# To Jab or Not to Jab? Public Attitudes towards COVID-19 Vaccination

Results from a poll in 7 CAREC countries

Hans Holzhacker,

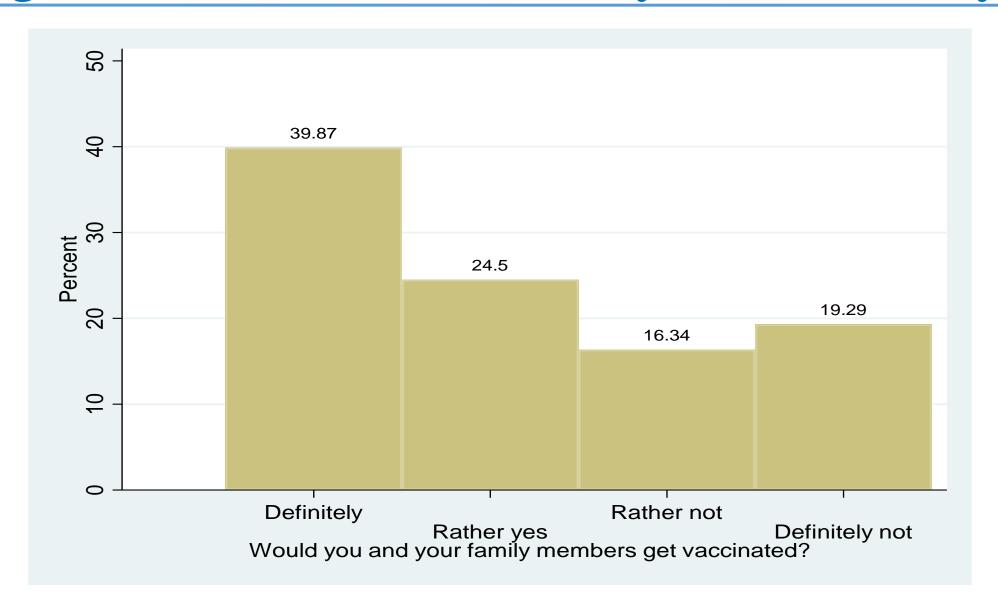
Chief Economist CAREC Institute

Workshop

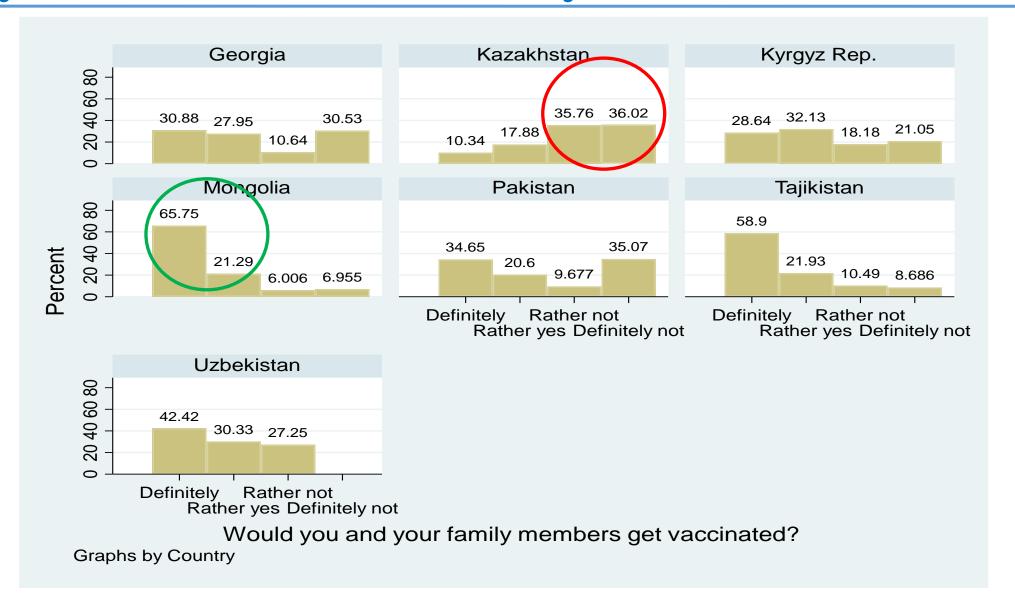
12 March 2021



## About 65% of respondents said they would get vaccinated against Covid-19, 35% said they would not. Why?



## In Mongolia 87% want get vaccinated, in Kazakhstan only 28%. 72% would not. Why?



## <u>Logit regression</u>: Ready to get vaccinated, yes/no; significance levels < 5% error probability

q20bin	Getting vaccinated yes/no	7 countries	Georgia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyz R.	Mongolia	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
q1	What is your current health status compared to 2019?	0.687	0.311	0.053	0.803	0.669	0.123	0.250	0.531
q2	How would you describe the financial situation in your household compared to 2019?	0.371	0.813	0.632	0.259	0.311	0.326	0.823	0.140
q3	What do you think, will the economic challenges for your country be more difficult or easier to overcome in 2021 compared to 2020?	0.094	0.225	0.011	0.056	0.853	0.752	0.012	0.028
q4	Please, tell us for each of the following economic experiences whether or not this happened to you during the coronavirus pandemic?	0.447	0.024	0.753	0.057	0.012	0.357	0.076	0.097
q5	How afraid are you that you or your loved ones get sick and suffer severely from the coronavirus?	0.002	0.714	0.088	0.783	0.947	0.000	0.130	0.000
q6	How scared are you that you or your loved ones will suffer from the economic recession following the coronavirus?	0.864	0.698	0.036	0.464	0.012	0.202	0.514	0.263
q7	The social media are full of stories telling that the Corona pandemic is a hoax and that all the lockdown measures are a hysteric overreaction. Do you believe the corona pandemic is being made up?	0.020	0.127	0.180	0.977	0.020	0.034	0.338	0.000
q8	Have you yourself been infected with COVID-19?	0.245	0.675	0.015	0.742	0.005	0.982	0.177	0.094
q11	Have you been tested for COVID-19 or antibodies?	0.950	0.418	0.048	0.256	0.264	0.532	0.442	0.054
q12	Did your family members, relatives, friends, colleagues had COVID-19?	0.213	0.202	0.021	0.094		0.079	0.511	0.467
q13	Please tell me how do you follow safety measures (wearing masks, using sanitizers, avoiding crowded places) to protect yourself from infection?	0.593	0.299	0.580	0.194	0.148	0.233	0.053	0.032
q14	How often do you search and read information on the COVID-19 pandemic in the media, social networks?	0.000	0.005	0.093	0.217	0.348	0.138	0.001	0.009
q17	Please tell me, over the past 3 years, have you received any vaccinations?	0.446	0.203	0.017	0.462	0.887	0.681	0.844	0.447
q18	Currently, vaccines against coronavirus are being developed in the world. Have you ever heard of a coronavirus vaccine before today?	0.001	0.817	0.256	0.227	0.478	0.000	0.146	0.898
q23	Do you think it is necessary to vaccinate the entire population or only high-risk groups - medical workers, doctors, teachers, salespeople, fire and police officers, etc.?	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
q24	Do you think the vaccines developed in the world are safe?	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
q27	Do you believe scientific developments will help humanity build immunity against COVID-19 in the future?	0.000	0.019	0.061	0.186	0.008	0.000	0.016	0.001
d1	Gender	0.088	0.880	0.404	0.427	0.967	0.007	0.876	0.370
d2	Age	0.000	0.004	0.050	0.303	0.168	0.038	0.035	0.544
d6	Level of education	0.141	0.824	0.228	0.090	0.404	0.414	0.762	0.000
d7	Being currently employed	0.290	0.579	0.083	0.359	0.596	0.391	0.553	0.212
d9	Living standard of family	0.455	0.922	0.161	0.744	0.685	0.736	0.416	0.788
_cons		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.777	0.000	0.000	0.000

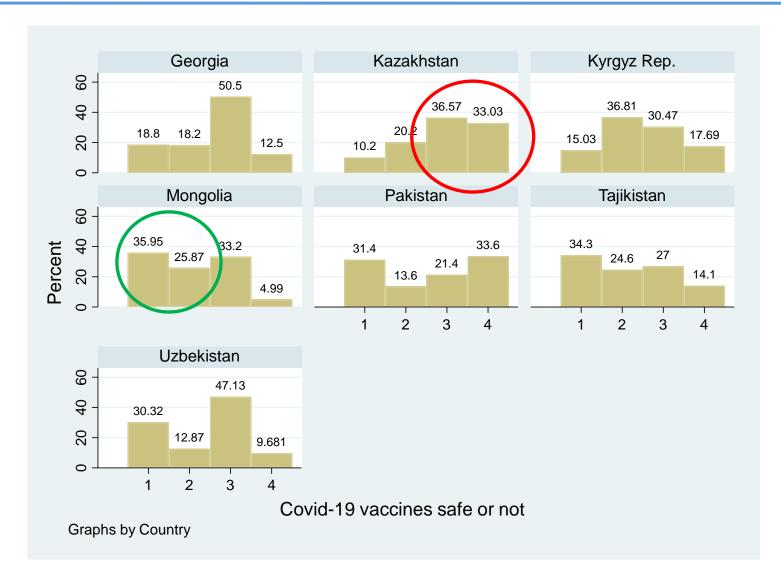
Number of observations= 4100;

Log likelihood = -1545.8;

LR  $chi^{2}(22) = 1726.6$ Prob> $chi^{2}=0$ ;

Pseudo R<sup>2</sup>= 0.36

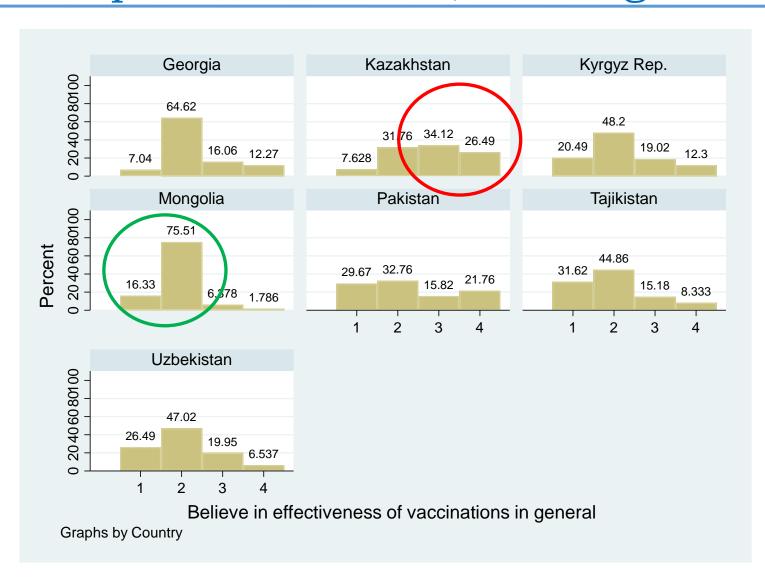
## <u>Trust in Covid-19 vaccines</u>: in Kazakhstan 70% of respondents do not, in Mongolia 62% do, only 37% not.



#### Do you think the vaccines developed in the world are safe?

- 1. Yes, all vaccines that have been tested by the countries' responsible agencies and are approved as safe
- 2. Safety depends on the country of origin of the vaccine
- 3. It will still take quite a long time until vaccines are tested enough to be really regarded as safe
- 4. No, you can't trust vaccines

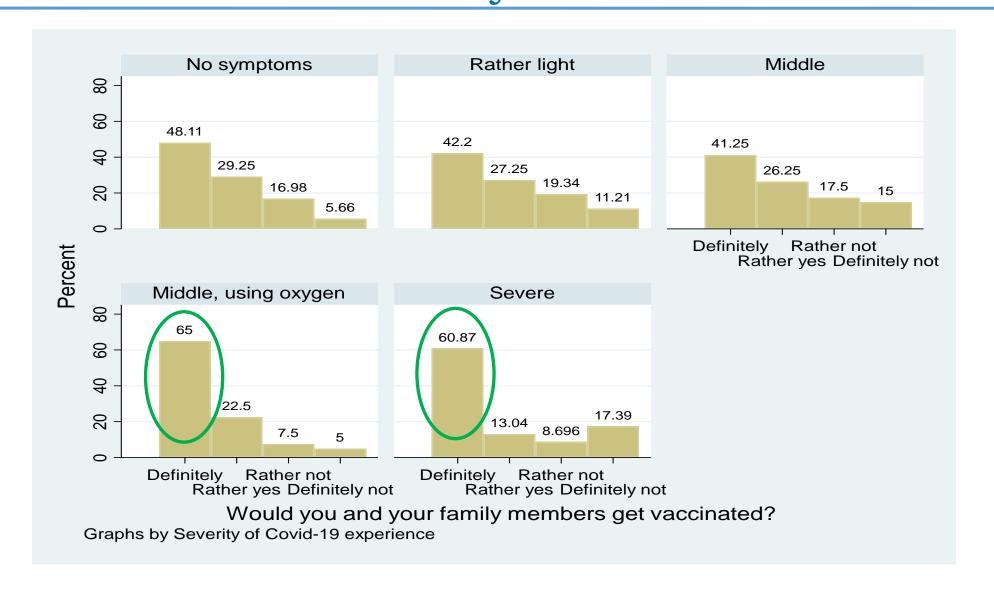
## Trust in vaccines in general: in Kazakhstan 61% of respondents do not, in Mongolia 92% do.



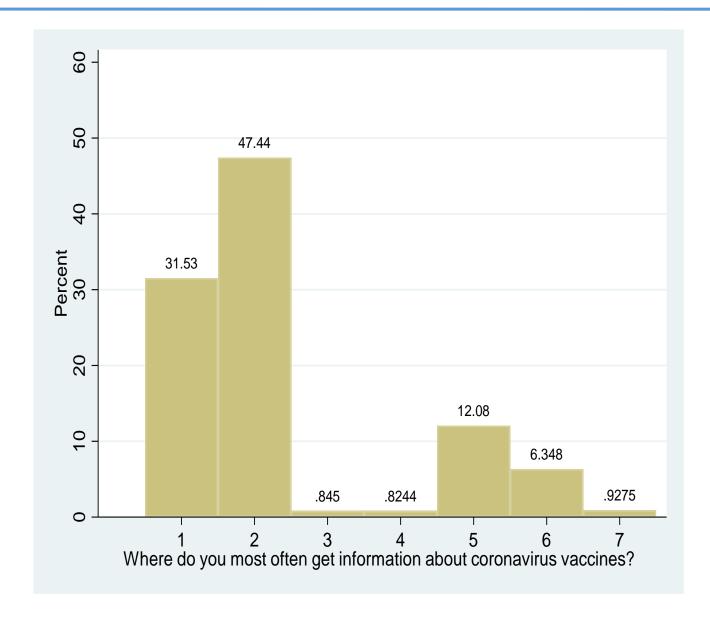
#### In your opinion, how effective are vaccinations in general?

- 1. Very effective
- 2. Quite effective
- 3. Not very effective
- 4. Completely ineffective

#### Experience with COVID-19: Those who had it in severe forms are much more likely to desire vaccination.



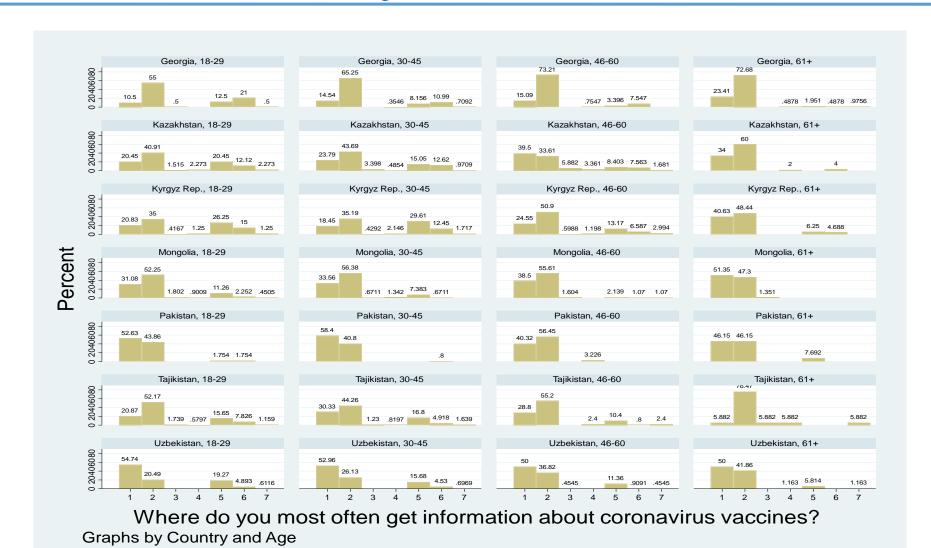
#### <u>Information source</u>: TV, followed by close persons. Much less from internet or social media



#### Where do you most often get information about Covid-19 vaccines?

- 1. From other people, relatives, friends, acquaintances or work colleagues
- 2. From TV programs
- 3. From radio programs
- 4. From newspapers, magazines
- 5. From Internet web-sites
- 6. From social networks
- 7. From medical staff-doctors, nurses, etc.

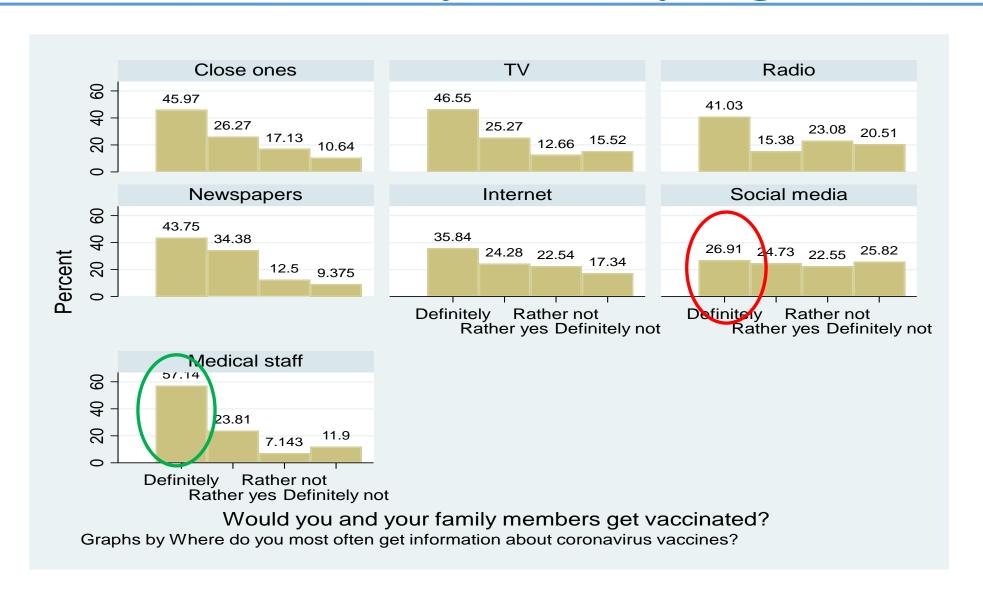
#### <u>Information source</u>: Even youth largely turns to TV for information. Only Pakistan and Uzbekistan are different.



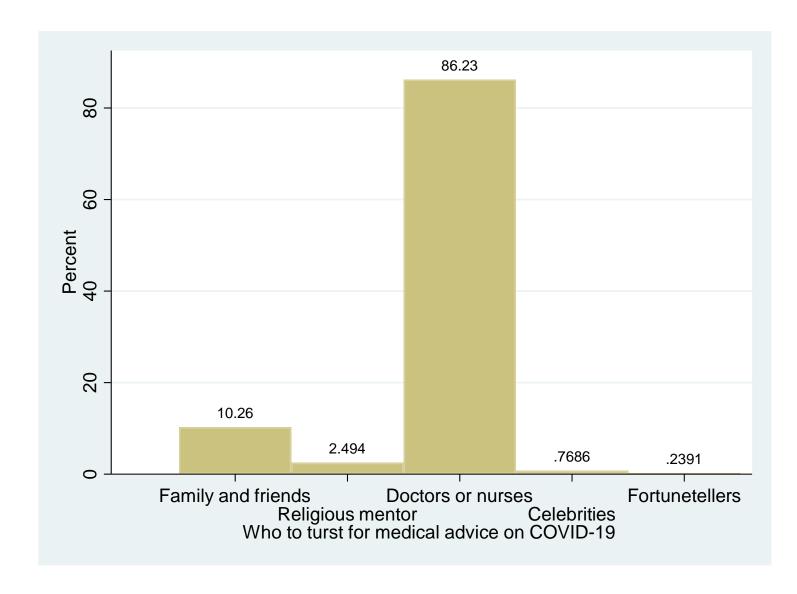
Where do you most often get information about Covid-19 vaccines?

- 1. From other people, relatives, friends, acquaintances or work colleagues
- 2. From TV programs
- 3. From radio programs
- 4. From newspapers, magazines
- 5. From Internet web-sites
- 6. From social networks
- 7. From medical staff-doctors, nurses, etc.<sub>9</sub>

## <u>Information source</u>: Those who get their information by social media are clearly less likely to get vaccinated.



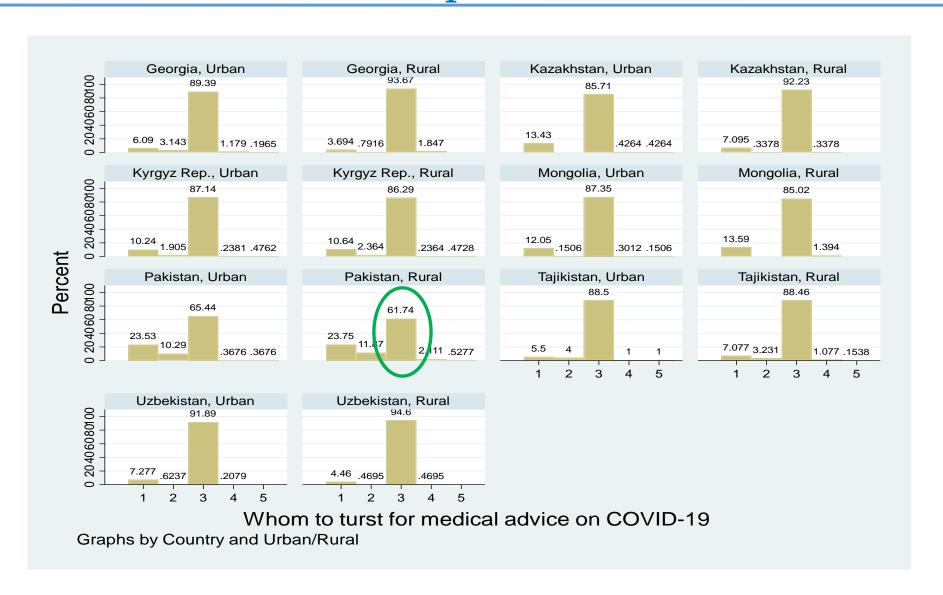
#### Who to trust: Doctors and nurses



# Whose medical advice on prevention or treatment for COVID-19 do you trust the most?

- 1. Family and friends
- 2. Religious mentor
- 3. Doctors or nurses
- 4. Celebrities
- 5. Fortunetellers, healers, palm readers

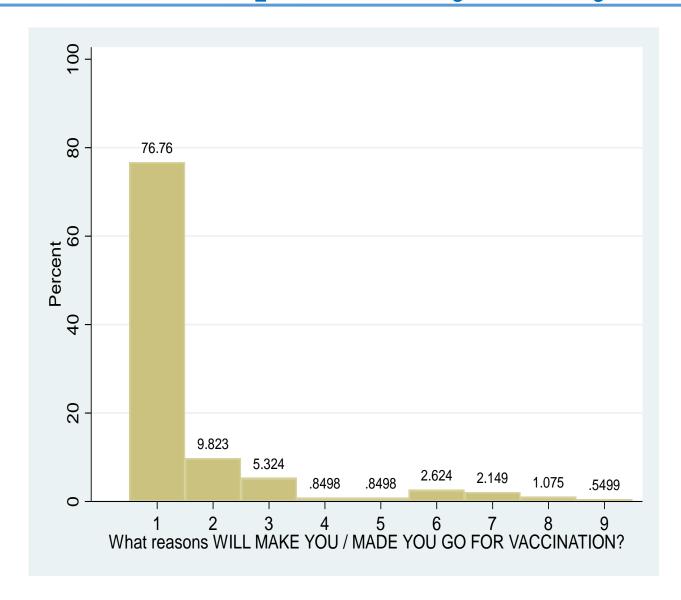
#### Who to trust: Doctors and nurses!!! Even in rural Pakistan 62% of respondents trust them most.



Whose medical advice on prevention or treatment for COVID-19 do you trust the most?

- 1. Family and friends
- 2. Religious mentor
- 3. Doctors or nurses
- 4. Celebrities
- 5. Fortunetellers, healers, palm readers

## Arguments for Covid-19 vaccination: "I want to protect my family"

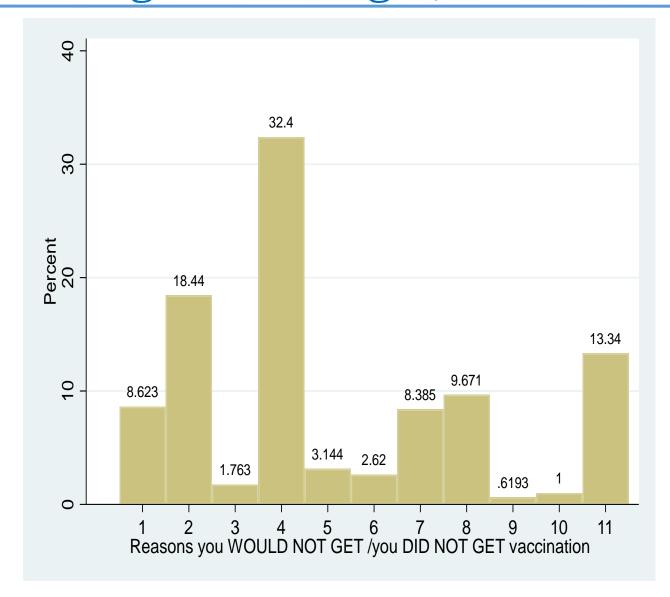


#### What reasons WILL MAKE YOU GO FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION?

#### 1. I want to protect my family

- 2. I want/wanted to protect my community
- 3. I want/wanted to protect myself
- 4. I have a chronic illness like asthma or diabetes, so it is important for me to get the COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine
- 5. My doctor recommends vaccination
- 6. This is the best way to avoid a serious coronavirus disease
- 7. It will make me feel safe in the company of other people
- 8. Life will not return to normal until most people get vaccinated
- 9. I am/was obligated (at work/at the place of study/etc.)

## Arguments against Covid-19 vaccination: Safety concerns, disregard of danger, disbelieve in vaccines



#### Which of the following are reasons you WOULD NOT GET Covid-19 vaccinations?

- 1 I am allergic to vaccines
- 2. I'm not concerned about getting seriously ill from the coronavirus
- 3. I won't/didn't have time to get vaccinated
- 4. I am concerned about side effects from the vaccine
- 5. There is no vaccination possibility close to where I live
- 6. COVID-19 (coronavirus) is not as serious as some people say
- 7. Natural immunity is better than vaccine-induced immunity
- 8. Vaccines are developed to hasty and have not been sufficiently tested
- 9. I have already been ill and have antibodies, and don't think I can get sick now
- 10. My religious beliefs do not allow vaccination
- 11. I don't believe the vaccine will effectively protect against disease

14

#### Conclusions and policy recommendations

- > Base campaigns on doctors and nurses
- > Use the internet and social media, encourage person-to-person communication on various levels, but focus on running information campaigns especially through TV
- > Focus on concerns about vaccine safety; counteract beliefs that Covid-19 is not serious or even fake
- > Share positive experiences of countries where vaccination is already more advanced
- > Let people who fell seriously sick share their experiences with Covid-19
- > Reach out to people with education levels below secondary education
- ➤ Use especially the family protection argument to convince people to take part in Covid-19 vaccinations

