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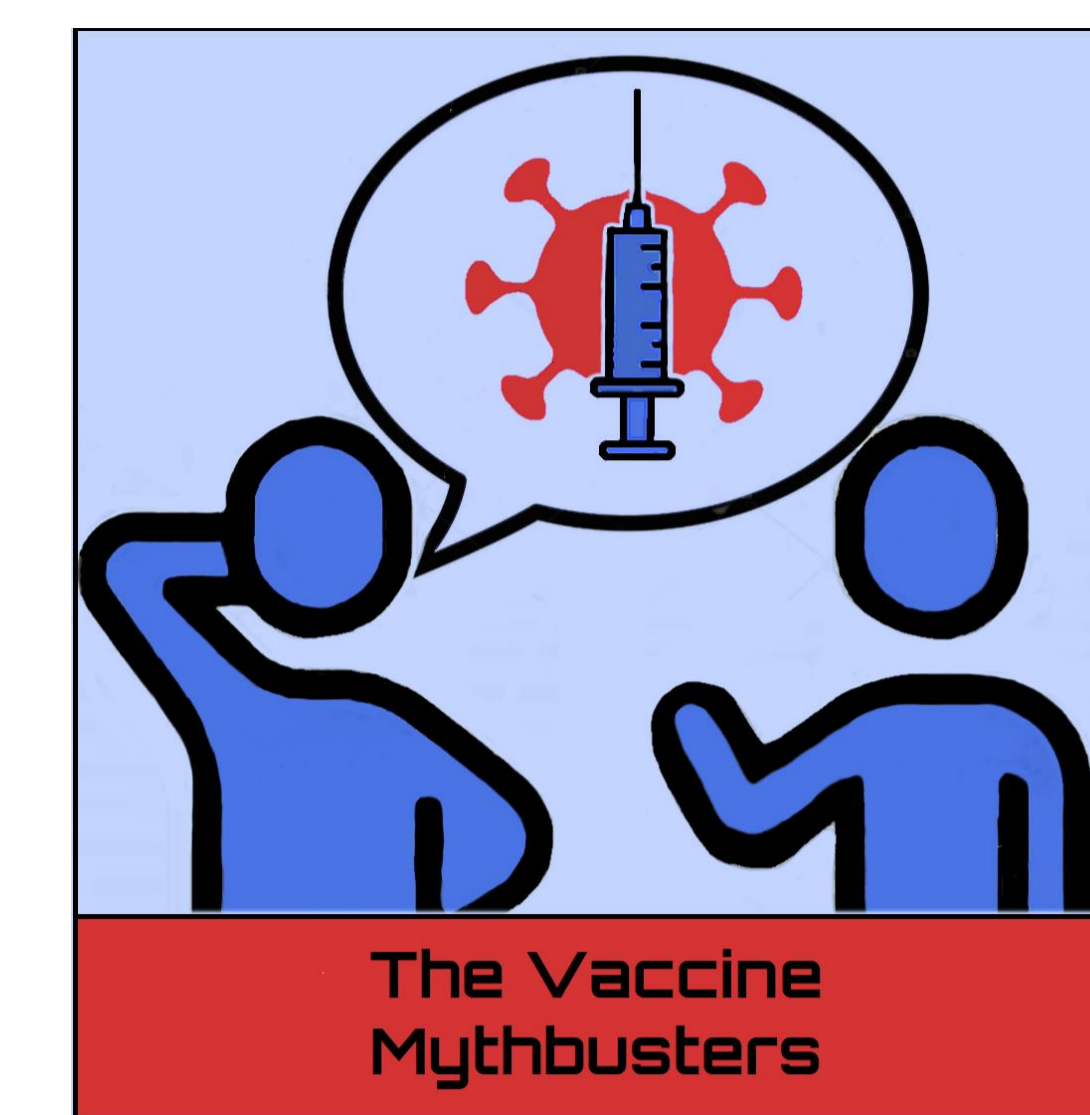
Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices towards the flu (influenza) vaccine and Covid-19 vaccines amongst university staff and university students in Trinidad and Tobago

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Introduction

- Vaccines prevent and control public health outbreaks through creating antibodies .
- As of July 3rd, 2021, 105,586 persons were vaccinated with two doses.
- Available vaccines at the time, were AstraZeneca (viral vector) and Sinopharm (inactivated vaccines).
- The Covid-19 vaccine must be utilized for herd immunity to occur to prevent strains in the health system in Trinidad and Tobago.

Objective

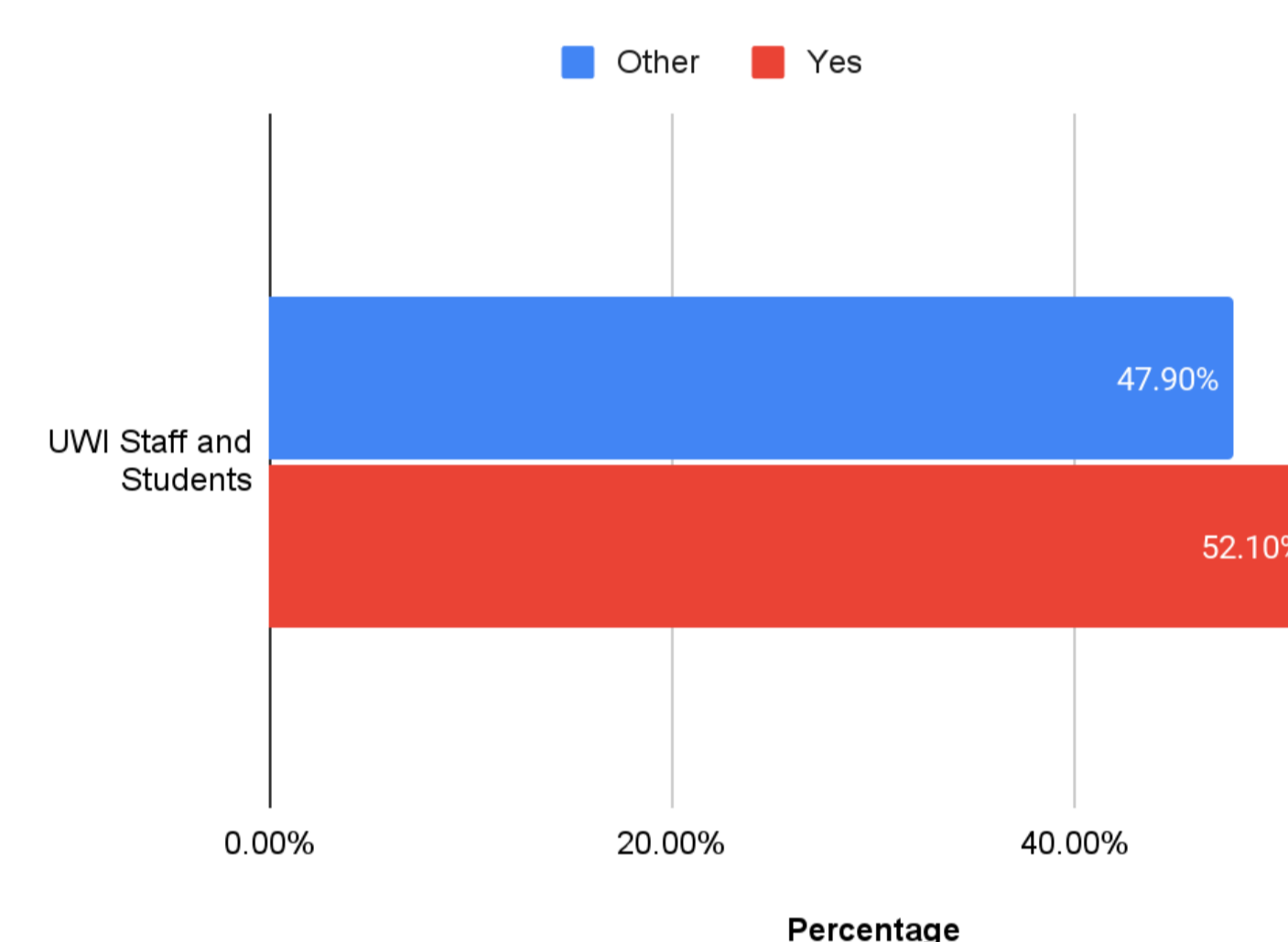
- To evaluate the KAP towards vaccinations between university staff and university students in Trinidad and Tobago
- To make recommendations to improve the flu and Covid-19 vaccination rate amongst populations in Trinidad and Tobago

Methodology

- A convenience sample was electronically accessed, by issuing a 29 question survey to staff and students at The UWI, St. Augustine via the Marketing and Communication Office.
- Data analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 27.
- Descriptive statistics were reported and Chi-squared tests sought to detect significant association between demographics and measured variables.
- A p-value <0.05 was considered significant.

Results

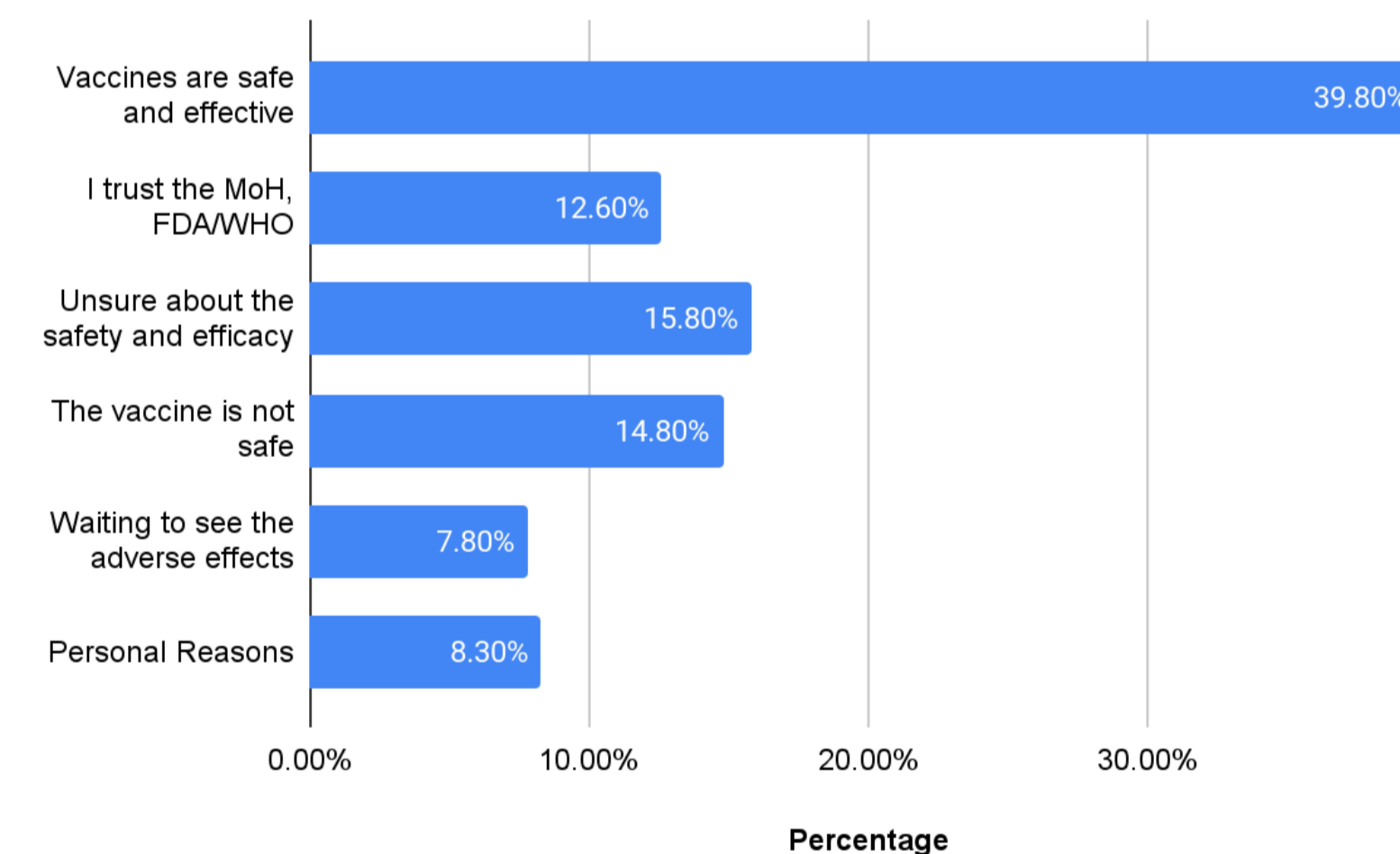
Figure 1: UWI Staff and Students understanding of herd immunity



KNOWLEDGE

- 48% of participants were unaware that vaccinations lead to herd immunity of herd immunity

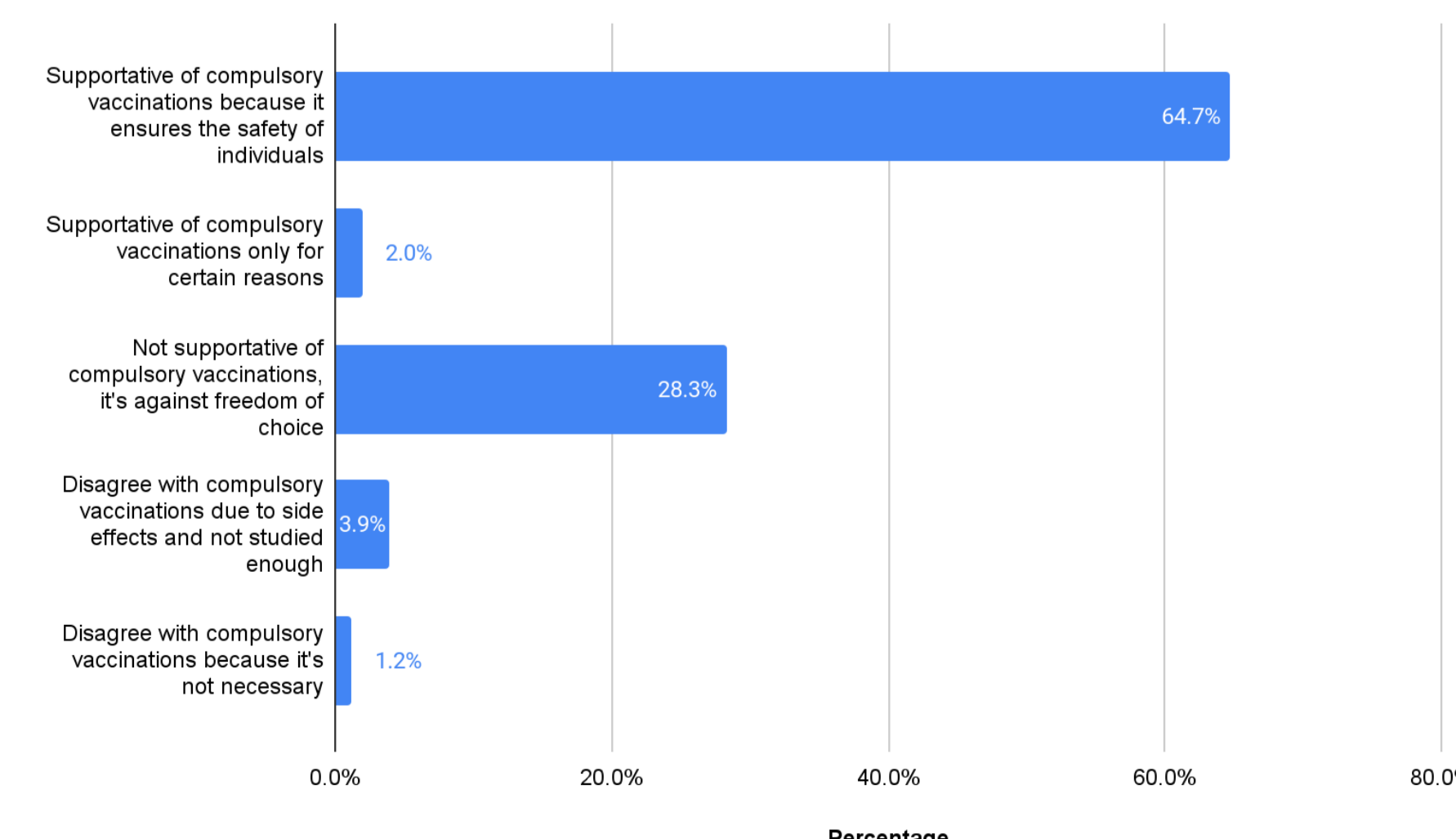
Figure 2: UWI Staff and Students explanations for not taking the Covid-19 vaccine



ATTITUDES

- The main reason for vaccine hesitancy is uncertainty towards the safety and efficacy. Of the Covid-19 vaccines.

Figure 3: UWI Staff and Students Opinions on Compulsory Vaccination Programs



PRACTICES

- 64.7% of the respondents were in favor of compulsory vaccination programs.

Discussion

- Older participants (ages 45+) or those belonging to FMS averaged the highest correct responses over the three categories at 87% and 84% respectively.
- The younger population were more willing to be vaccinated
- The male population was more in favour of compulsory vaccination
- Most participants agreed that practicing public health measures are effective and should continue after vaccination
- Arguing that vaccines does not guarantee lifelong immunity

Conclusion & Recommendations

- Respondents understood the concept of herd immunity moderately.
- Past vaccination practice was high (98.65) but the perception of the safety of the Covid-19 vaccine was low (43.35) and the intention to vaccine against Covid-19 was also moderate (56.9%)
- Vaccine hesitancy was due to: fear of side effects, lack of information, lack of trust in safety and efficacy of the vaccine
- More vaccine awareness campaigns are needed via social media.
- Seminars or short courses on vaccinations by the UWI should also be introduced

References

- COVID-19 UPDATE - Saturday 3rd July, 2021 [Internet]. Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: Ministry of Health. Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: Ministry of Health; 2021 [cited 2021Jul3]. Available from: <https://health.gov.tt/covid-19-update-saturday-3rd-july-2021>
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Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge our supervisors Dr. Singh and Dr. Jankie who guided us throughout this research project.