

ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS REGARDING IMMUNIZATION WITHIN SAN JOAQUIN AND SACRAMENTO COUNTIES

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INTRODUCTION:

- Operation Immunization Committee (OIC) is part of an APhA-ASP chapter that seeks to increase community awareness regarding immunizations and provide student pharmacists/pharmacist administered immunizations.
- OIC seeks to implement, manage and market an immunization advocacy campaign to decrease the incidence of vaccine preventable disease with their community.

GOALS:

- Educate and protect the health of the public by organizing and participating in community outreach events.
- Increase awareness and to emphasize the availability of immunization services in our communities.
- Make immunizations accessible to underprivileged populations and to decrease the occurrence of vaccine preventable diseases in San Joaquin and surrounding counties in California.
- For pharmacy interns to use and apply their training and knowledge of immunization administration during their participation in outreach events; this includes exercising their skills to educate the public and healthcare professionals.
- Advocate for pharmacists as reliable healthcare professionals and as resources for immunization information and administration.
- Promote new and developing services to the public as the role of pharmacists quickly expands.
- Promote our institution as a leader in developing knowledgeable and competent intern pharmacists and health care professionals.

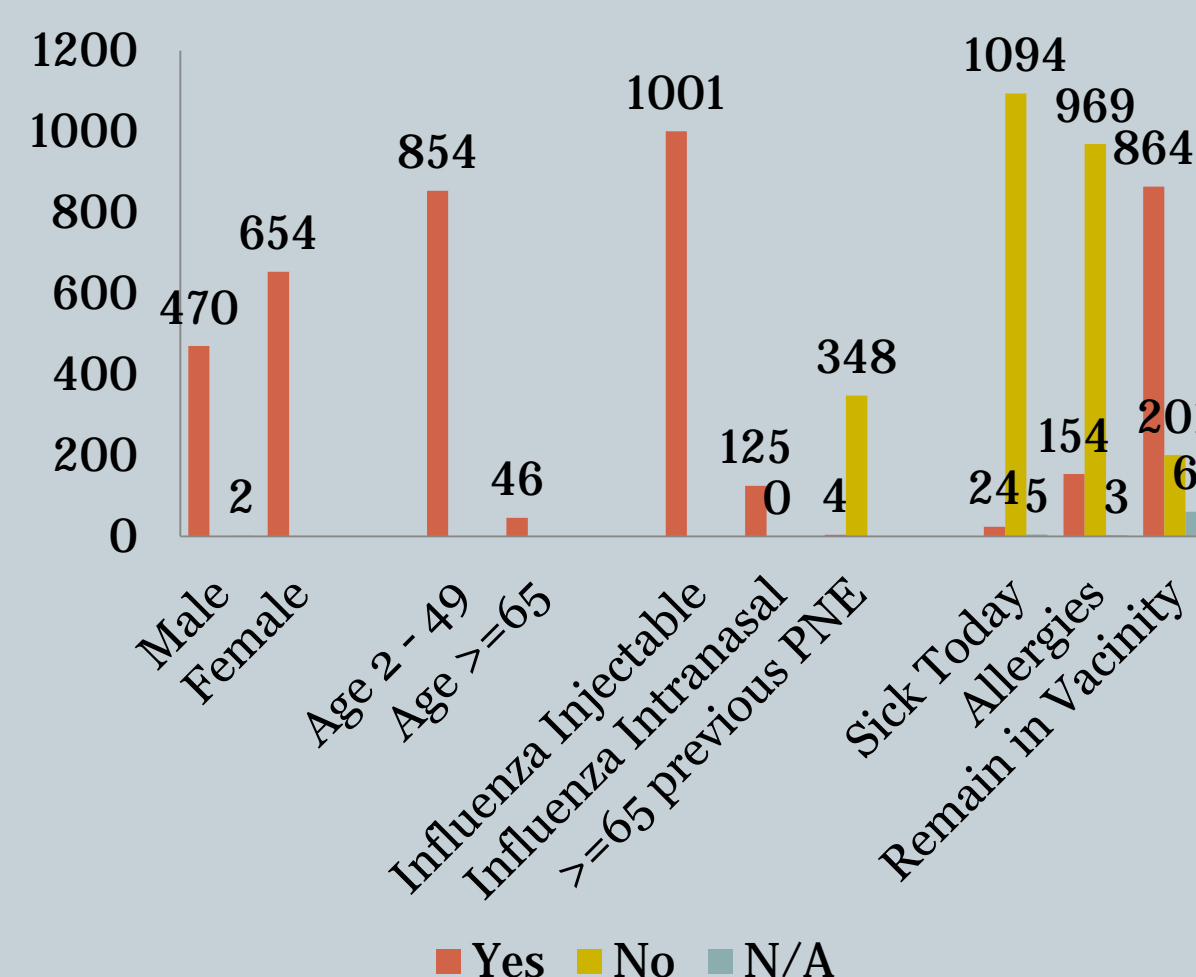
PURPOSE:

- Obtain patient demographics for individuals who received immunization services from the Pacific OIC.
- Determine the attitudes and perceptions regarding immunization within San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties.

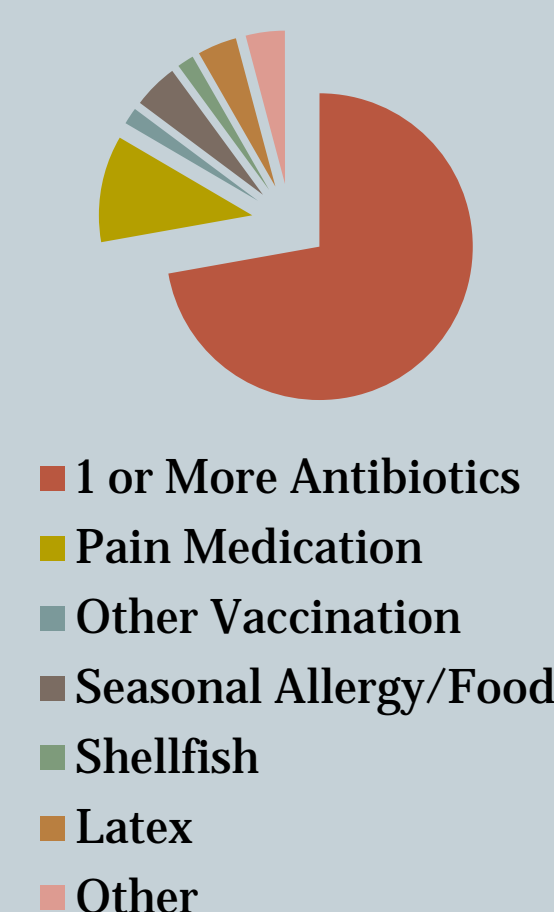
METHODOLOGY:

- Patients who elected to receive their immunization through the OIC of the Thomas J Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.
- All adult individuals who requested immunization services were offered to participate within this study.
- While patients are waiting before or after their immunization they were asked to complete a survey about their attitudes and perceptions regarding immunizations.

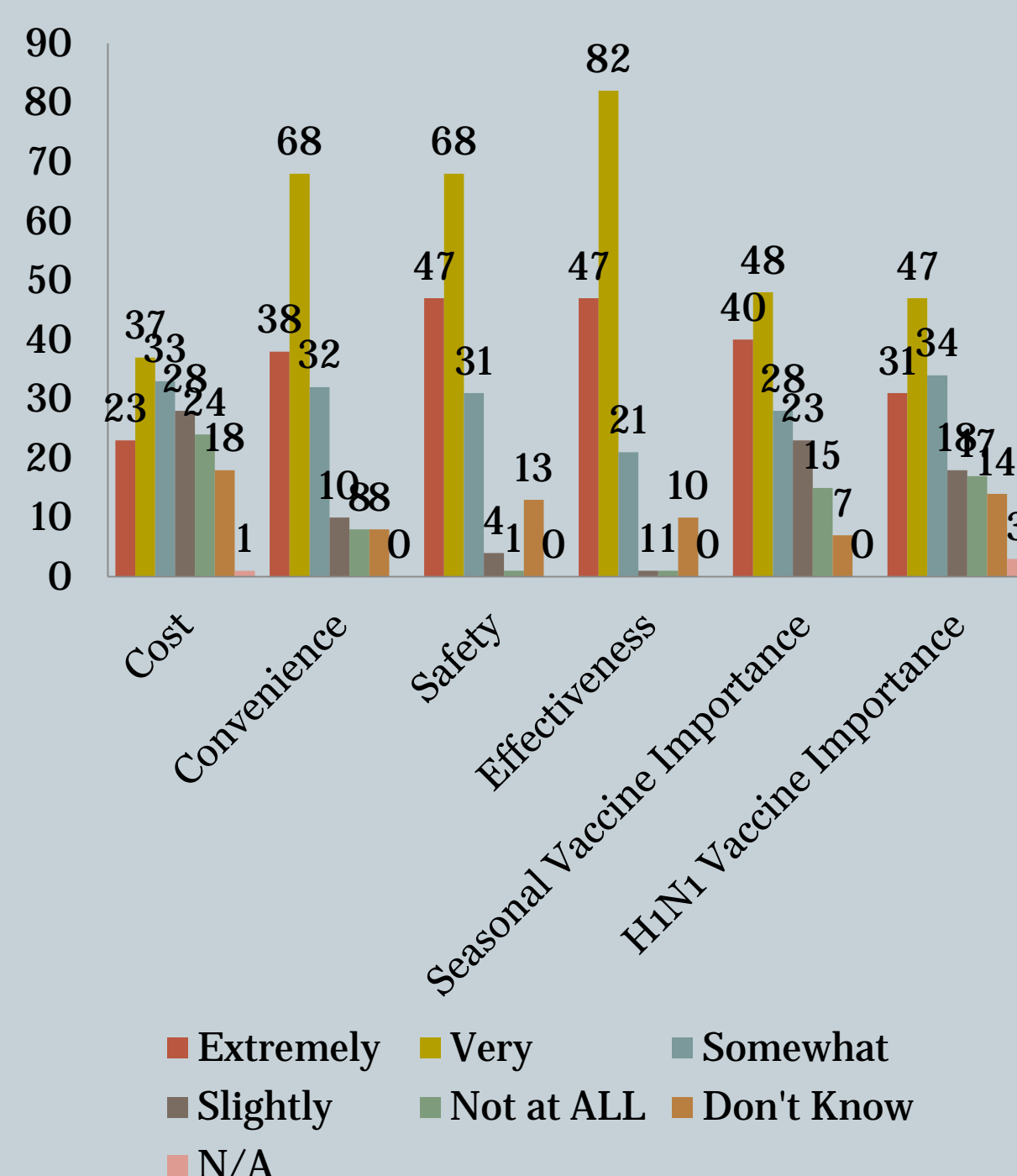
Patient Demographics



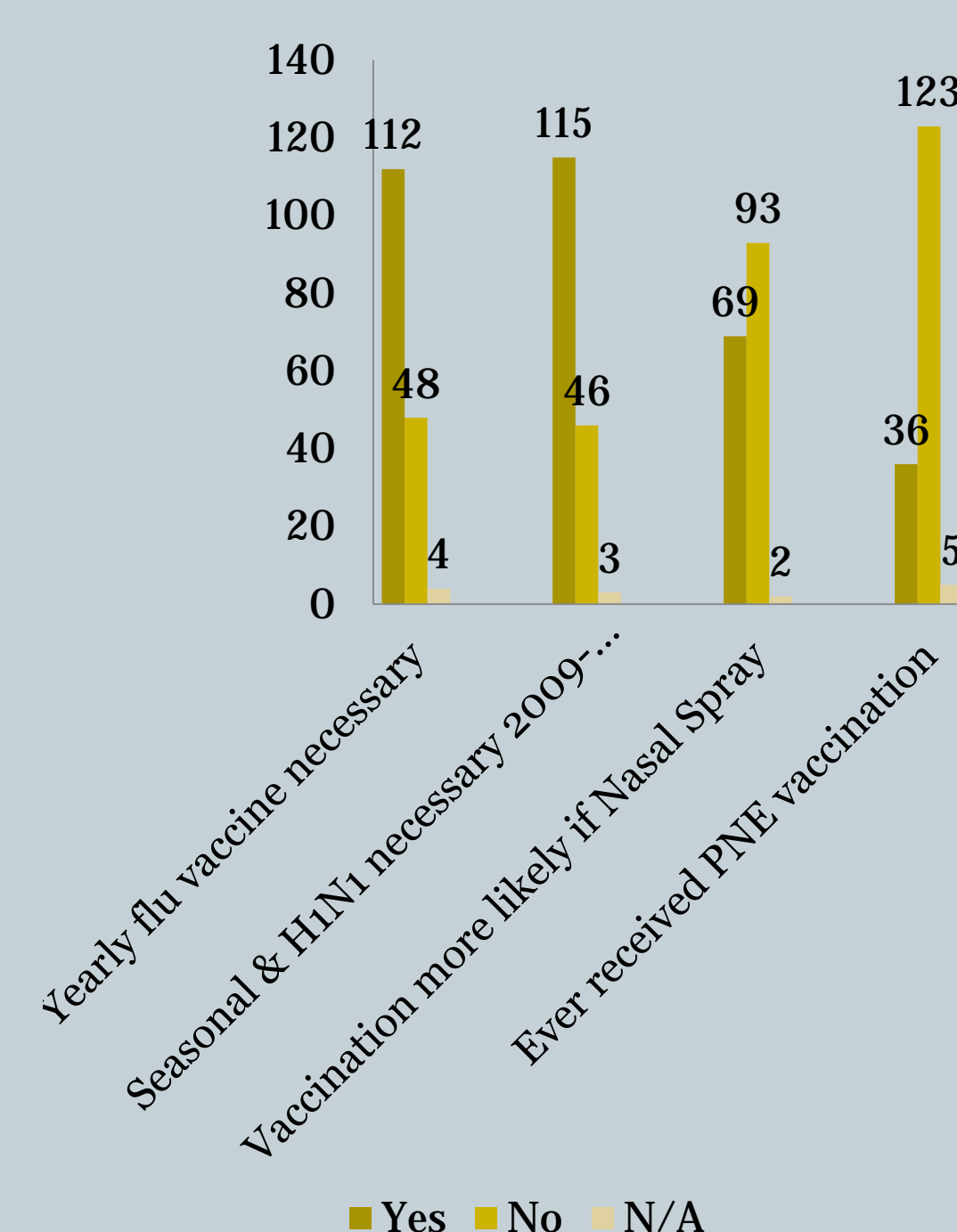
Patient Allergy Responses



Patient Survey Responses



Patient Survey Responses



RESULTS:

- During 2010 there were 1126 patients who received influenza vaccination by OIC.
- Mean patient age was 34 years, range 1 – 85 year (SD = 17.01).
- Pacific protocol is for individuals ≥ 14 years old. Public health nurses participated in an event where their protocol included individuals ≥ 6 months of age. Individuals between 6 months and 13 years were immunized by the public health nursing staff.
- Majority of patients were female 654 (58.1%).
- No previous reaction to prior vaccination in 1121 patients. One-hundred-fifty-four patients self-identified as having an allergy to any medications, food, latex or vaccines. The most common allergy listed was to 1 or more antibiotics (122 patients) but the influenza vaccine does not contain any of the allergies listed. No incidence of allergy to any vaccine component was found but there were 7 patients with latex allergy. There were 2 patients who listed previous reaction after pertussis vaccination (fever) and one patient stated reaction after a TB test.
- Three-hundred-forty-eight patients were indicated to receive pneumococcal vaccination due to presence of age of > 65 years who had not been previously vaccinated.
- There were 854 patients (75.8%) of patients who were eligible to receive the intranasal vaccination based on age.
- One-hundred-sixty-four patients completed the OIC Vaccine Survey.
- Cost of vaccine recommended was very or extremely important to 60 (36.5%) patients.
- Convenience of vaccine was very or extremely important to 106 (64.6%) patients.
- When asked the importance of receiving the seasonal vaccine yearly 88 (53.7%) patients stated this was very or extremely important.
- Overall patients view the seasonal influenza vaccine as extremely or very safe 115 (70%) patients.
- Patients stated that the seasonal influenza vaccine was extremely or very effective 129 (78.7%) patients.
- When asked how many times you have received a seasonal influenza vaccine in the past 5 years the mean was 2.29 (SD 1.83).

CONCLUSION:

A large number of patients > 65 who had the indication for pneumococcal vaccine would have received it if it were available. It was determined that the vast majority of patients who were immunized with the injectable vaccine were eligible for the intranasal vaccine based on age. Further research needs to be done to determine if patients eligible for the intranasal vaccine based on age would choose this formulation based on cost, reimbursement or patient desire if available for the 2011-2012 influenza season. Steps were taken to ensure that both influenza and pneumococcal vaccine will be available for administration by OIC in FALL of 2011. Based on the 164 patients surveyed, approximately 50% patients indicated that it is important to receive the seasonal influenza vaccination annually. The actual self-reported vaccination rates were lower than this perceived need. It was interesting to note that more patients felt that the seasonal influenza vaccine was safe (70%) and effective (78.7%) than those who actually felt it was important to be vaccinated yearly (53.7%). Future studies would be beneficial to determine what specific barriers exist in the population to increase actual vaccination rates.