

# Vaccine Confidence and Intention to Vaccinate Children against COVID-19 among Parents in Mysore, India

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## Background

- Government of India rolled out its COVID-19 vaccination program for adults in January 2021, fully vaccinating ≈70% of eligible adults in the two years<sup>1</sup>
- A study from India in 2021 found 63.1% of parents willing to vaccinate their children<sup>2</sup> before the COVID-19 vaccine was available for their age group (12-18 years)

## Objectives

- Examine parents' or caregivers' intentions-to-vaccinate their children against COVID-19 and factors influencing their decision in Mysore District, India

## Methods

- From November '21 to May '22, 506 parents/guardians of children below 18 years of age, living in Mysore district, India were consented and interviewed by phone or face-to-face about:
  - Their COVID-19 vaccination status, vaccine confidence, intention-to-vaccinate their child against COVID-19, and who would influence this decision
  - Multivariable logistic regression analysis examined association of influencing factors and intention-to-vaccinate and was presented as odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (95%CI)

## Methods (Contd.)

- For vaccine confidence, response to four statements<sup>3</sup> was measured, and not agreeing with even one meant having low confidence:

"Vaccines are important for children to have"

"Overall, I think vaccines are safe"

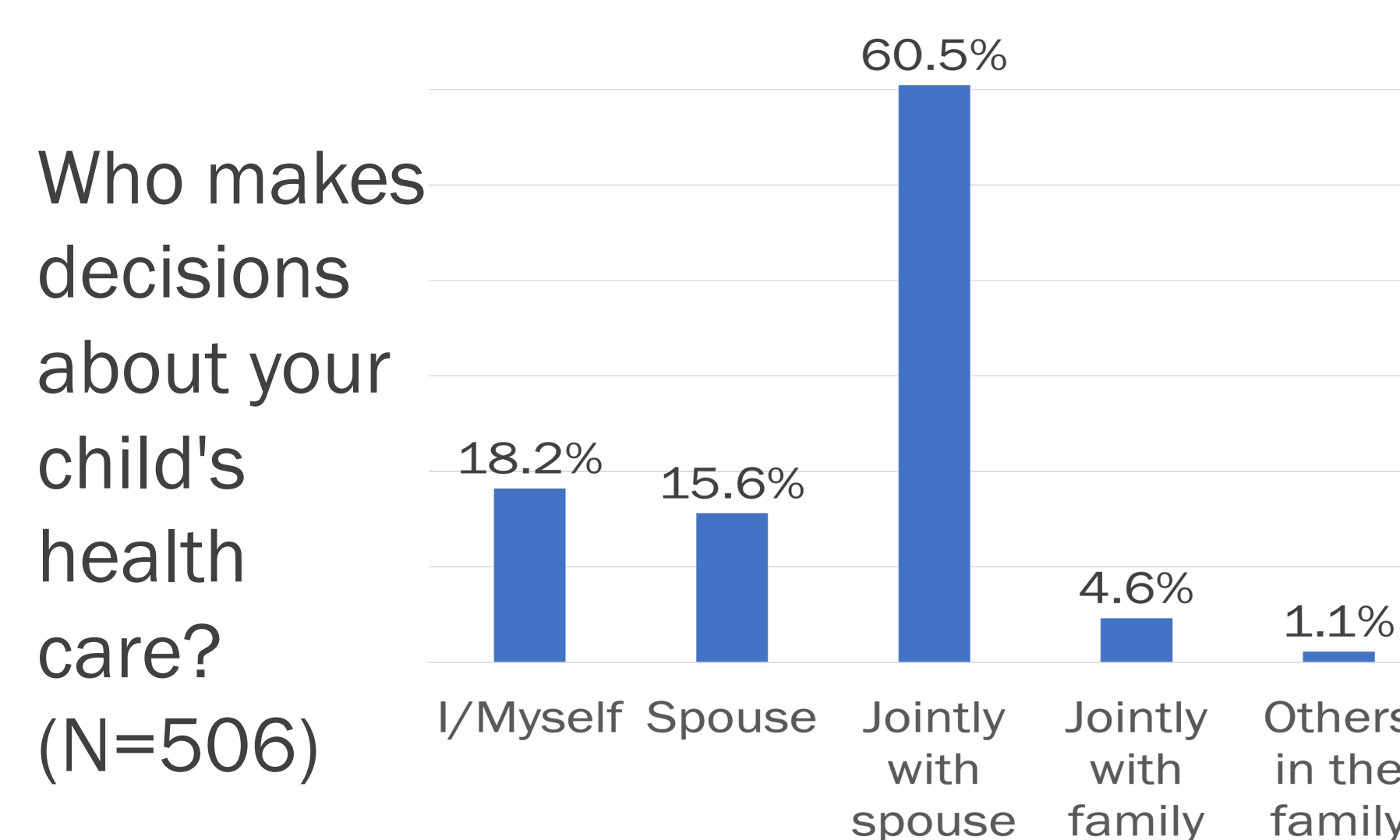
"Overall, I think vaccines are effective"

"Vaccines are compatible with my religious beliefs"

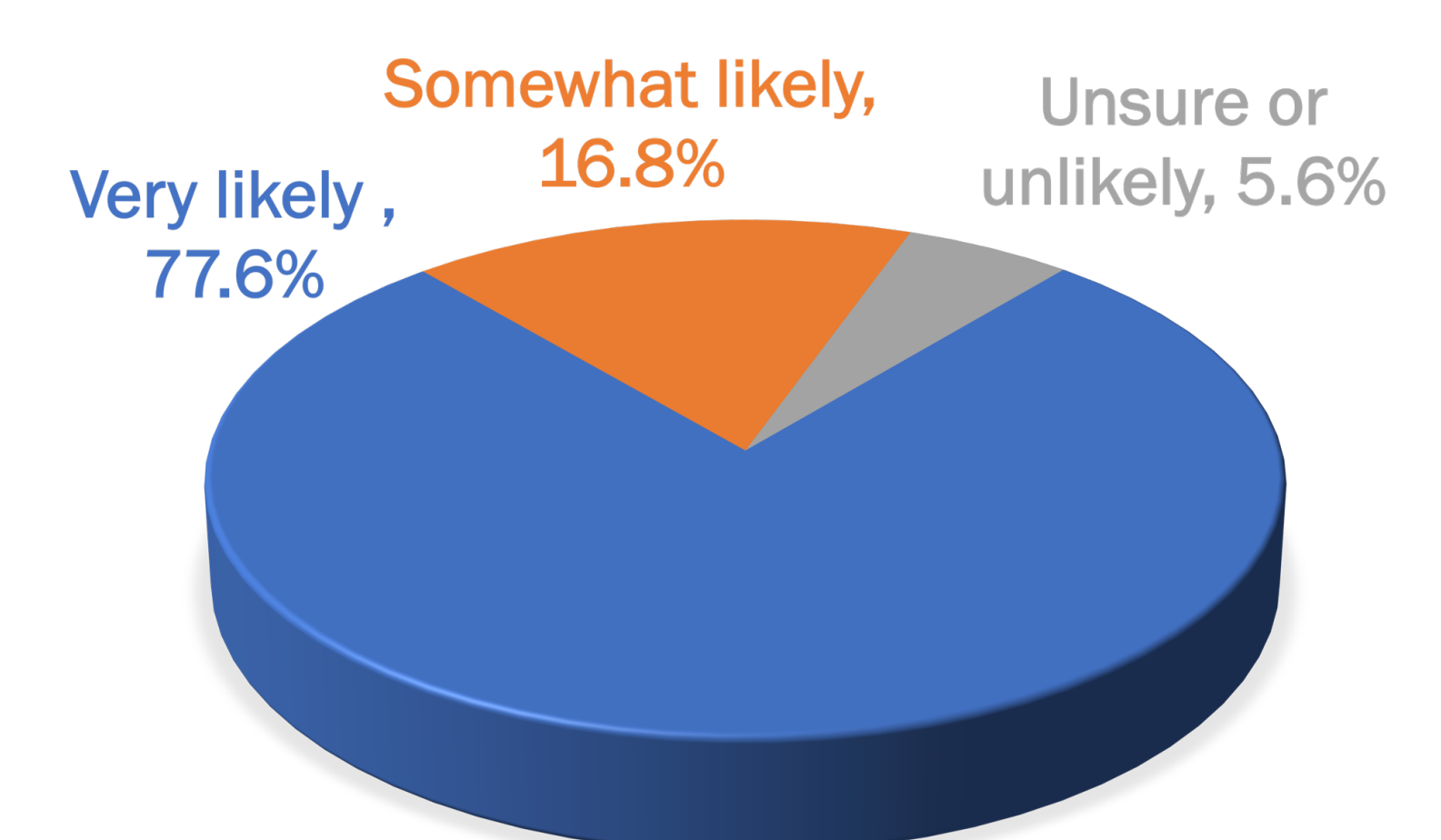
Strongly agree ↔ Strongly disagree

## Results

- 90.9% parents fully trusted COVID-19 vaccines for their children; 91.3% were themselves fully vaccinated; 91.5% were confident about the COVID-19 vaccine
- Vaccine hesitant and vaccine confident groups were not significantly different in socio-demographics



Intention-to-vaccinate their children against COVID-19



- Doctors (71.2%), community health workers and teachers were most influential in vaccination decision-making
- Older parents and urban residents had higher odds of intention-to-vaccinate their child (OR: 1.04, 95% CI: 1.01-1.08 and OR: 0.53, 95% CI: 0.35-0.82)

Socio-demographics	N(%)
<b>Relationship with child:</b>	
Parent	497 (98.3)
Guardian	9 (1.7)
<b>Education level:</b>	
High school or higher	458 (90.5)
Less than high school	48 (9.5)
<b>Religion:</b>	
Hindu	490 (96.8)
Muslim/ Christian/ Jain	16 (3.2)
<b>Employment status:</b>	
Homemaker	353 (69.8)
Employed	149 (29.4)
Student/Retired/Unemployed	4 (0.8)

## Conclusions

- Most parents expressed vaccine confidence and intention-to-vaccinate their child against COVID-19
- Doctors, community health workers and teachers were cited as trusted influencers
- Exploring decision-making processes among parents is key in implementing vaccination programs

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## References

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