



COVID-19 Vaccinations for People with Disabilities in CT: Findings from Three Pilot Studies

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COVID-19 vaccine experiences with accommodations of people with disabilities in CT

People with disabilities (PWD) throughout our history have been disproportionately affected during times of crisis and emergency response (Kendall et al., 2020). PWD have lower likelihoods of receiving a COVID-19 vaccination (Ryerson et al., 2021). An exploratory pilot study was conducted to assess the experience of getting COVID-19 vaccines for adults with disabilities or adult health proxies in CT.

Methods

Adults with disabilities and caregivers were invited by email to participate in a brief, web-based survey in spring 2022.

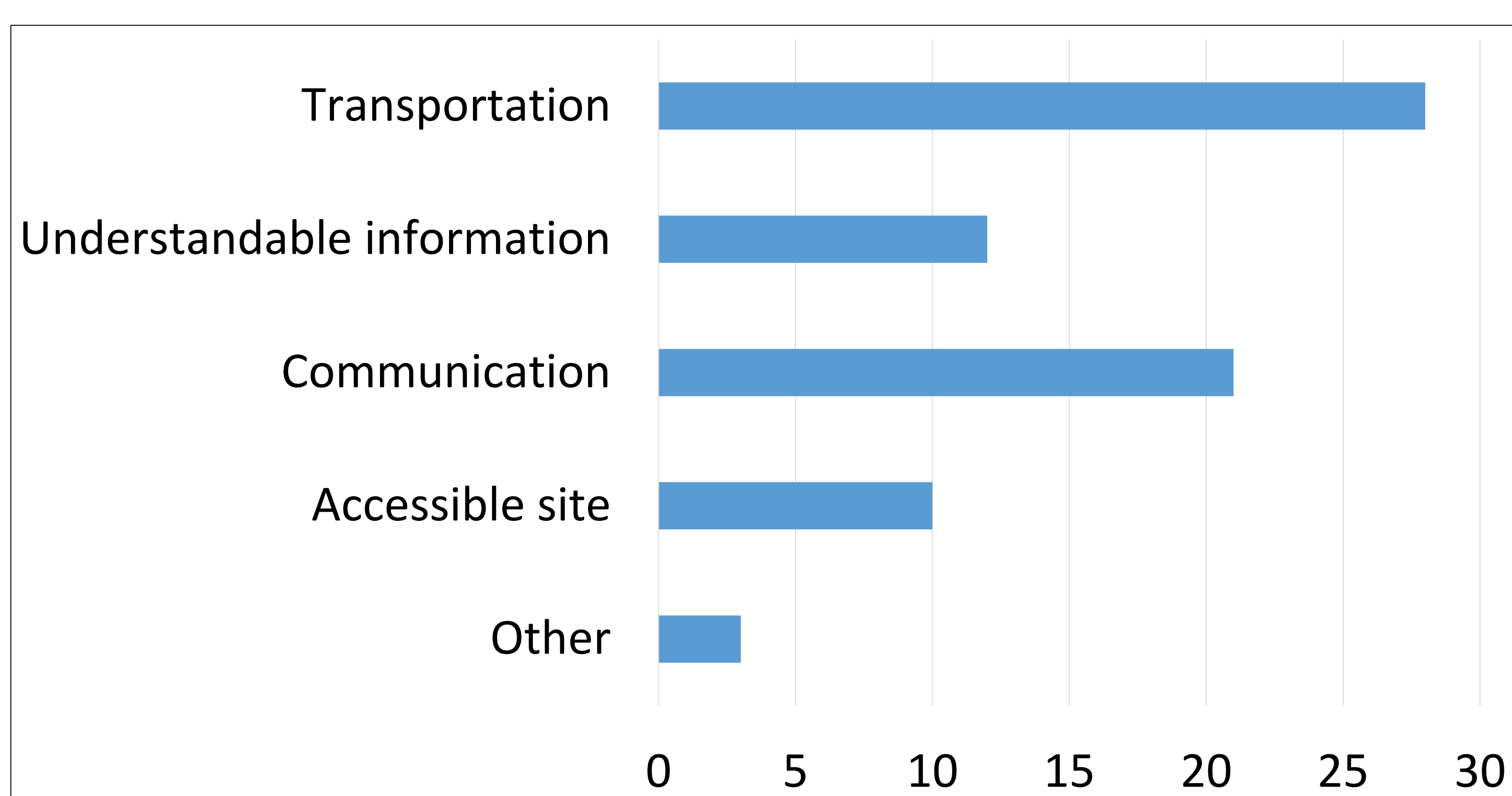
- 50 responses: PWD (n=17), caregivers (n=33)

Results

- 98% received the COVID-19 vaccine
- Most frequently reported site of last vaccine: pharmacy (51%), hospital (14%), doctor's office (10%)
- 59.2% needed accommodations

Table 1.

Frequency of type of accommodation (n=29)



A training needs assessment of Local Health Directors on administering COVID-19 vaccines/boosters to PWD

Methods

Local Health Department/District Directors (n=63) were invited by email to participate in a brief, web-based survey in spring 2023. The survey included a section on COVID-19 vaccinations and participation in home-based vaccinations.

- 24 responses: Department (n=16), District (n=8)

Results

COVID-19 vaccinations in the community

- 17% reported challenges administering COVID-19 vaccines/boosters to children, youth, and adults with disabilities
- 79% comfortable administering to PWD in the community
- 21% want training to administer vaccines to PWD in the community

COVID-19 vaccinations in the home

- 75% of Directors were also designated local Point of Contact for state COVID-19 Homebound Vaccination program (serving 61 municipalities)
- 89% LHDs directly administered vaccines/boosters
- 69% comfortable administering vaccines to PWD in the home
- 38% need training to administer vaccines to PWD in the home

A training needs assessment of local Points of Contact for CT Homebound Vaccination Program on administering COVID-19 vaccines/boosters to PWD

Methods

Local Points of Contact for CT Homebound Vaccination program were invited by email to participate in a brief, web-based survey in spring 2023. The survey was identical to the COVID-19 section for LHD Directors.

- 15 responses serving 37 municipalities

Results

- 54% agencies directly administer vaccines to those who were homebound (30 municipalities)
- 43% need training for staff to administer vaccines to PWD in the home*
*100% are interested in training and resources

Discussion and Future Directions

Findings from these three pilot studies indicate an interest and need for training for personnel who administer vaccinations to PWD. Future work should address how to effectively and safely vaccinate PWD, and how to identify and address accommodation needs in the planning and implementation of vaccine clinics.

References

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Ryerson, A. B., Rice, C., Hung, M., Patel, S. A., Weeks, J. B., Kriss, J. L., Peacock, G., Lu, P., Asif, A. F., Jackson, H. A., & Singleton, J. A. (2021). Disparities in COVID-19 vaccination status, intent, and perceived access for noninstitutionalized adults, by disability status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 70*(39), 1365–1371. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7039a2>

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