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# The Prevalence and Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy among Dental Students at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine



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## Introduction

- ❖ COVID-19 is a highly infectious virus that became a global pandemic in March, 2020
- ❖ The respiratory virus SARS-CoV2 has been identified as the causative agent
- ❖ Dentist and by extension dental students have been classified as a high-risk group.

## Objective

- To determine the number of dental students that are fully vaccinated and unvaccinated in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine.
- To assess the determinants of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among dental students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine.
- To assess the determinants of COVID-19 hesitancy among dental students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine.

## Methodology

- The survey was conducted after receiving ethical approval from The University of the West Indies Ethics Committee. (Ref: CREC-SA-1046/06/2021)
- A cross-sectional questionnaire was administered to all dental students, inclusive of the dental interns at the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
- The questionnaire was done on SurveyMonkey and sent via email to 150 dental students inclusive of dental interns
- Responses were obtained anonymously to ensure confidentiality.

## Results

Figure 1: Pie chart showing the vaccination status

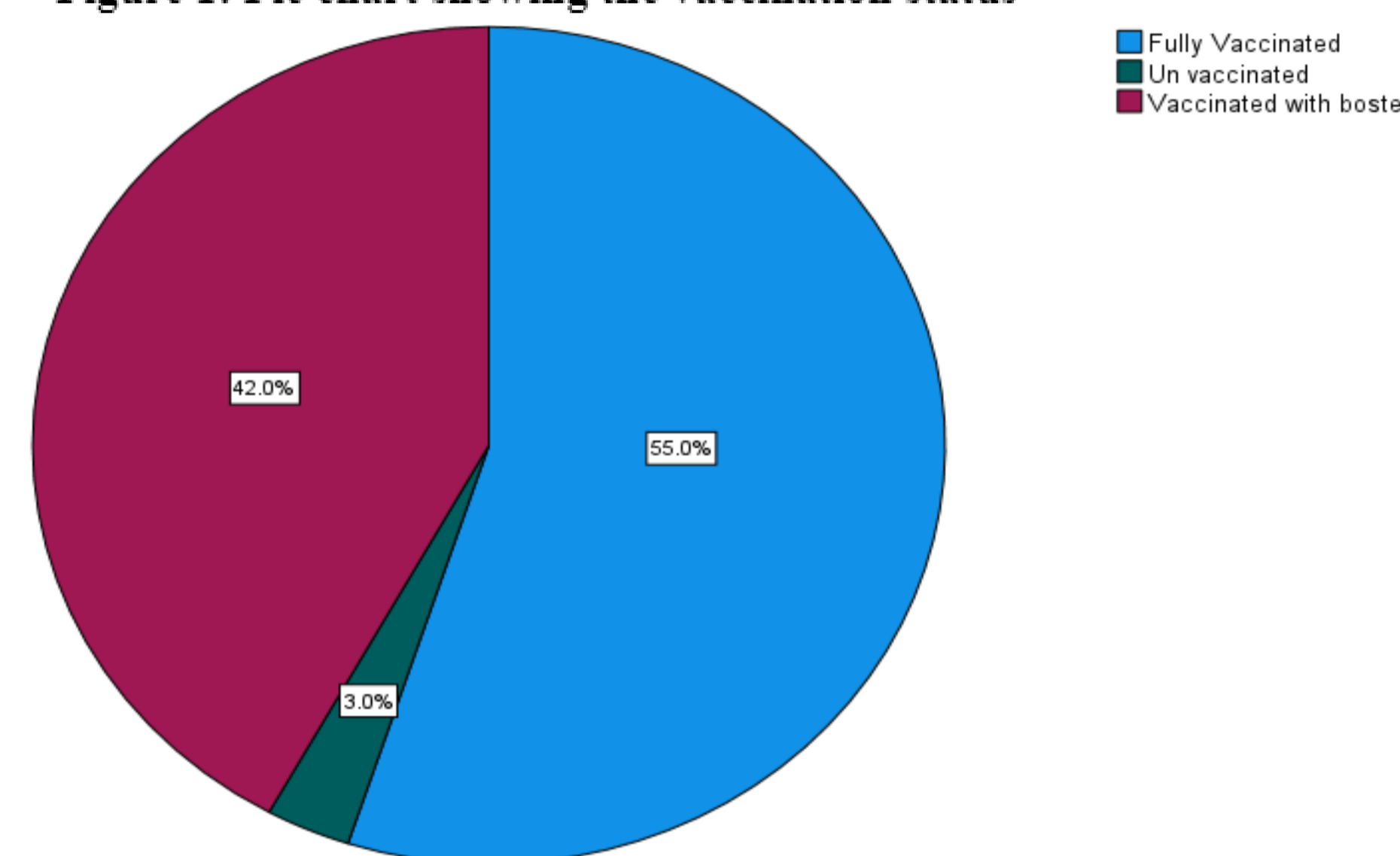


Figure 3: Bar graph showing the number of participants who chose to vaccinated to protect their family and loved ones

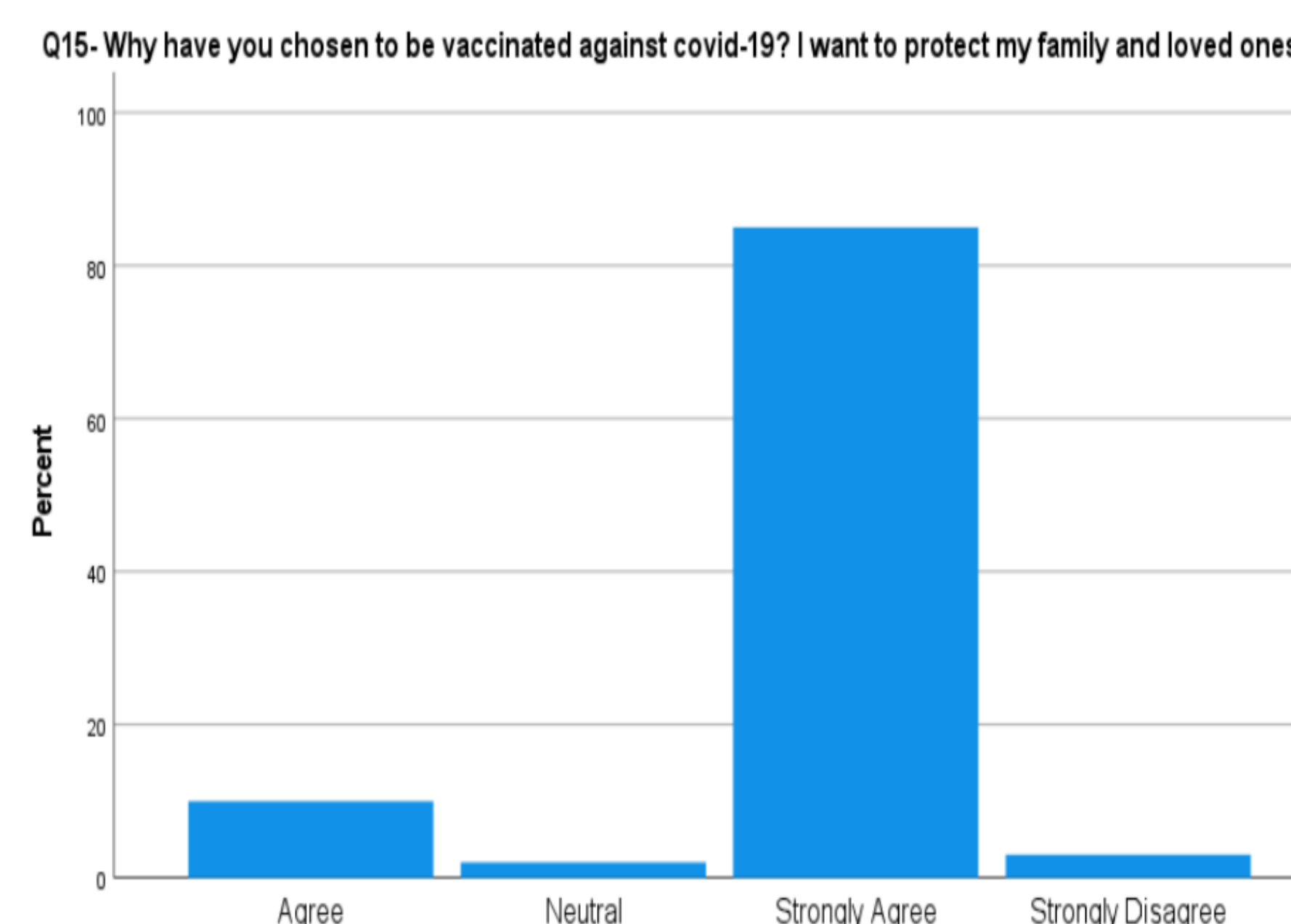


Figure 5: Pie chart showing whether participants feel safe about returning to physical learning on campus

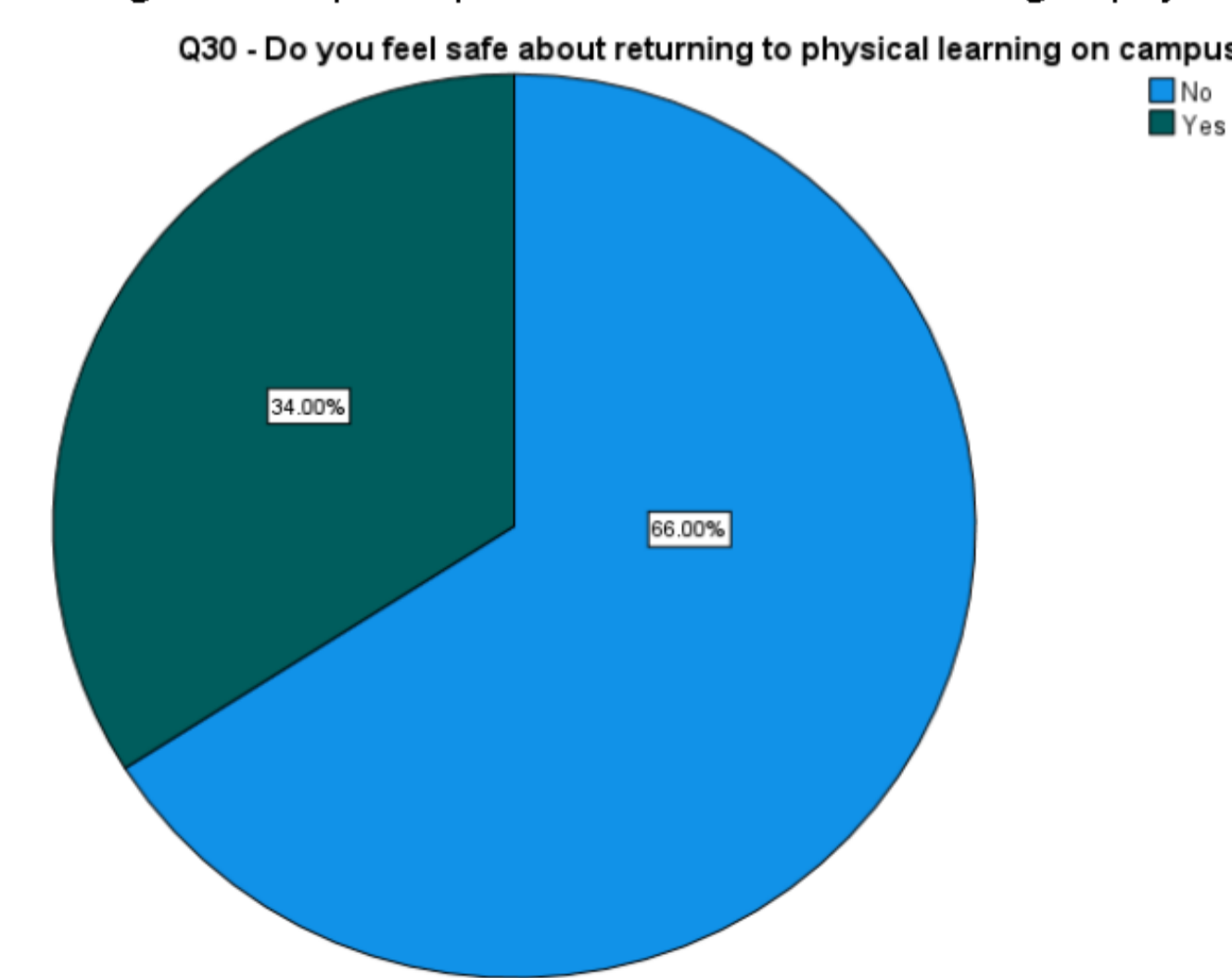


Table showing the number of participants that chose to remain unvaccinated because of long-term effects

Question #	Question	Response	Frequency	% of participants	% of unvaccinated
19f	I am concerned about the long-term effects	True	3	3.0	100
		False	0	0	0
		Not applicable	97	97.0	0

## Discussion

### Prevalence

- 97% of the dental student population were fully vaccinated, whereas 3% were unvaccinated.

### Acceptance

- The high vaccine acceptance rate amongst dental students was attributed towards self-protection, protection of family and loved ones, patient safety and vaccine advocacy.

### Hesitancy

- The 3% of students hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine were due to reasons such as not viewing COVID-19 as a threat to their health and the risk of unknown long term side effects that may be associated with vaccination.

## Conclusion

- We concluded that 97% of the dental students were vaccinated.
- We achieved a very high vaccination rate when compared to other countries.

## References

- CDC. COVID-19 Vaccination [Internet]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2020 [cited 2022 Jun 16]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>

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