

Views on COVID-19 vaccination of young children in Ireland: Results from a cross-sectional survey of parents

Faculty of Public Health Medicine Summer Scientific Meeting

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Introduction and Aim



National Immunisation Advisory Committee
(NIAC)

- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for children aged 5 years and older
- Vaccine trials in children aged less than 5 years are underway
- EMA and the FDA are assessing Moderna vaccine for those aged 6 months to less than 6 years
- Parental acceptance of vaccines for this age group is unknown
- The aim of this study was to determine parental attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination among parents of children aged 0-48 months living in Ireland

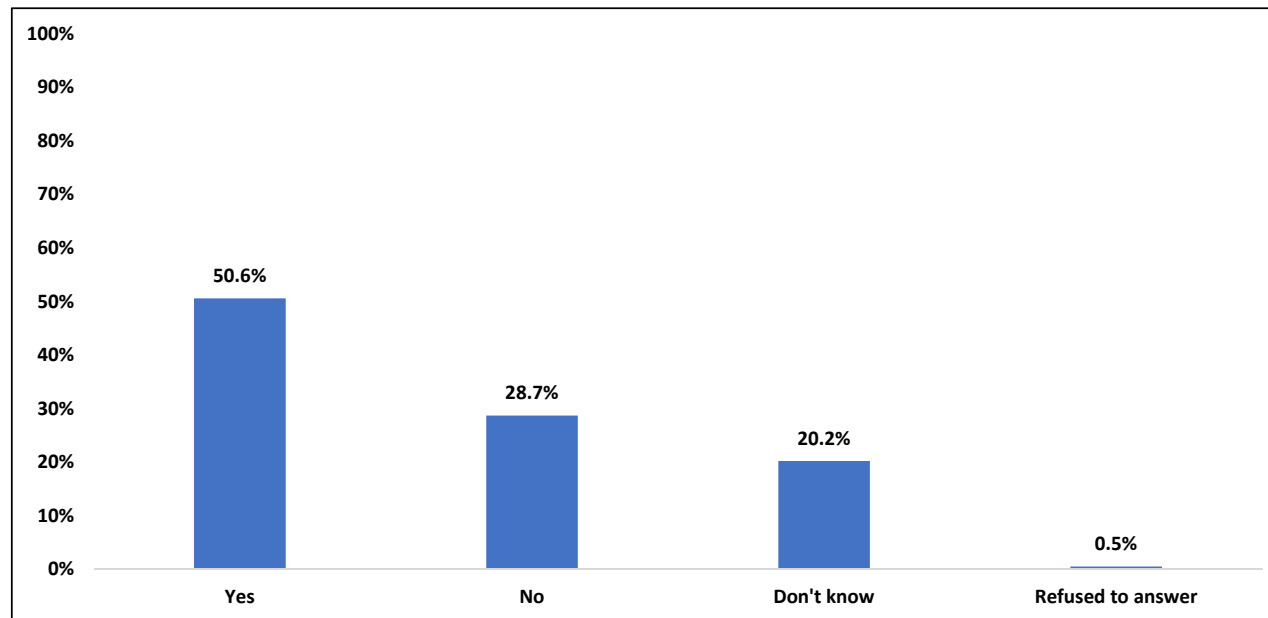
Methods

- Study part of a cross-sectional national survey of parental attitudes towards childhood vaccination
 - Parents of children aged 0-48 months (N=855) were surveyed
 - 7th June to 27th August 2021
- Parents asked if they intended to vaccinate their child against COVID-19
- Association between intention to vaccinate and parental demographic characteristics and vaccine attitudes was examined
- Univariate and multivariable logistic regression models constructed
 - Identify factors associated with intention to vaccinate





Parental intention to get COVID-19 vaccine (N=855)



50.6% of parents intend to vaccinate their child

Demographic predictors of intention to vaccinate

| | Unadjusted | | | | Adjusted ^a | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | OR | CI Lower | CI Upper | p-value | aOR | CI Lower | CI Upper | p-value |
| Gender Parent | | | | | | | | |
| Male** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Female | 0.60 | 0.41 | 0.88 | 0.008 | 0.59 | 0.40 | 0.89 | 0.011 |
| Level of Education | | | | | | | | |
| Upper secondary or less** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vocational or Certificate | 0.94 | 0.60 | 1.47 | 0.798 | 1.09 | 0.68 | 1.73 | 0.730 |
| Bachelor's degree | 1.37 | 0.90 | 2.10 | 0.145 | 1.22 | 0.78 | 1.91 | 0.390 |
| Postgraduate or PhD | 2.32 | 1.47 | 3.67 | <0.001 | 1.80 | 1.10 | 2.96 | 0.020 |
| Region/Country of Birth | | | | | | | | |
| Ireland** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Northern/Western/Southern Europe* | 1.17 | 0.53 | 2.58 | 0.705 | 0.70 | 0.32 | 1.54 | 0.375 |
| Central/Eastern Europe* | 0.23 | 0.10 | 0.53 | <0.001 | 0.21 | 0.09 | 0.47 | <0.001 |
| Rest of World | 1.09 | 0.56 | 2.11 | 0.792 | 1.13 | 0.54 | 2.30 | 0.764 |
| Relationship status | | | | | | | | |
| Married** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Single | 0.81 | 0.40 | 1.64 | 0.559 | 1.22 | 0.55 | 2.71 | 0.950 |
| Co-habiting | 0.47 | 0.28 | 0.77 | 0.003 | 0.55 | 0.32 | 0.94 | 0.029 |
| Separated/Divorced/Widow | 0.21 | 0.03 | 1.20 | 0.078 | 0.20 | 0.04 | 1.06 | 0.060 |

Higher parental intention to vaccinate

- Postgraduate or PhD qualification

Lower parental intention to vaccinate

- Parent being born in a Central or Eastern European country
- Female
- Co-habiting

No difference

- Religion
- Level of income
- Occupational status
- Child had a chronic illness

Vaccine attitude predictors of intention to vaccinate

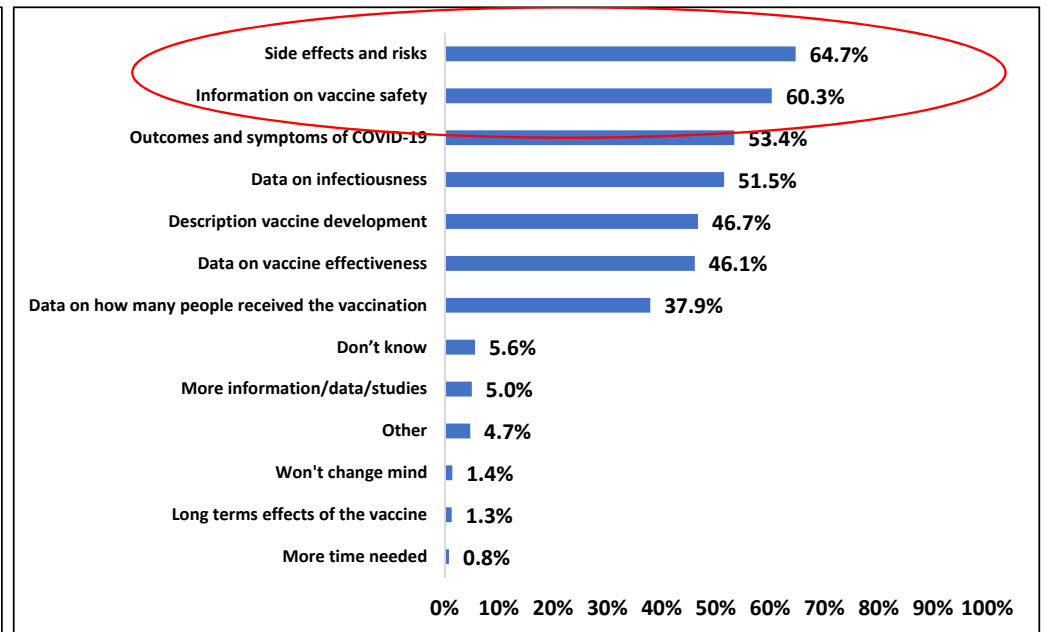
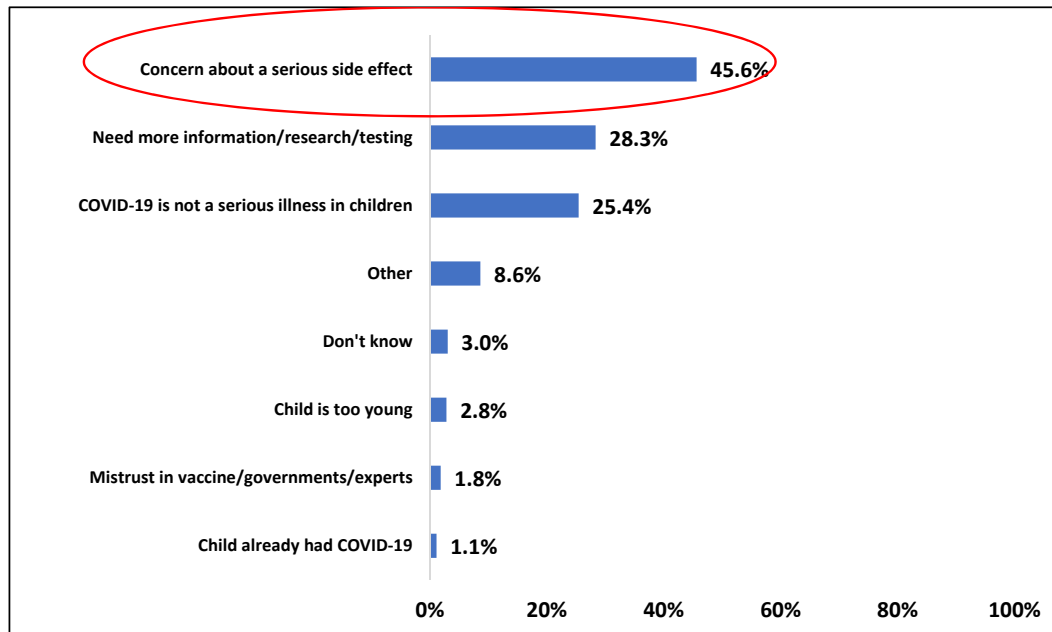
| | Unadjusted | | | | Adjusted ^a | | | |
|---|------------|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | OR | CI Lower | CI Upper | p-value | aOR | CI Lower | CI Upper | p-value |
| Belief COVID-19 can be a serious illness in children | | | | | | | | |
| No** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Yes | 6.43 | 3.87 | 10.70 | <0.001 | 4.88 | 2.68 | 8.91 | <0.001 |
| Don't know | 1.60 | 0.79 | 3.25 | 0.192 | 1.40 | 0.64 | 3.12 | 0.397 |
| Vaccine scores | | | | | | | | |
| Vaccine importance score | 4.05 | 2.66 | 6.15 | <0.001 | 2.25 | 1.28 | 3.95 | 0.005 |
| Vaccine safety score | 2.09 | 1.67 | 2.62 | <0.001 | 1.57 | 1.17 | 2.12 | 0.003 |
| Trust in official sources score | 2.15 | 1.72 | 2.68 | <0.001 | 1.40 | 1.06 | 1.85 | 0.017 |
| Vaccine convenience score | 1.69 | 1.31 | 2.17 | <0.001 | 0.96 | 0.69 | 1.35 | 0.819 |

Higher parental intention to vaccinate

- Belief that COVID-19 could be a serious illness in children
- Belief in the importance and safety of childhood vaccination generally
- Trusting in official (HSE and government) vaccine information sources

Reasons for not intending to vaccinate child (N=245)

Further information to assist decision making (N=422)



Concern about safety and side effects influenced parental decision making

Thank You
