

NMA/AGSM/2022/PUBH/007 - Comparing COVID-19 Vaccine Perception and Barriers to its Uptake among Healthcare and Non-Healthcare Workers in Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: Nigeria deployed the COVID-19 vaccine in a phased manner with health workers being among the initial subgroups to have access. This study compared recent estimates of knowledge of and barriers to COVID-19 vaccine uptake among health and non-health workers.

Methodology: A cross-sectional national study was conducted between February and April 2022. A multistage sampling method was used in recruiting 904 healthcare and 1013 non-health workers from all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Bivariate analysis using the Chi-square test was used to investigate the association between being a health worker and vaccine knowledge and barriers to uptake with the significance level set at <0.05.

Results: The mean age of respondents was 35.9±10.7 years, with 1092 males (57.0%) and 825 females (43.0%). A greater proportion of health workers compared to non-health workers agreed that the COVID-19 vaccine should be received by everyone ($\chi^2=118.757$, $P<0.0001$); that it was important to get vaccinated to protect those who cannot ($\chi^2=111.565$, $P<0.0001$); that there are better ways to prevent COVID-19 ($\chi^2=211.281$, $P<0.0001$); agreed with leaders who do not support vaccination ($\chi^2=120.837$, $P<0.0001$); with employees advice to get vaccinated ($\chi^2=96.606$, $P<0.0001$); and that the reason they got vaccinated was to enable them to enter regulated premises ($\chi^2=8.754$, $P=0.003$). Distance from clinics ($\chi^2=15.746$, $P<0.0001$), being sent home due to lack of vaccines ($\chi^2=4.149$, $P=0.042$); and not returning to the clinic a second time

when sent home initially ($\chi^2=18.650$, $P<0.0001$) were all significant barriers to receiving COVID-19 vaccine for non-health workers.

Conclusions: Our study specifies a gap in perception of and barriers to COVID-19 vaccine uptake among non-health workers in Nigeria. If vaccine coverage must be optimized, an improved strategy is advocated to improve non-health workers' perception of and access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Keywords: COVID-19; Vaccine; Perception; Barriers; Uptake; Healthcare Workers.

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