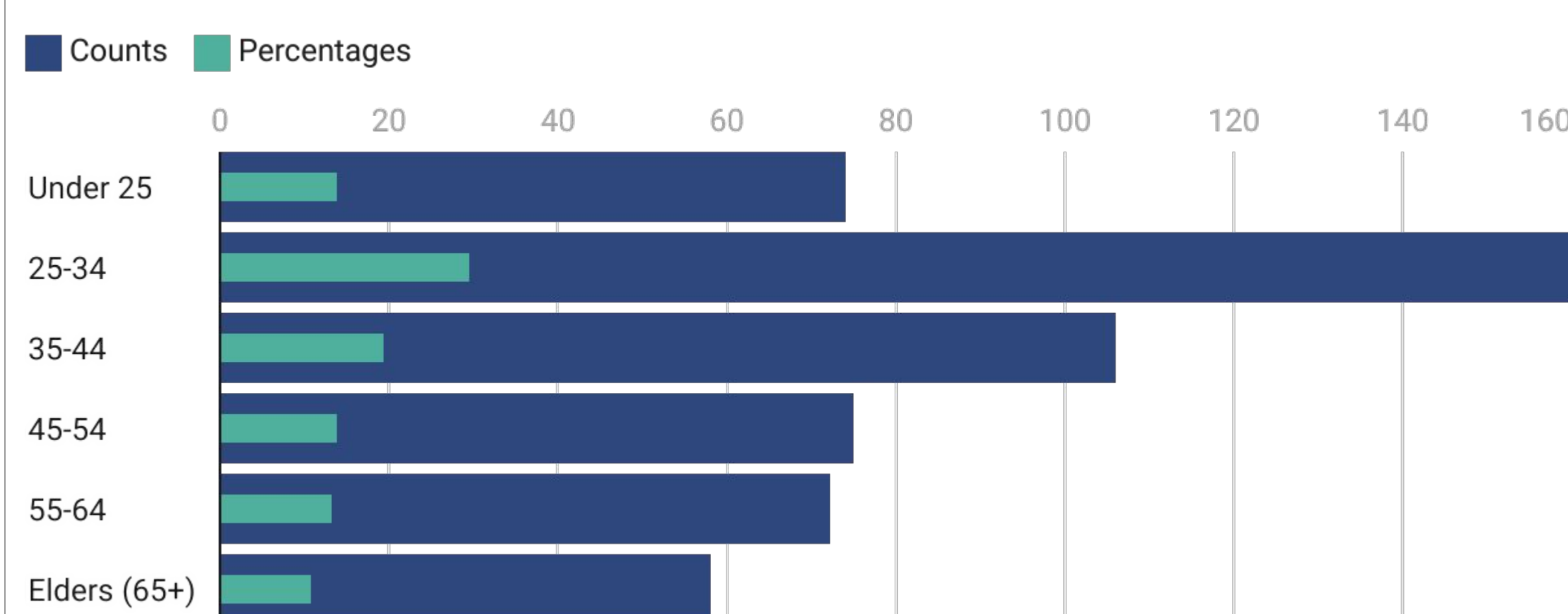
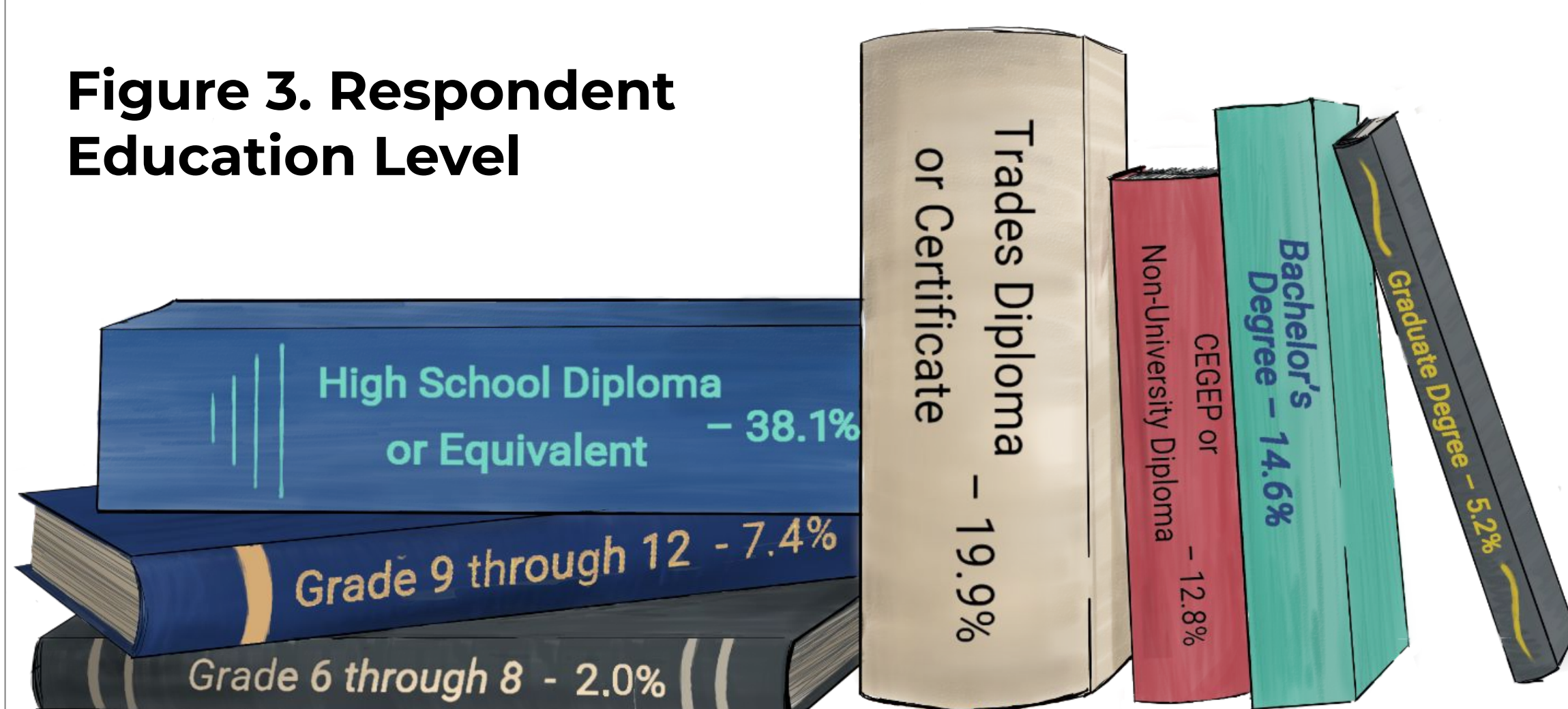


Figure 2. Respondent Age Counts

Figure 3. Respondent Education Level



Vaccination Findings

Figure 4. Location of first vaccine

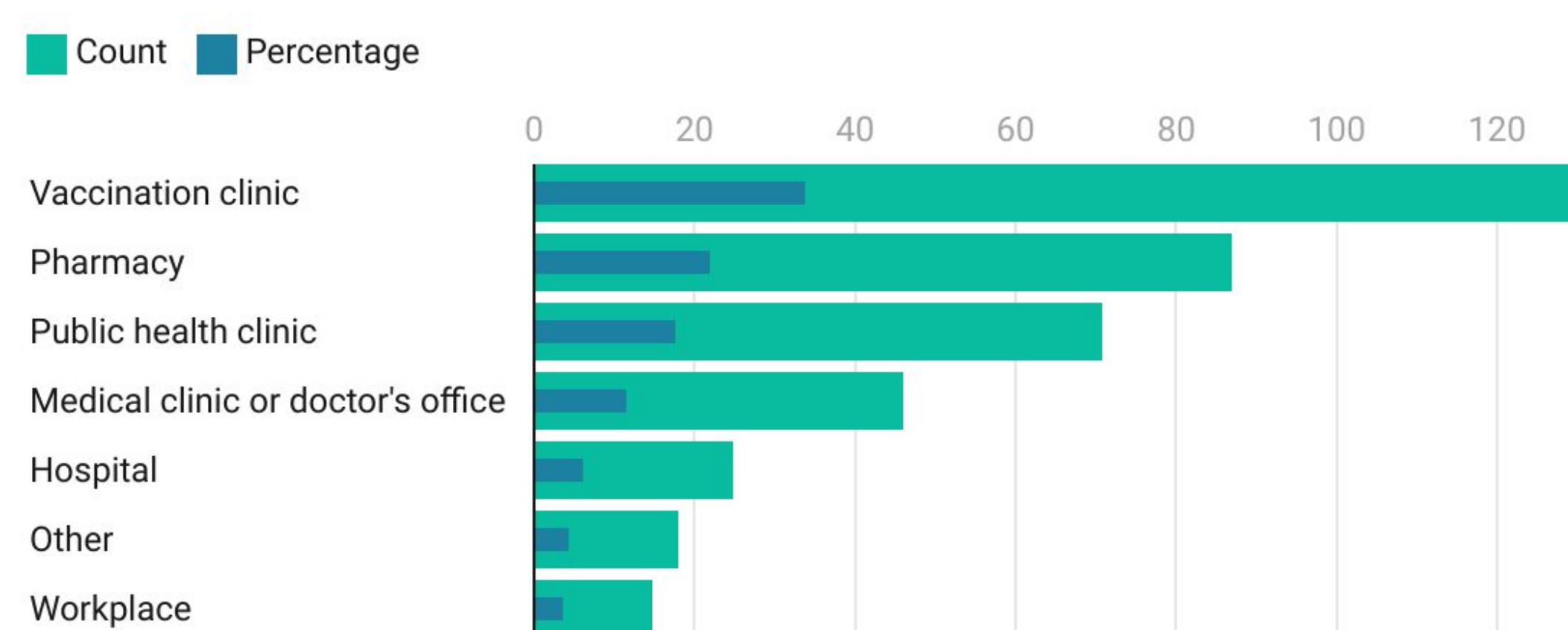


Figure 5. Reasons for vaccine motivation

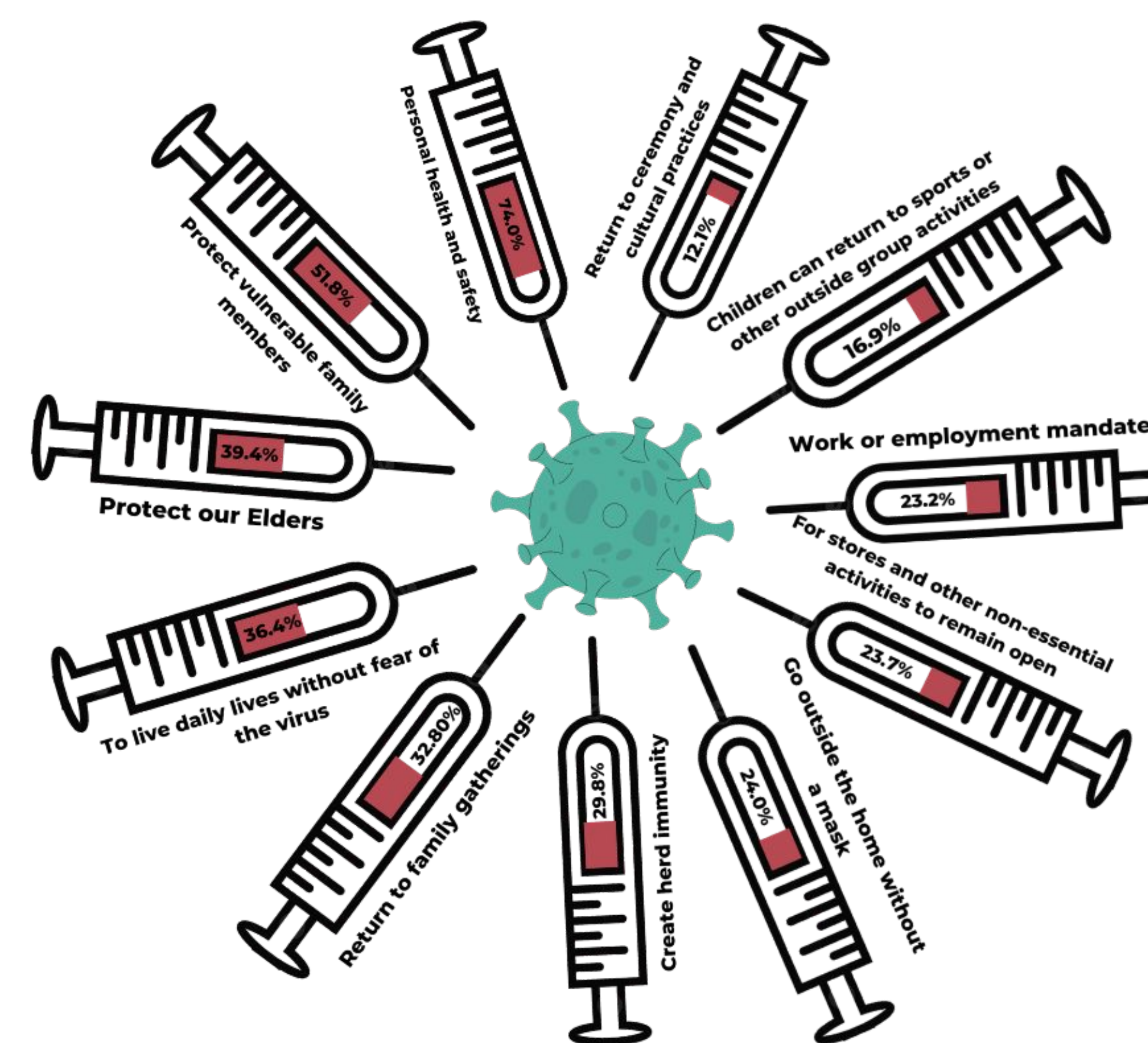
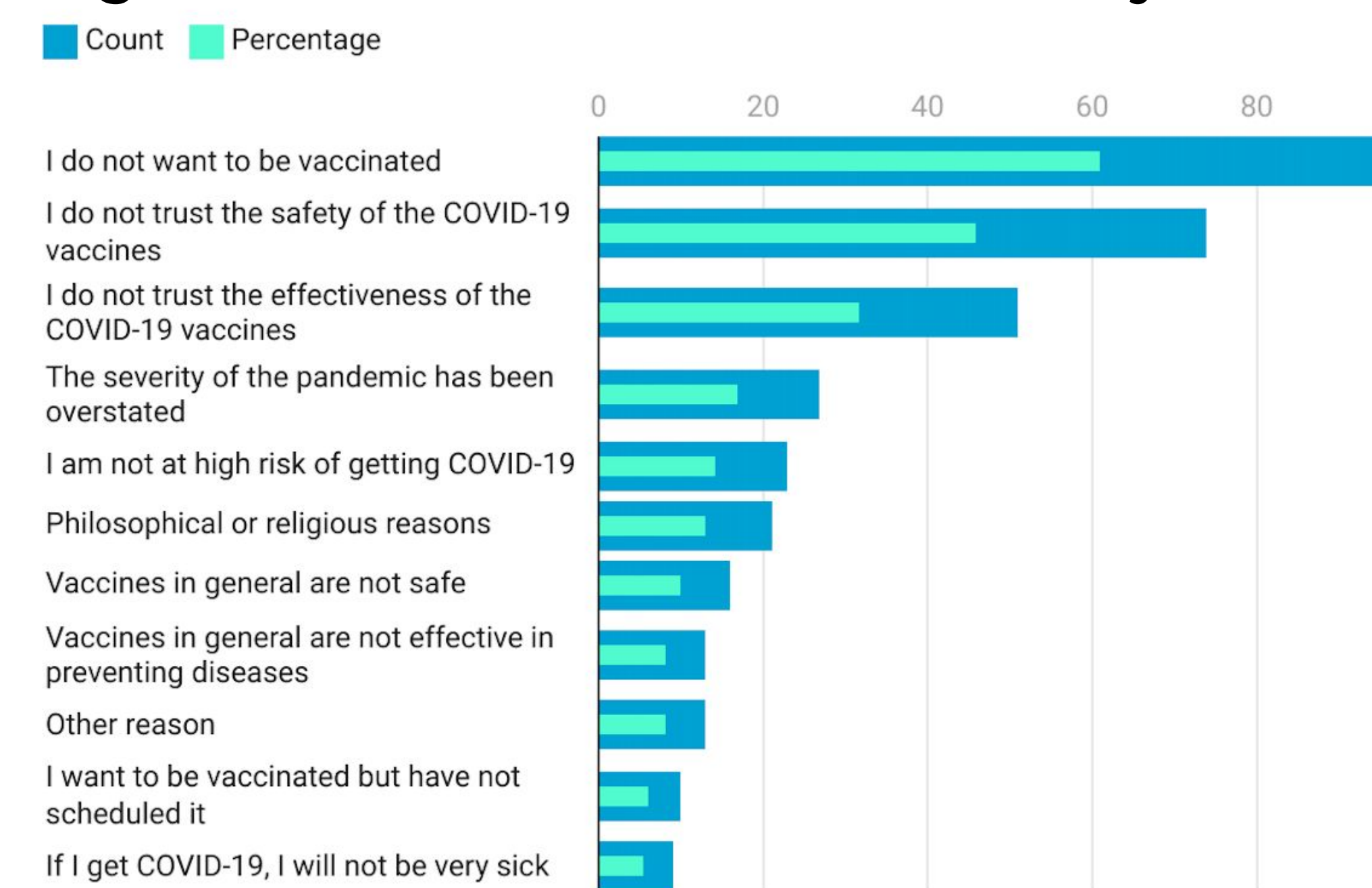


Figure 6. Reasons for vaccine hesitancy



Conclusions

- ▶ There is a range of social factors that play a role in why Indigenous individuals choose to receive or not receive the COVID-19 vaccine
- ▶ There are strong motivations to protect personal, family, and Elder health amongst Indigenous communities
- ▶ Top reasons for not receiving the vaccine include distrust towards the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines

Implications

- ▶ Policy-makers and researchers should continue to work alongside Indigenous communities in minimizing feelings of distrust towards medical interventions like vaccines
- ▶ Access to vaccination clinics should be prioritized where necessary in future instances as they play a substantial role for individuals to get vaccinated

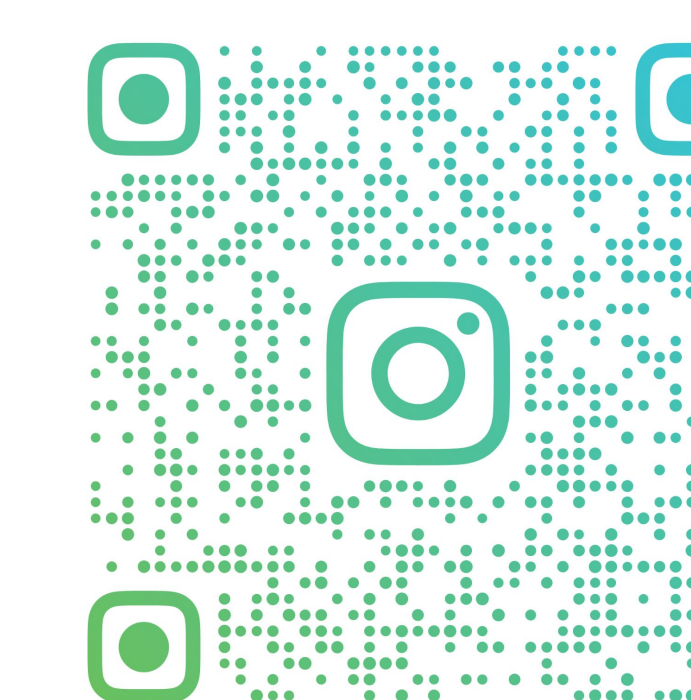
References

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Acknowledgements / Contact

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