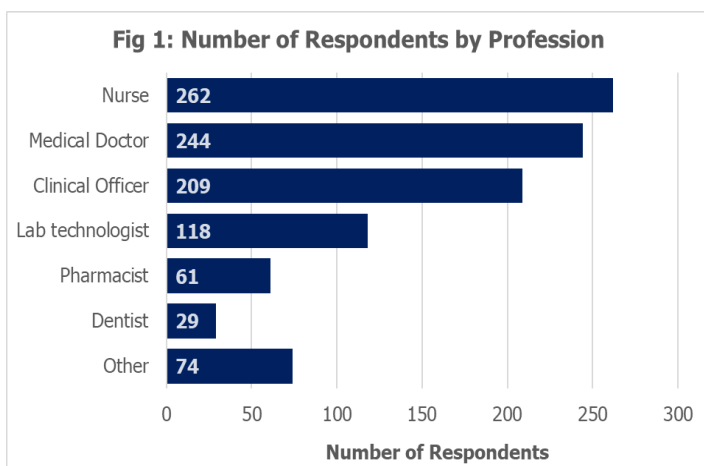## Covid-19 Vaccine Acceptability among Healthcare Workers in Kenya
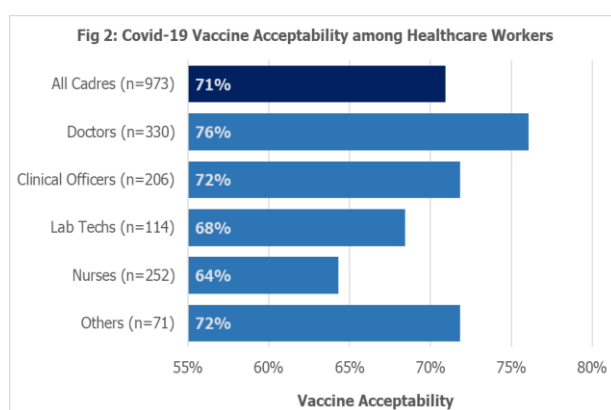
Background

Θ On 4th March 2021, Covid-19 vaccination campaign was launched in Kenya.

Θ By 6th April, approximately 340,000 Kenyans had been vaccinated including 100,000 healthcare workers.

Θ Healthcare workers were included in Phase 1 of the vaccination campaign to protect the frontline human resource and enhance Kenya's response to the pandemic

Θ   We sought to understand vaccine acceptability and hesitancy among healthcare workers in Kenya

What we did:

Θ We conducted an online survey of Health care workers in January 2021 on the REDCap platform (Link: https://redcap.link/5d2pzwic).

Θ We had 997 respondents drawn from:

➢ County health facilities (541)

➢ Private hospitals and clinics (160)

➢ National referral hospitals (135)

➢ Training and research institutions (83)

➢ Other institutions (74)

Θ Gender: 53% were female and the mean age of all respondents was 36.5 years.

Θ The number of respondents per profession is shown in figure 1.

Fig 1: Number of Respondents by Profession

What we found:

Θ Overall, 71% of all HCWs would accept the vaccine in January 2021.

Θ Doctors were most likely to accept the vaccine while nurses were the least likely (p<0.01 and 0.007 respectively).

Θ Men were more likely to accept the vaccine than women (77% vs 66%, p<0.0001).

Θ Fig. 2 shows vaccine acceptability by cadre.

Fig 2: Covid-19 Vaccine Acceptability among Healthcare Workers

Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy: safety concerns, need for more information, fear of side effects, lack of trust in the government or the vaccine, short duration that vaccine development has taken and concerns on efficacy.

Recommendations

Θ Strengthen ongoing education efforts on Covid-19 vaccines among HCWs and the general public. We suggest the use of posters and short video clips which can be shared across different platforms.

Θ Deeper engagement through health facility platforms and professional associations to address specific HCWs fears and questions on the vaccine

Θ Real-time visualization/analysis of Covid-19 vaccination data to show which cadres/groups are slow in taking up the vaccine.

Authors: Dr. Hafso Mohammed, Dr. Moses Masika, Prof. Julius Oyugi
University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases &
KAVI-Institute of Clinical Research, University of Nairobi