



# Examining barriers and facilitators of COVID-19 vaccination in an emergency psychiatric setting

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## Background

- Clear associations have been made between mental health disorders and an increased risk for severe COVID, even after adjusting for comorbidities
- Individuals with diagnosed mental health disorders also have lower rates of preventative health interventions, including vaccination (1, 2)
- There is little research regarding vaccination in non-traditional settings
- Patients presenting to our psychiatric acute care setting in June 2021 had a 39% higher rate of unvaccinated status compared to the Oregon general population

## Methods

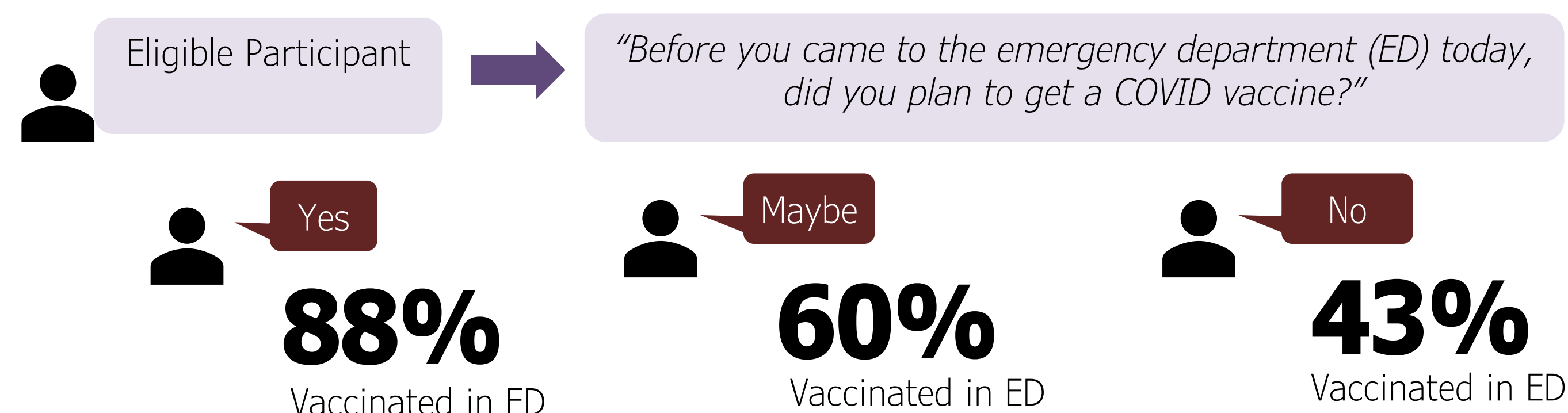
- An IRB-approved cross-sectional survey of patients recruited in an urban, university-affiliated psychiatric emergency department
- Adult patients were screened for eligibility to receive a COVID vaccine through review of local hospital records and the state COVID immunization registry
- Patients eligible to receive the vaccine and not under guardianship or suspected to be intoxicated were offered participation in the study
- Thirty individuals enrolled in the study and completed the survey

## Innovation & Design

- Consenting study participants were given a novel 10-item questionnaire regarding:
  - Attitudes and beliefs regarding vaccine safety and efficacy
  - Barriers and facilitators to vaccination
  - Trusted sources of information about COVID and vaccine safety
  - Intent to receive a COVID vaccine prior to hospitalization

## Results

### Intent to receive vaccine



### Vaccines Attitudes

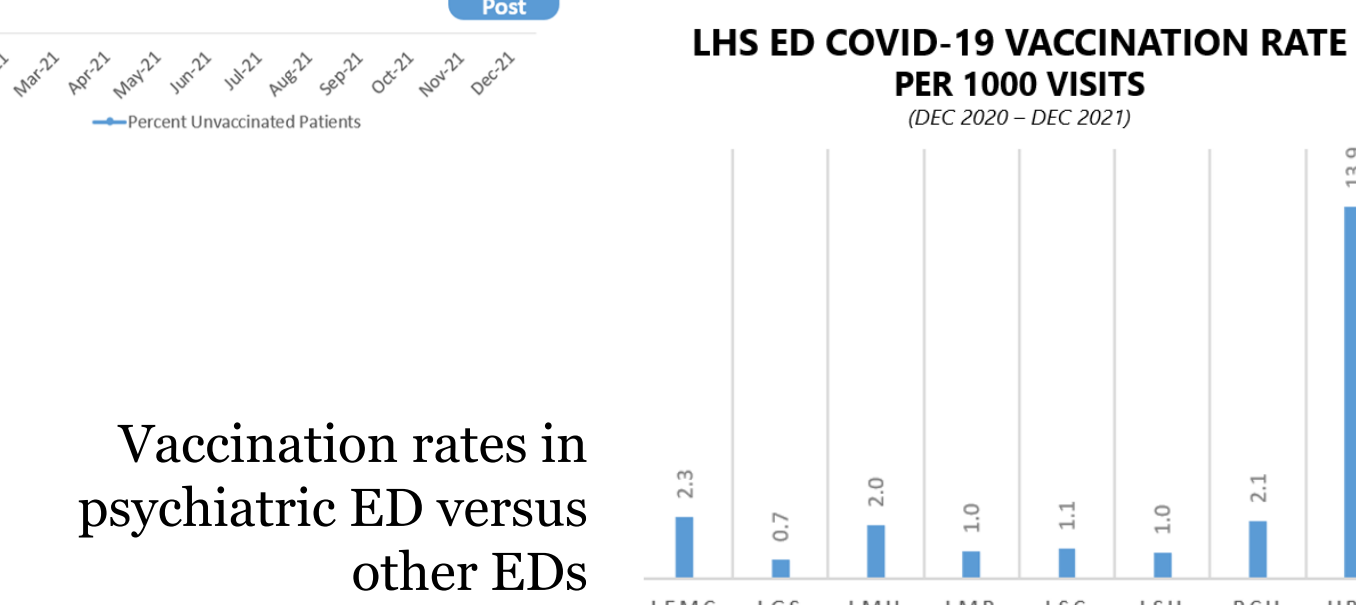
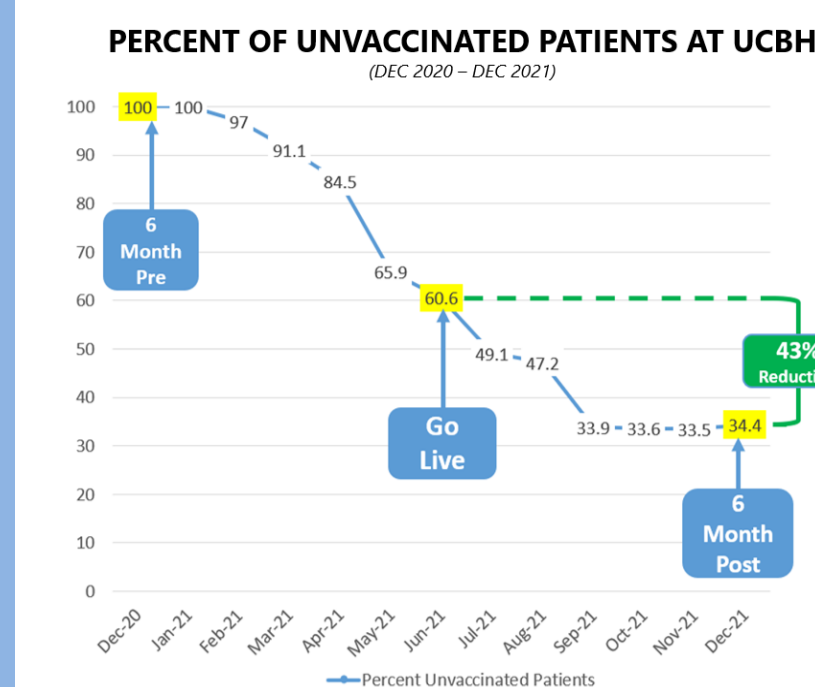
More likely to receive a vaccine if believe:  
 Vaccines are important, effective, safe

Less likely to receive a vaccine if believe:  
 Vaccines are maybe or not important, maybe or not safe

### Sources, Barriers & Facilitators

Trusted Sources	Barriers	Facilitators
More Common 1. Primary care providers 2. Family	Fear of side effects Safety concerns	No appointment required Recommendation of treatment team
Less Common 1. Social media 2. Religious leaders	Mistrust of government Mistrust of pharmaceutical industry	Safety of the hospital setting
→ No single source was associated with vaccine acceptance		

## Vaccination Results



## Conclusions

- Patients identified important barriers to vaccination, including need for appointments and travel logistics
- Offering COVID vaccinations in a psychiatric emergency department reduced these barriers
- Even for the vaccine hesitant, offering and administering vaccines in a setting perceived as "safe" may have increased acceptance
- Psychiatric emergency settings can serve an important role in providing public health initiatives, such as preventative care
- Limitations include small sample size, inclusion of only English-speaking patients, possible response-biases vulnerabilities

## References

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## Disclosures

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose