

Mobilizing Health: Increased Access to Mobile Vaccine Clinics at a Community Mental Health Center



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Background

- Patients with serious mental illness have lower vaccination rates due to access barriers and vaccine hesitancy.¹
- None-white patients and healthcare workers are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 mortality.^{2,3}
- Patients and staff can benefit from Mobile Vaccine Clinics (MVCs).⁴
- Providing vaccinations beyond COVID-19 can address these limitations.

Methods

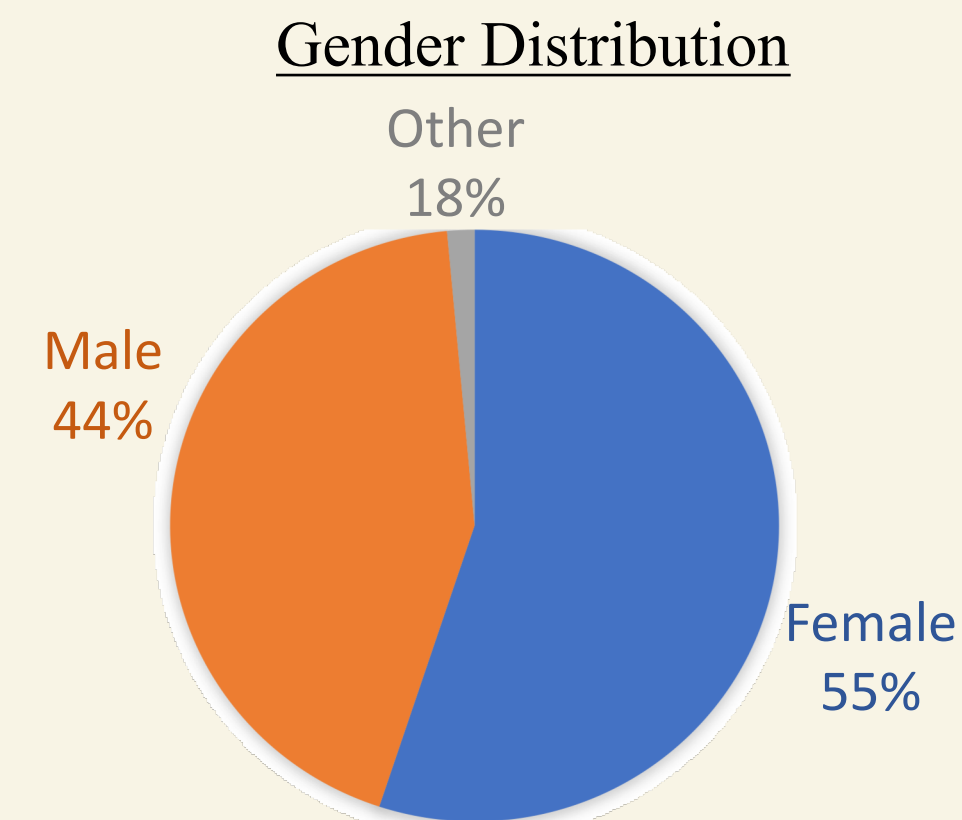
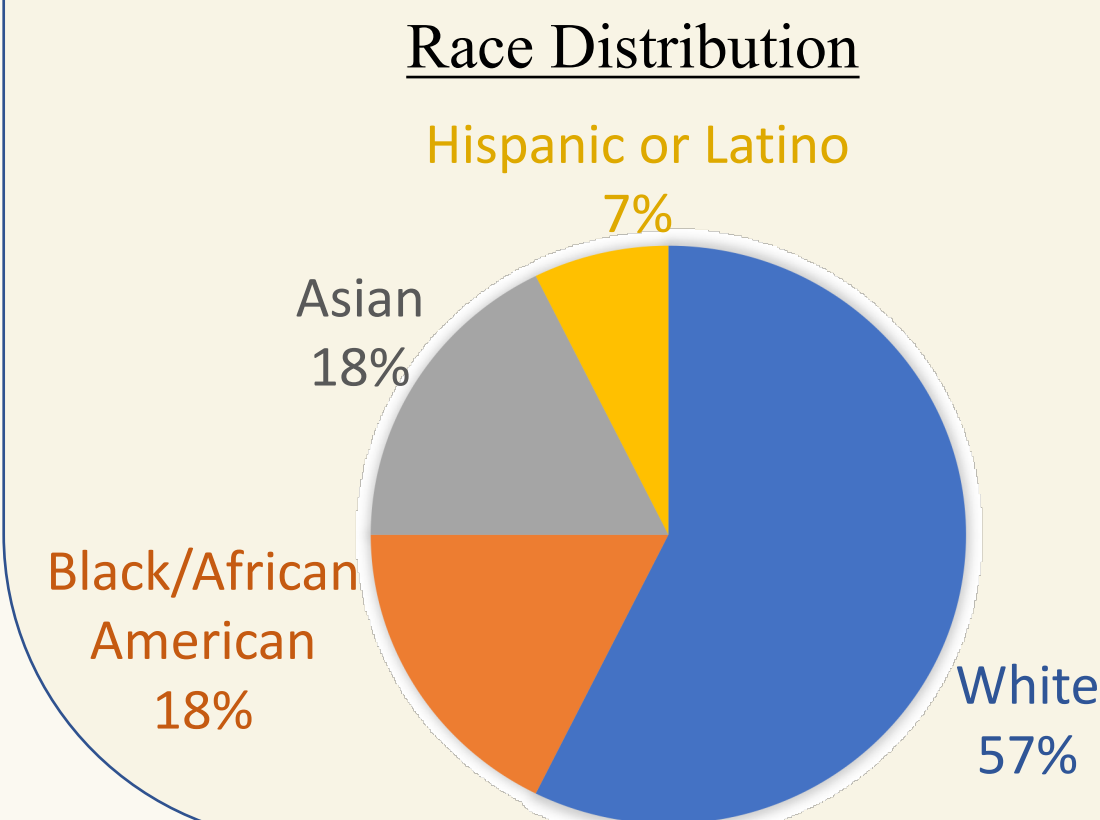
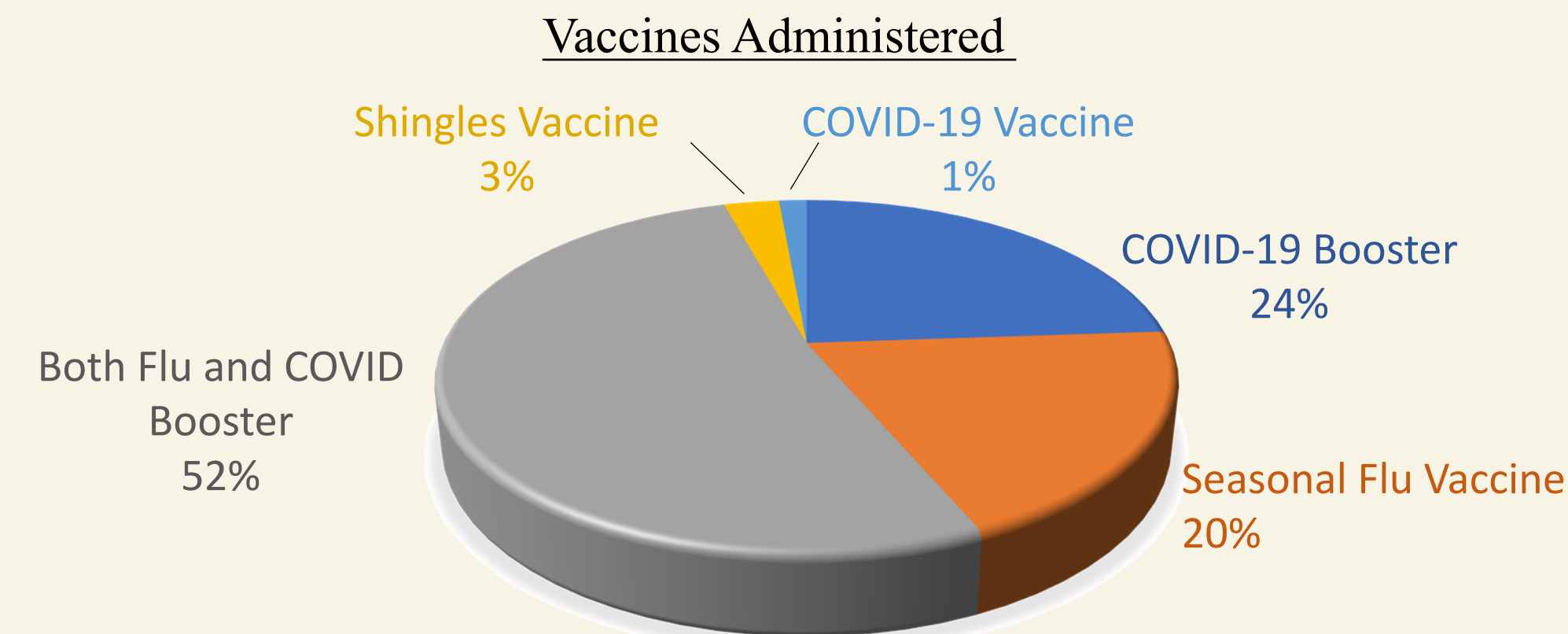
- North Suffolk Community Services collaborated with Genoa Healthcare to set up MVCs at an outpatient clinics (the Freedom Trail Clinic).
- COVID-19, influenza, shingles, and pneumococcal vaccines were offered on six consecutive Tuesdays from September to October 2022.
- Patients completed a six-item questionnaire to reflect on their experience with the MVCs.
- Education materials and clinical staff provided support to those who showed vaccine hesitancy.

References

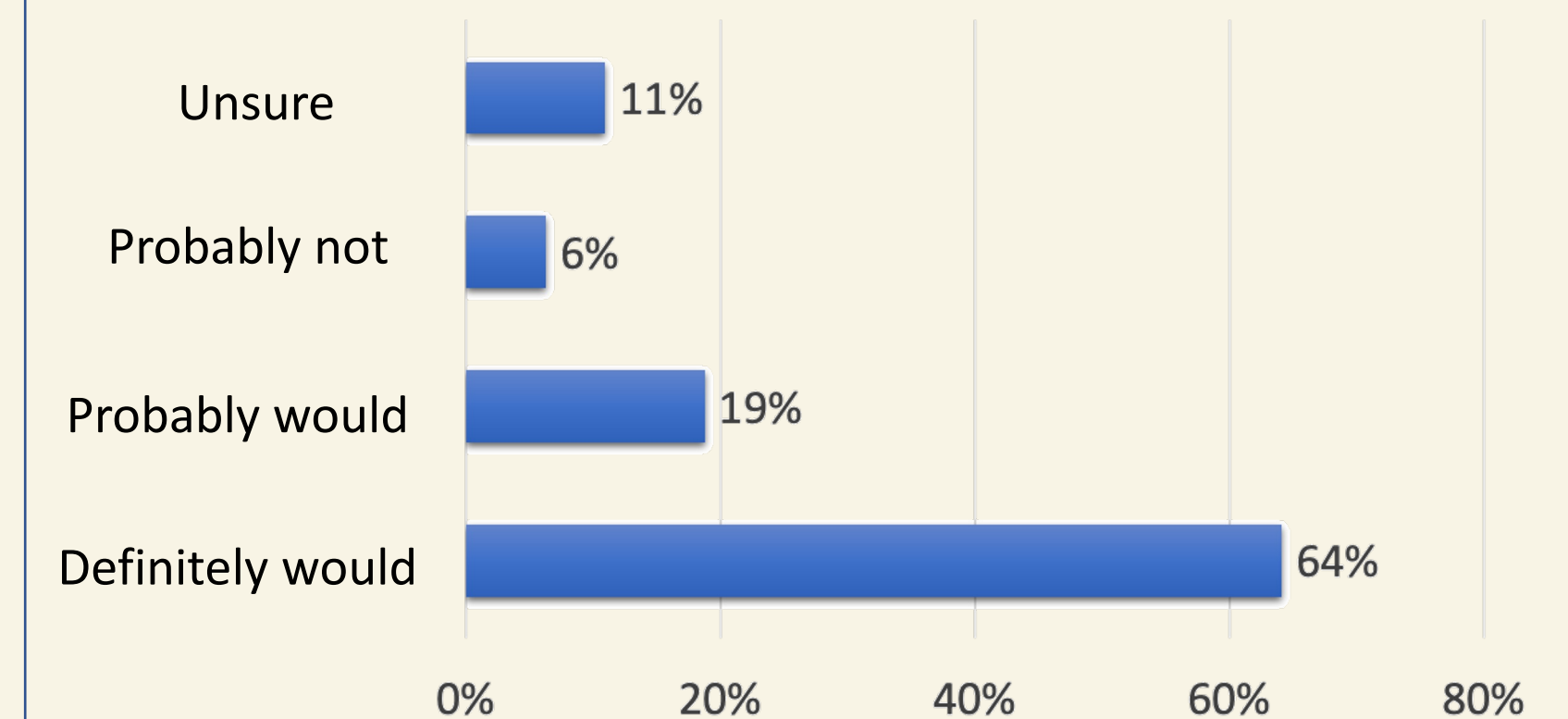
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Results

★ **137 individuals vaccinated** (35 staff and 102 patients)



- ★ **70 (51%)** participants completed the questionnaire.
- ★ **68 responses (97%)** indicated that it was either "easy" or "very easy to get vaccinated."
- ★ **11 (17%)** reported that they were either "unsure" of or "probably would not have tried to get these vaccines" elsewhere.



Discussion

- MVCs can transcend access barriers and be an effective means for patients and healthcare workers to receive vaccines.
- Wider implementation of Mobile Vaccine Clinics can improve health outcomes and reduce disparities.

