

# Preliminary Data: Opinions on Pediatric Vaccine against COVID-19 from Parents and Guardians of the Northern area of Puerto Rico



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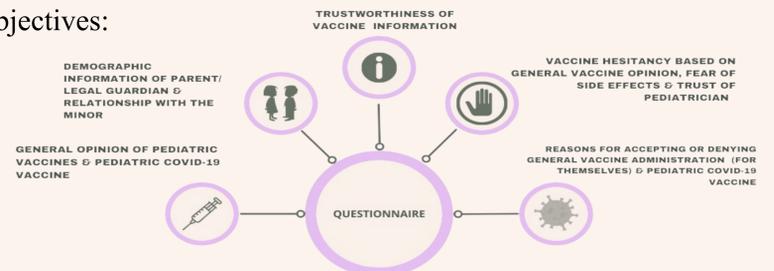
## Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the pediatric population has been one of the most vulnerable, due to unprecedented consequences of social distancing measures and lockdowns. To protect this population from infection, pediatric vaccines against COVID-19 have been developed recently, causing diverse opinions among parents and guardians due to multiple factors. In order to achieve a successful vaccination campaign in Puerto Rico, we believe it is imperative for the scientific community to identify the possible hindrances to pediatric immunizations against COVID-19. It is important to note that this questionnaire was answered by participants before the latest approval of the vaccine for the ages of 5 and older.

## Methodology

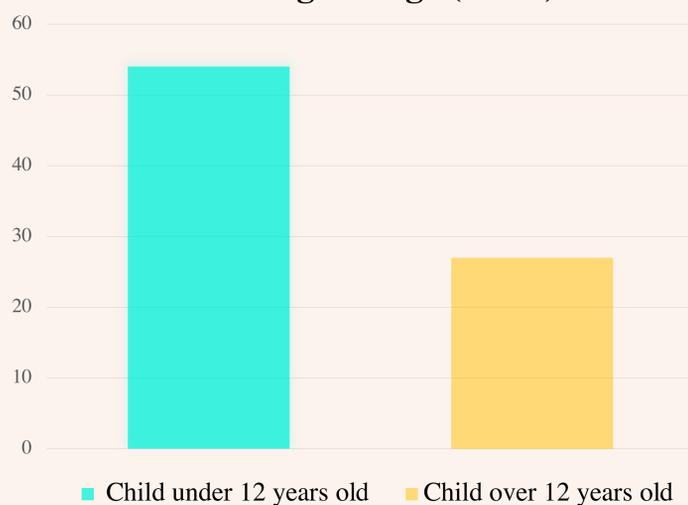
- A total of 81 participants from the Northern area of Puerto Rico answered a questionnaire composed of a total of 38 questions based on their perspectives on the approval or denial of the administration of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to their children.
- Participants were recruited in a local pediatrician's clinic and through social media.
- This project is approved by the UCC IRB (Protocol Number: [2021-16](#))

- Main objectives:



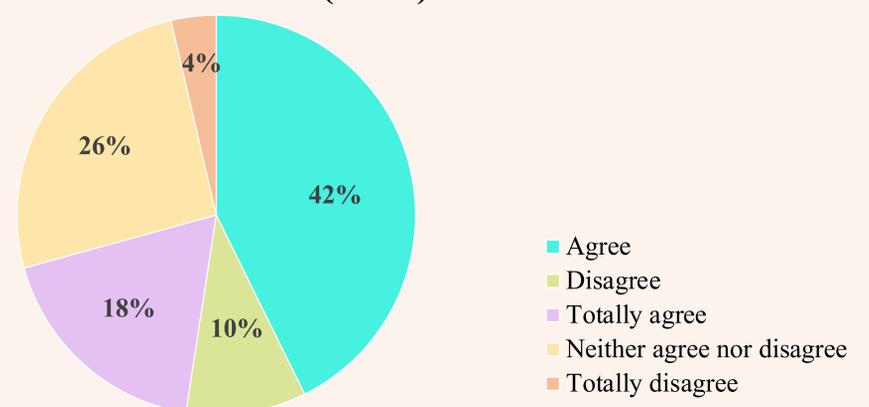
## Results

### Child's Age Range (N=81)



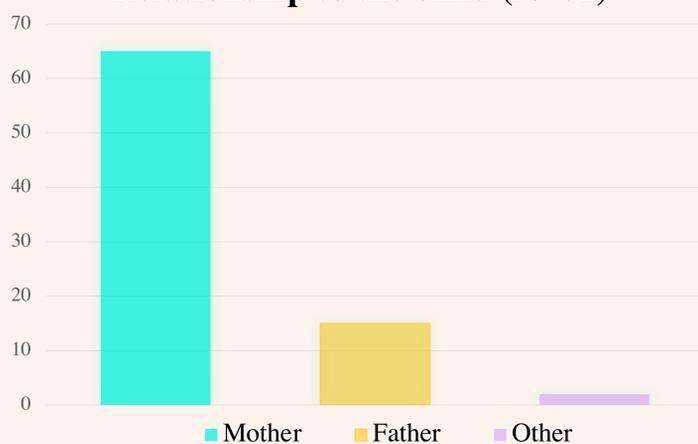
**Figure 1.** 67% were parents of children younger than 12 years old, while 33% were 12 years old or older.

### Trustworthiness among parents and guardians regarding information about COVID-19 vaccine (N=81)



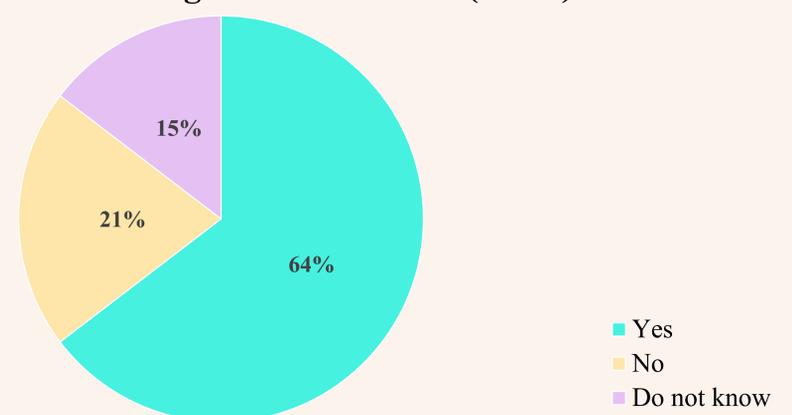
**Figure 3.** 18% of the participants completely agreed with the premise stating that the information provided regarding the vaccine against COVID-19 was trustworthy; 42% of the participants answered that they agreed, yielding an approximate total of 60% that trust the information. Nonetheless, 26% neither agreed nor disagreed. Furthermore, 10% disagreed, and 4% completely disagreed, yielding a total of 14%.

### Relationship to the child (N=81)



**Figure 2.** 80% of the responders were mothers, 18% were fathers, and 2% identified as "Other."

### Percentage of participants that would vaccinate their child against COVID-19 (N=81)



**Figure 4.** When asked if they would vaccinate their child against COVID-19, 64% responded in favor. In contrast, 21% would not vaccinate their child, while 15% remained unsure.

## Conclusions

When considering the preliminary data, there seems to be a correlation between the 60% of participants who trust the information provided about the vaccine by their physicians, educational material and other sources and the 64% of participants who are willing to consent to their child receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The results of this study could be crucial for the success of vaccination campaigns, thereby helping Puerto Rico's public health and management of the pandemic whilst also providing the pediatric population with additional immunization. To achieve those interests, this preliminary data will amplify through the implementation of new recruitment strategies, such as contacting schools and daycares of different parts of the island, leading to a diversified and larger Puerto Rican population sample.

## Acknowledgments

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