



Attitudes and Experiences of Frontline Nursing Home Staff Towards Coronavirus Testing



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Background

- Older adults (65+) are at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and have higher incidences of adverse events.
- Nursing home residents are particularly vulnerable due to congregate living and the need for personal care.
- CMS has issued many guidelines on best nursing home practice and care since March of 2020.
- In June of 2020, the ISDH conducted statewide nursing home testing for all residents and staff.

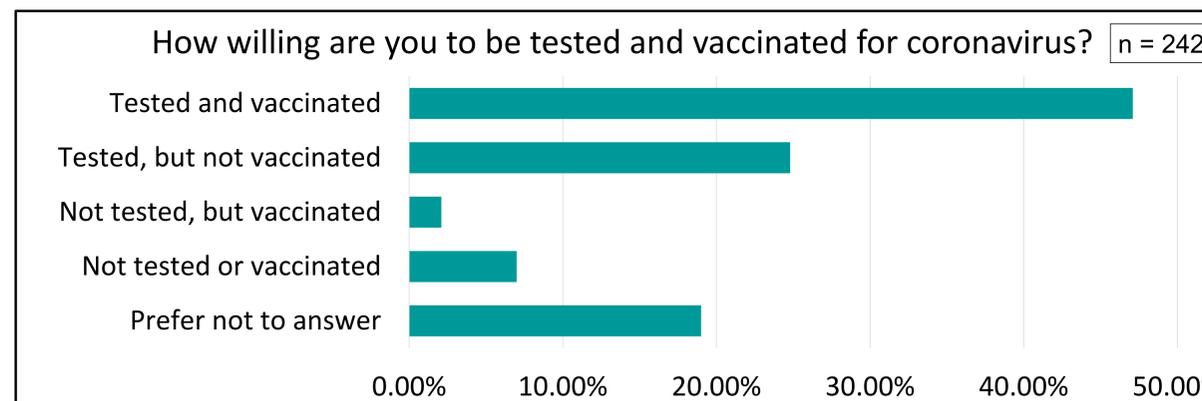
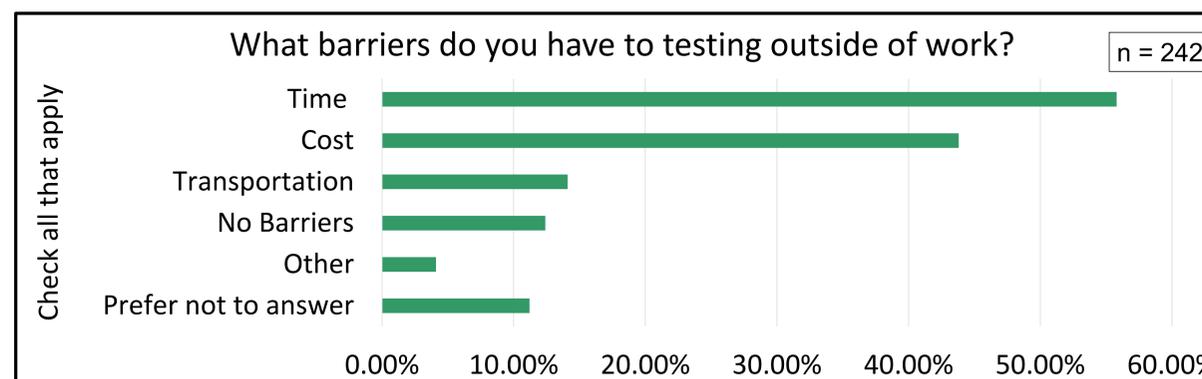
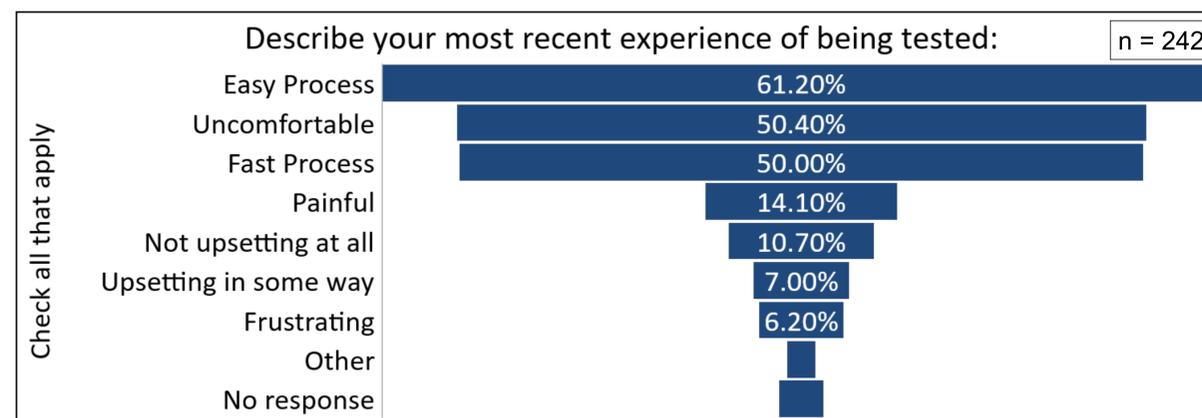
Objectives

To assess the attitudes and beliefs of nursing home staff, regarding their experience with COVID-19 testing, working in a pandemic, and uptake of a future vaccine.

Methods

- A geographically diverse random sample of 4,296 nursing home staff members were invited to complete a 19-item online questionnaire.
- Data was collected from 07/21/20 – 07/29/20.

Results



Discussion

- Over half of staff described testing process as easy and fast, yet it was uncomfortable for many. Compliance rates may increase as less invasive testing approaches increase.
- Staff face testing barriers such as time and cost, underscoring the importance of providing workplace testing.
- Clinical staff are less willing to be vaccinated than administrators, which may create a division.
- Resources and a clear strategy will be needed to promote uptake among NH staff once a vaccination is available.

Conclusion

As officials and leaders around the country grapple with what is best practice for ongoing testing during a pandemic, the attitudes and beliefs of staff are key to understanding strategies required for successful implementation of ongoing testing programs.

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