

EVALUATION ON PUBLIC VIEW ABOUT FLU JAB IN PHARMACY

MO HAY LAM 4170586 SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM



The University of Nottingham

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Introduction

Flu means influenza which appears frequently and circulates every winter and early spring, usually over a few weeks.^[1] Flu vaccination is the major approach to prevent death and illness from flu. The criteria to receive free flu jab in NHS includes people over 65 years of age, pregnant women, frontline health and social care worker and at risk patients group e.g. chronic respiratory, heart disease.^[2]

Seasonal flu vaccine uptake data of 2014/15 in elderly shows over 70% of response rate, however, people at risk and pregnant women show just half or lower which did not meet their target of 70% of NHS.^[3]

Recent NHS reforms and a broader range of services other than traditional dispensing such as flu vaccination from pharmacy can be accessed as locally commissioned service.^[4] Due to the fact that the uptake rate is unsatisfied, immunization in community pharmacies could be a potential way to increase the response rate.

Studies suggested pharmacy should support the NHS in delivering free flu vaccination to targeted patients unlikely to access the GP service. Patients prefer to access the service through community pharmacies because they have more convenient locations, opening time and preferred pharmacy environment.^[5]

Objective

The aim of this study was to investigate whether the public wants flu vaccination service to be included in community pharmacies. Their preference of vaccination location and their acceptance of flu jab in pharmacies were identified in the study.

Method

Data collection: Data was collected through questionnaires where they were administered by fourth year pharmacy students from the University of Nottingham, School of Pharmacy in 1 of the 31 pharmacies in Nottingham.

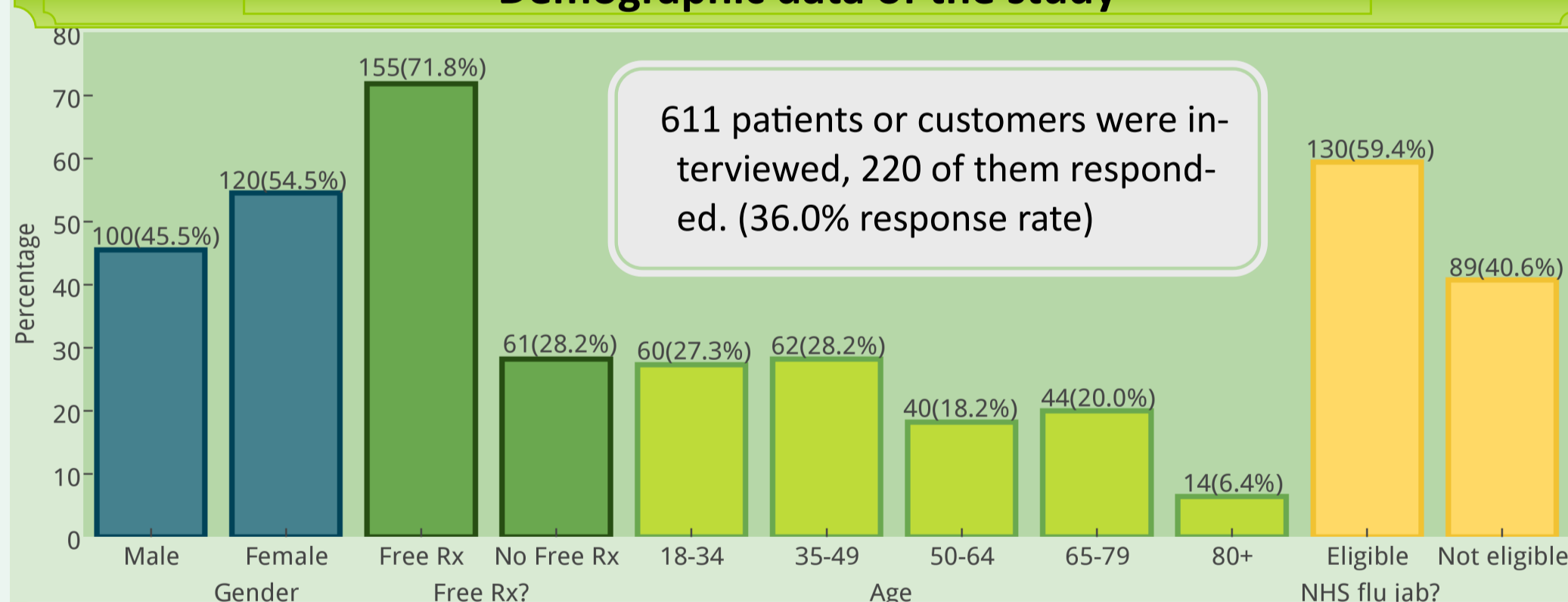
Questionnaires: The questionnaire required around 10 mins to complete. It contains four parts with total 50 questions.

Inclusion Criteria: No specific groups were targeted or excluded except those under age 18. Participants were treated anonymously.

Data analysis: The Data was input into Pharmoutcomes and statistic was analyzed through Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS)

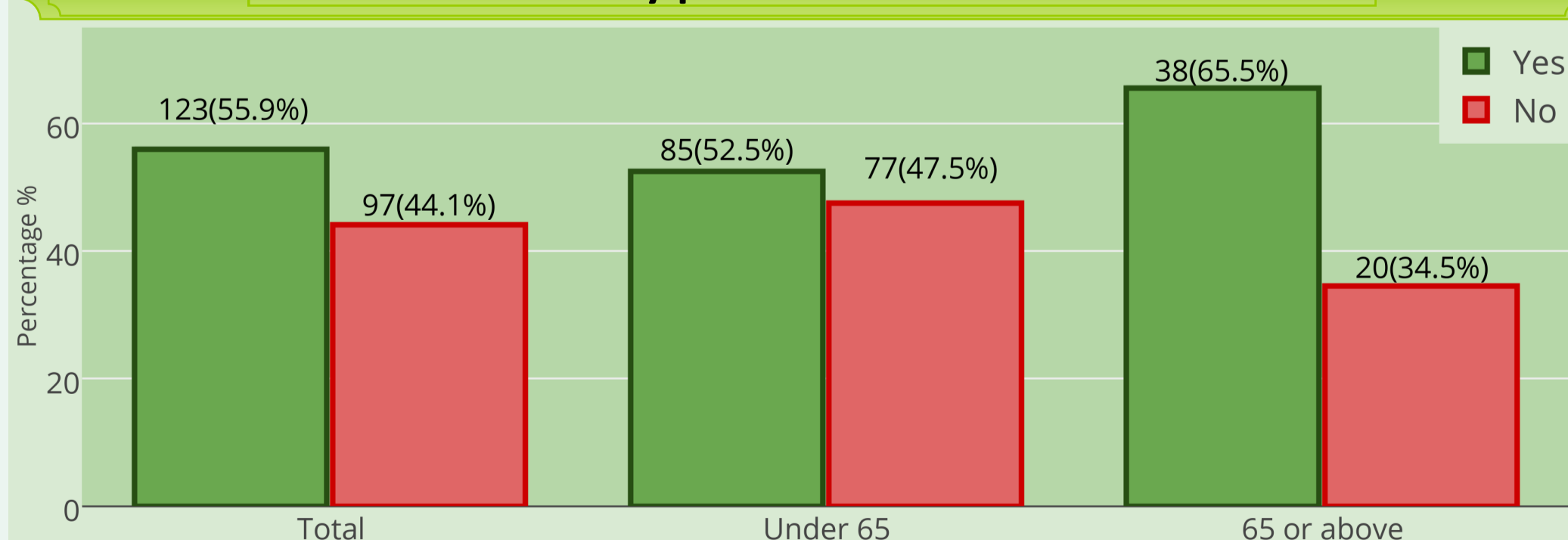
Results

[Fig.1] Demographic data of the study



Out of the 220 participants, 59.4% of those are eligible to receive free flu jab in NHS and 26.4% of those are 65 years old or above. [Fig. 1]

[Fig.2] Should Pharmacy provide flu vaccination service?

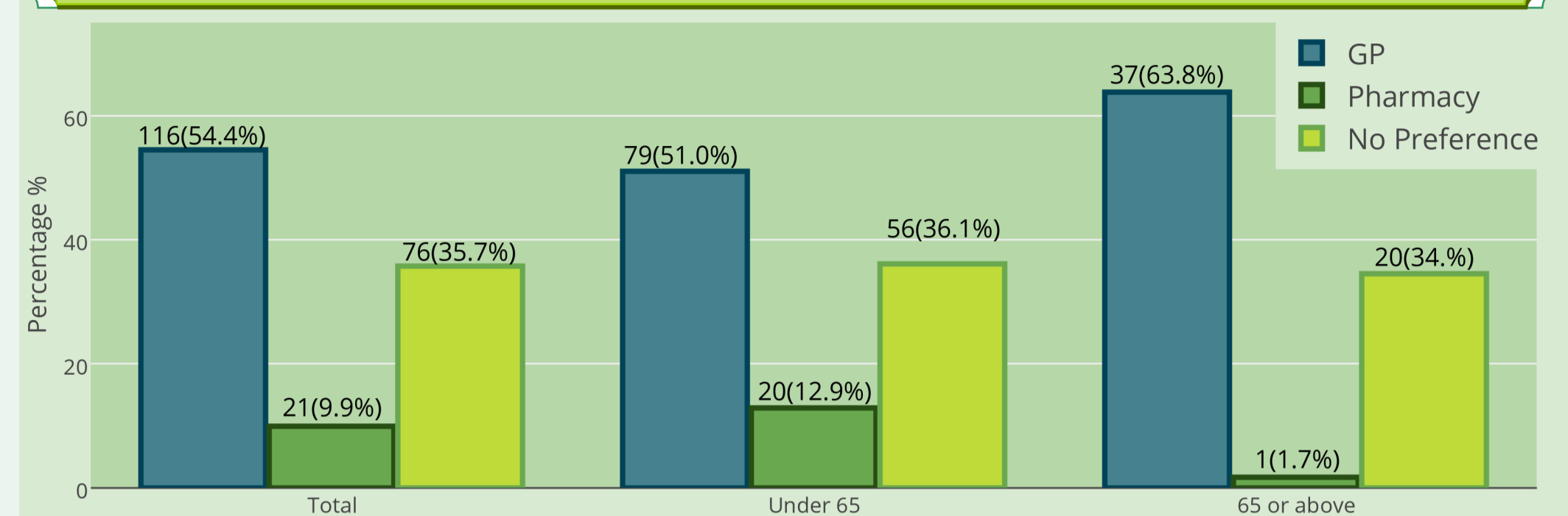


• Slightly over half (55.9%) of the responses from patients or customers thought community pharmacy should provide flu vaccination in addition to advice about medicine and health. [Fig.2]

• The fraction of people supporting flu jab in pharmacy is about 10% higher than those with opposite view.

• The results are the most significant in the group or elderly above 65 (65.5%) which has approximately 10% more than under 65. [Fig.2]

[Fig.3] What is your preferred location to receive vaccination?



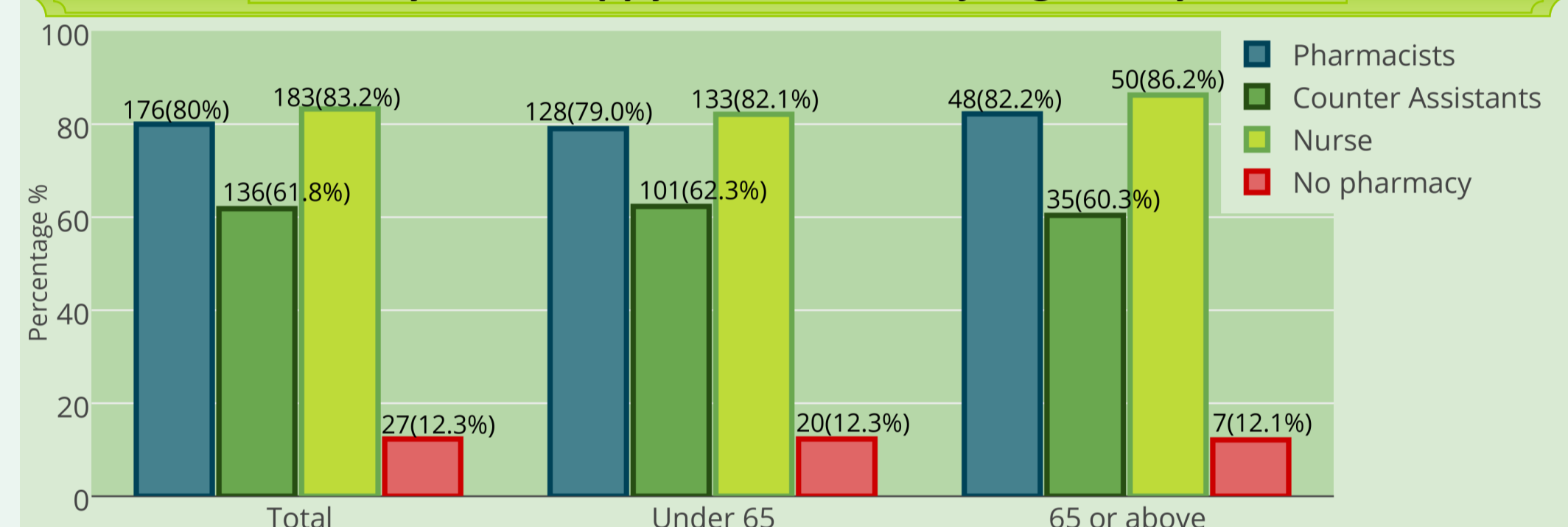
• Over half of respondents (54.4%) would prefer receiving vaccination in GP surgery which is the highest preference of all. Around one third (35.7%) of those do not have a preference in the location. Only very few (9.9%) of them would prefer pharmacy over GP. [Fig.3] Number of people prefer GP is about 5.5 times more than those prefer pharmacy.

• Results categorized into under and above age 65 show similar results for no preference in both age group. A dominant result (63.8%) of choosing GP but only 1 (1.7%) of 58 prefer pharmacy were obtained in age 65 or above group. [Fig.3] Chi square and p value generated from SPSS show their preferred locations are affected by age. There is a significant difference in both age groups preference. [Table.1]

[Table.1] Chi-Square Tests

Chi-square Value	P value
6.657	0.036 < 0.05

[Fig.4] Would you be happy to receive the job given by them?



• A majority of the respondents would be comfortable to receive a vaccination in a pharmacy. Nurse (83.2%) would be the most popular healthcare professional to provide job, pharmacist (80.0%) is just slightly lower. A lower statistic (61.8%) for counter assistants was obtained. Only one eighth (12.3%) of the participants would not be happy to have vaccination in pharmacy. Both age groups show very similar results. [Fig. 4]

• The results illustrate a good acceptance of flu jab in pharmacy, with a higher preference to be vaccination given by pharmacists or nurses.

[Table.2] What concerns or worries might you have?

top 5 concerns or worries	
1	Prefer GP
2	As long as they are trained / qualified
3	Cleanness / hygiene of environment
4	Not comfortable
5	Safety
Others	Privacy, lack of knowledge, adverse effects

• Generally patients had no concern or worries of receiving a vaccination in the pharmacy.

• The most common concern would be people prefer GP over pharmacy or anywhere else. Some of them may worried if the health care providers were trained and qualified. Cleanness and hygiene of the vaccination environment is another popular concerns people may have. [Table 2]

Conclusion

Patients and customers from community pharmacy generally have different opinions on whether pharmacy should provide flu jab service. The portion of positive and negative attitudes are very similar, positive slightly higher. It is suggested that GP is still the highest preference to receive vaccination. However, most of the patients would still be happy to have vaccination given by pharmacists and nurses in a pharmacy. Concerns or worries might be raised about the cleanness and hygiene of the vaccination environment and whether the healthcare providers were trained and qualified.

Ref

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