SURVEY ON COMMUNITY PERCEPTION ON VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19

Condensed summary

THE SAMPLE WAS FORMED FROM THE URCS DATABASE OF FORMER AND CURRENT BENEFICIARIES.

1 390 respondents interviewed

- 31%
- 30%
- 28%
- 9%
- 2%

78% FEMALE
21% MALE

69% of those who were unvaccinated said they did not plan to be vaccinated, meaning more than half of all respondents were not vaccinated and did not intend to get vaccinated.

Most common reason for not getting vaccinated was:

44% that chronic conditions prevented it *
10% fears over side effects and vaccine safety
9% doubts over the vaccine’s effectiveness

Other reasons given included: lack of information including the belief that vaccination is not free of charge, lack of trust in medical system and COVID-19 information, and people’s belief that they were not personally at risk from the virus.

Compare to other regions participating in the survey, Kharkiv, Lviv, and Chernivtsi oblasts showed sharply negative attitudes towards vaccination (based on operators’ feedback)

* Please note the survey deliberately focused on URCS beneficiaries, many of whom were older people with various pre-existing medical conditions
The reasons vaccinated people gave for accepting the jab included:

- 64% for their own protection
- 13% for work
- 12% to protect others

Respondents’ most trusted sources of information were:

- 37% doctors and medical staff
- 19% television
- 8% friends and relatives
- 36% other

Almost 8% of respondents reported encountering URCS information about vaccination through staff and volunteers, posters and leaflets, social media, and TV. Vast majority who received information about vaccination from URCS rated it as being both clear and useful.

Over 65’s are some of the most vulnerable to COVID-19, there is still a lot to do to support people in this age group to be vaccinated.

Family doctors and medical workers — are highly trusted and a key ally for explaining the safety and benefits of vaccination, especially in remote areas. They should be supported as key influencers.

Chronic disease was the main reason given for not being vaccinated, this should be investigated and addressed, particularly in defining and communicating which chronic diseases are safe for vaccination, and which diseases make vaccination an even higher priority.

Fears over vaccine side effects and safety were also a key concern — more research is needed on how this can most effectively be addressed, while avoiding as far as possible the risk of further polarising or entrenching anti-vaccination sentiment.

Investigate further the geographical polarization of opinion and focus efforts where impact can be greatest, without further polarising or entrenching anti-vaccination sentiment.

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