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COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Survey Report 2021

Grenada



Background

Limited take up of COVID-19 vaccines has been an ongoing issue hampering the response to the pandemic across the Eastern Caribbean subregion as elsewhere. Vaccination has emerged as the best possible tool to stem the tide of a pandemic which is having a profoundly negative impact on children and their families.

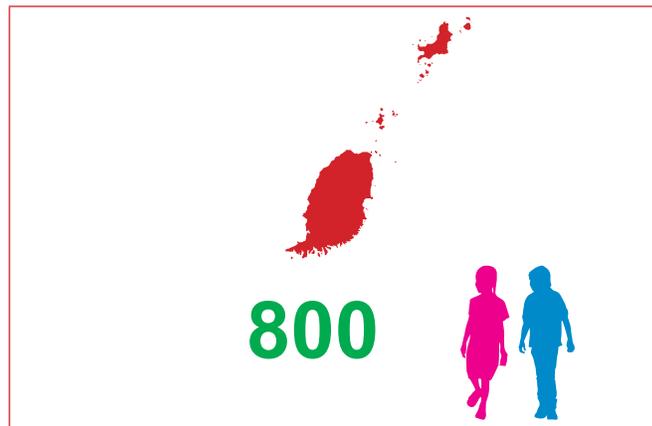
UNICEF and USAID commissioned Caribbean Development Research Services Inc (CADRES) to conduct a survey on vaccine hesitancy across six countries: Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

The study was carried out in October and November 2021 and explores the extent of, and reasons for, COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and if anything can be done to change the minds of those reluctant to take the vaccines.

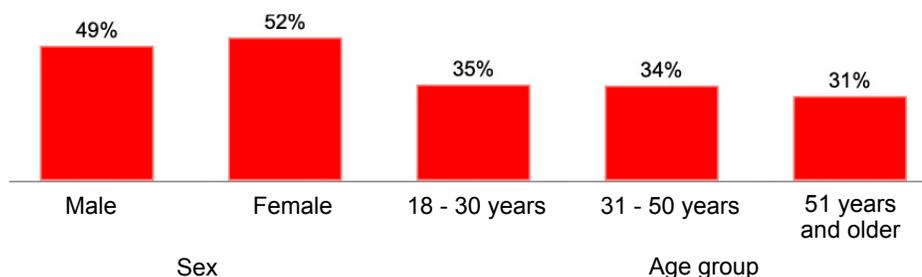
These are the findings for Grenada.

Demographics

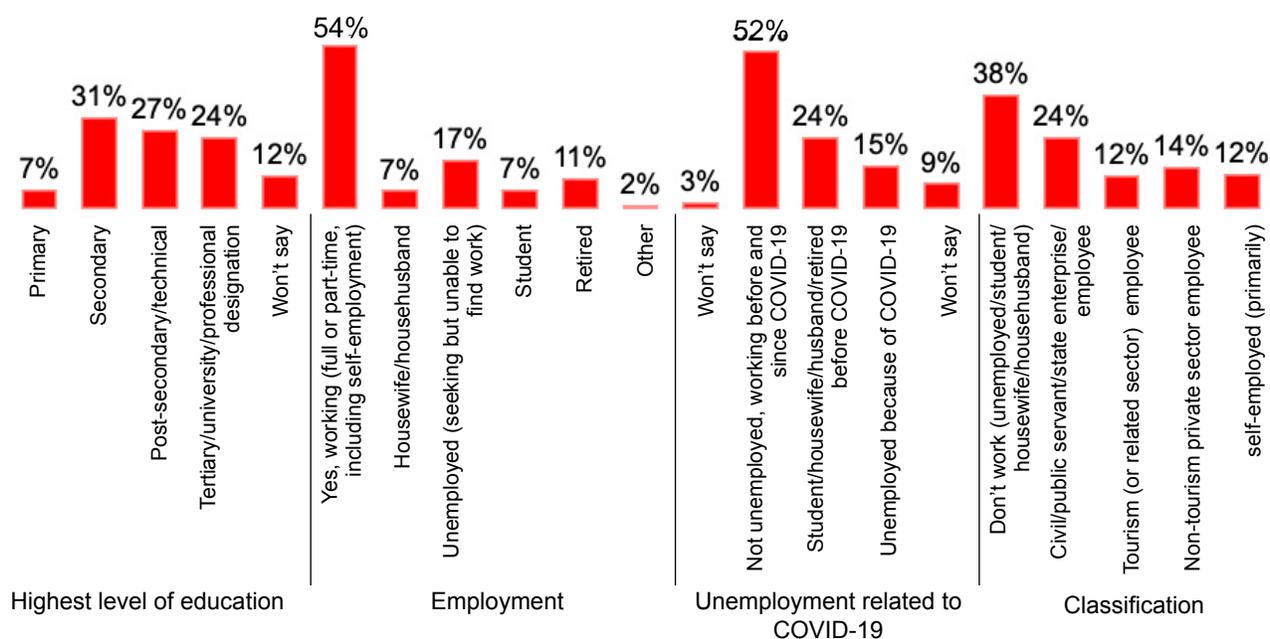
The Grenada survey was conducted face-to-face with 800 participants, evenly spread across males and females and three age ranges. 54% said they were parents. The majority were employed, had a secondary-level education and 15% reported being unemployed because of COVID-19. This was the highest COVID-related unemployment level among the six countries.



Sex and age profile



Education and employment profiles



General findings

1. **60% of respondents in Grenada said they had been vaccinated.**

Of the six countries surveyed, Grenada was the second least vaccine hesitant (after Barbados and tied with Trinidad and Tobago), according to the Vaccine Hesitancy Index tool used in this study. The country scored 4.4 on this index where 1 is a perfect score, 3 is the objective score and 10 an imperfect one.

General views and opinions on the vaccination of children

2. Respondents were asked if they would agree to have their children vaccinated against COVID-19. Only one in five said yes at primary level and less than half agreed for secondary students.



Would you agree to have children vaccinated against COVID-19?							
Pre-primary		Primary school		Secondary school		Post-secondary/tertiary level	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
15%	73%	21%	66%	43%	43%	57%	25%

3. The justification respondents (vaccinated and unvaccinated) gave for hesitating to vaccinate their children related to their age (25% said their children were too young, the highest of all the countries), followed by 14% saying ‘I choose not to’.

Main reasons for vaccine hesitancy relating to children		
Too young	25%	
Against my religion	2%	
Don't like the options available	4%	
My children have a medical condition that bars them	3%	
Don't trust the government/medical authorities	6%	
My research tells me it is not a good idea	5%	
It is a choice and I choose not to	14%	
I just won't let them take it	3%	



4. For those who were persuaded to allow their children to take vaccines, they said this was because they did more research or spoke to their doctor.

Views and opinions of VACCINATED persons

Vaccine uptake

5. As noted, 60% of respondents in Grenada report having been vaccinated, with **Oxford/AstraZeneca** the most used at 57%. The next most popular was BioNTech/ Pfizer.

57% of people took what was available while 43% chose their preferred vaccine, which matched the average across all the countries.

Initial vaccine hesitancy

6. The reasons for early hesitancy were a lack of trust in the vaccines on account of the speed of their development and uncertainty over long-term side effects.

Reasons for initial hesitancy		
Didn't qualify before	1%	
Didn't like vaccine options available	4%	
Religious grounds	1%	
Medical condition	4%	
Didn't trust government	7%	
Didn't trust medical authorities	5%	
Didn't trust the vaccines (unsafe/developed too quickly/unsure what's in it)	22%	
Unsure about long-term side effects	23%	

7. The major factors that convinced respondents to get the vaccine were speaking to their doctor (14%) or feeling that they were forced to do so (13% -- more than twice the all-country average).

Factor that changed respondents' mind		
Offered the vaccine with which I was more comfortable	5%	
Spoke to my doctor	14%	
Did more research	9%	
Consulted family and friends	5%	
My spiritual/religious leader advised me	1%	
Persuaded by government/public health authorities	6%	
Noticed that a personality (public or otherwise) took it	1%	
Was forced by my employer/family members/didn't have a choice	13%	
Felt more comfortable because several people took it	6%	
Frightened by the increased infections/deaths	7%	
My circumstances changed (such as being pregnant or other medical or personal factor)	1%	

Information and communication for vaccinated persons

8. The **primary** sources of information on the COVID-19 vaccine situation for respondents were government/official sources and social media.

Primary source of information on COVID-19 situation		
Government/official sources	38%	
Private/personal medical sources	11%	
Social media	23%	
Personal internet research	10%	
Local radio/television/newspapers	16%	
Information from family and friends	2%	

9. The **preferred** medium of communication was television, followed by Facebook, followed by WhatsApp.

Best way to communicate/preferred source of information		
Via newspapers (paper/electronic)	4%	
Via radio	10%	
Via television (local or cable)	36%	
Via Facebook	18%	
Via Instagram	6%	
Via WhatsApp	13%	
Via Twitter	0%	
Via TikTok	0%	
Via YouTube	1%	
Social networks (family and friends)	11%	



10. In terms of whether the use of local and international personalities has any effect, 70% said it was either very or somewhat useful. This was among the highest across the six countries.

Information conveyed by local and international personalities helpful			
Yes, very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful/ distracting/misleading	Unsure/ won't say
31%	39%	21%	9%

Vaccine mandates

11. Most vaccinated respondents believe in a vaccine mandate for a wide range of people, except for primary school students.

Support imposition of COVID-19 vaccine mandates		
Arriving visitors	84%	
Frontline medical/elder care workers	81%	
Public servants	66%	
Workers in the hotel/tourism sector	80%	
Taxi/minibus drivers and conductors	72%	
Secondary/tertiary students	54%	
Primary school students	29%	

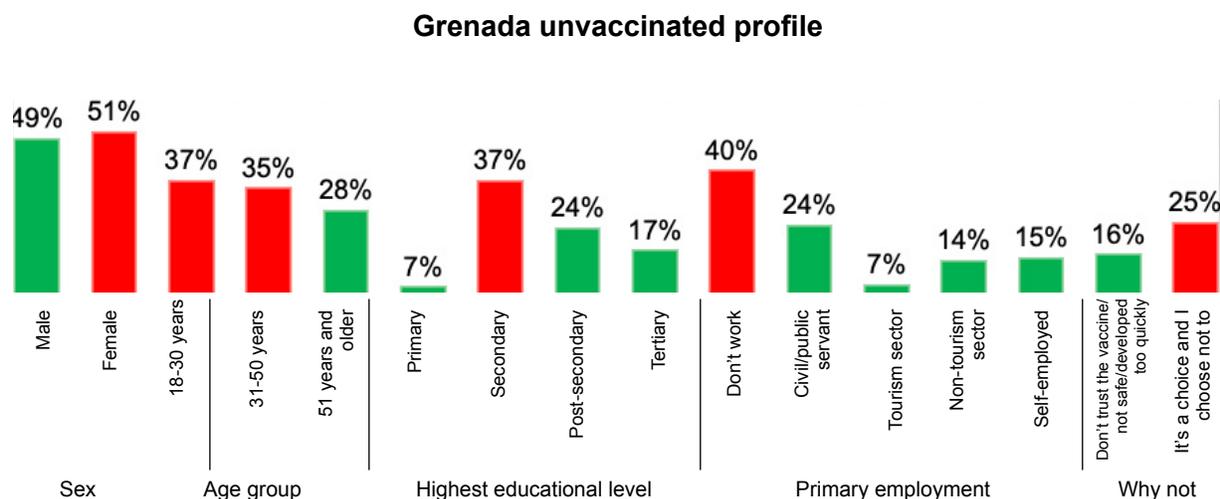
Views and opinions of UNVACCINATED persons

12. For a quarter of unvaccinated respondents, the chief reason for avoidance was the contention that they choose not to. This is the highest percentage across all countries, where the average is 21%.

Main reason for being unvaccinated		
Didn't qualify to receive it	1%	
Can't find the time to go/lines are too long	3%	
Don't like any of the vaccine options available	6%	
Won't take it on religious grounds	5%	
Have a medical condition that bars me	11%	
Don't trust the government/medical authorities here	8%	
Don't trust the vaccine (not safe, developed too quickly, do not know what is in it)	16%	
It's a choice and I choose not to	25%	
No reason, just won't take it	7%	
Unsure about long-term side effects	12%	
Not mandatory for work	6%	

Profile

13. In **Grenada** the unvaccinated person is more likely to be female and under 50, with a secondary education and not working in the formal sector.



14. When asked if their views on taking a vaccine changed over time, 61% of the unvaccinated said no, though 28% said they were now more inclined to get vaccinated. (11% said they were less inclined to do so).

Information and communication for the unvaccinated

15. The preferred mode of communication for unvaccinated persons was television, followed by WhatsApp.

Preferred mode of communication/receipt of information		
Via newspapers (paper/electronic)	3%	
Via radio	10%	
Via television (local or cable)	33%	
Via Facebook	16%	
Via Instagram	5%	
Via WhatsApp	17%	
Via Twitter	0%	
Via TikTok	0%	
Via YouTube	2%	
Social networks (family and friends)	14%	

16. The sources that respondents relied on to inform their decision to remain unvaccinated were personal internet research, and by social media.

Source most helpful in deciding NOT to take vaccine		
Government/official sources	18%	
Frontline medical/elder care workers	12%	
Social media	26%	
Personal internet research	22%	
Local radio/television/newspapers	13%	
Information from family and friends	9%	
Advice of a religious leader I look up to	10%	

17. Was there any information that would make reluctant Grenadians take the vaccine? Most respondents said more information on side effects, efficacy and numbers of people who got sick/died might sway them.

Information that could help convince you to take a COVID-19 vaccine		
Side effects	60%	
Efficacy	61%	
Numbers of people who got sick/died and their vaccination status	55%	
Different types of vaccines available	54%	
Location of vaccination sites	36%	
Position of your church or religious leaders	23%	
Impact of the vaccine on your sexual health	44%	
Impact of the vaccine on your ability to have children	46%	

18. When asked if there were any other reasons that could cause a change of mind, apart from more medical information, respondents suggested they might get vaccinated if required for overseas travel or to get/keep a job.

Factors that could possibly change your mind regarding COVID-19 vaccine		
Necessary to secure/maintain job	43%	
Allow free access to social activities	27%	
More scientific or medical information	66%	
Saw people they care about getting sick/dying	42%	
Saw influential people switch their position	19%	
Required to travel overseas	53%	

19. Despite their unwillingness to follow their advice, unvaccinated respondents found information conveyed by popular personalities helpful.

Information conveyed by popular personalities helpful			
Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not helpful/ distracting/ misleading	Unsure/ won't say
18%	39%	26%	16%

Vaccine mandates

20. In relation to vaccine mandates, unvaccinated respondents were much less likely than their vaccinated counterparts to support them.

Would support vaccine mandates in respect of...		
Arriving visitors	54%	
Frontline medical/elder care workers	47%	
Public servants	30%	
Workers in the hotel/tourism sector	44%	
Taxi/minibus drivers and conductors	34%	
Secondary/tertiary students	22%	
Primary school students	7%	

Recommendations

Communication strategies need to speak to key concerns, target the demographic profile of the unvaccinated and hone the use of non-governmental personalities and influencers.

Supplemental strategies should consider the risk to vulnerable groups and, in respect of younger and unemployed persons, consider promoting infotainment products that might reach this audience.

Vaccination tracking is necessary to determine if strategies are working and it is therefore suggested that this exercise be repeated in another year if the issue continues to be relevant.