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Intention of health care workers to accept COVID-19 vaccination and related factors: a systematic review and meta-analysis — Source link 🗹

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Abstract

Considering medical and economic burden of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a high COVID-19 vaccination coverage among health care workers (HCWs) is an urgent need. The aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis was to estimate the intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination and to find out related factors. We searched PubMed, Medline, Scopus, Web of Science, ProQuest, CINAHL and medRxiv until July 14, 2021. The heterogeneity between results was very high and thus we applied a random effect model to estimate pooled effects. We performed subgroup and meta-regression analysis to identify possible resources of heterogeneity. Twenty four studies, including 39,617 HCWs met the inclusion criteria. The overall proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was 63.5% (95% confidence interval: 56.5-70.2%) with a wide range among studies from 27.7% to 90.1%. The following factors were associated with increased HCWs' willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19: male gender, older age, white HCWs, physician profession, higher education level, comorbidity among HCWs, seasonal influenza vaccination, stronger vaccine confidence, positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine, fear about COVID-19, individual perceived risk about COVID-19, and contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients. The reluctance of HCWs to vaccinate against COVID-19 could diminish the trust of individuals and trigger a ripple effect in the general public. Since vaccination is a complex behavior, understanding the way that HCWs take the decision to accept or not COVID-19 vaccination will give us the opportunity to develop the appropriate interventions to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake.

Keywords: COVID-19; Vaccination; Health Care Workers; Intention; SARS-Cov-2

Key Messages

- The overall proportion of health care workers that intent to accept COVID-19 vaccination was moderate.
- Several factors affect health care workers' willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among health care workers should be eliminated to inspire the general public towards a positive attitude regarding a novel COVID-19 vaccine.

1. Introduction

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic causes a substantial number of deaths and has a tremendous impact on the world economy [1, 2]. Globally, as of 15 July 2021, there have been more than 187 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 4 million deaths [3].

Seasonal influenza vaccination among health care workers (HCWs) is an effective infection control measure in health care settings [4, 5]. Also, the importance of HCWs vaccination against H1N1 during the 2009/2010 influenza pandemic has already been reported [6, 7]. Seasonal influenza immunization is a priority in countries with a high proportion of elderly [8–10]. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have identified HCWs as a population with significantly elevated risk of being infected from the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Thus, there is a recommendation for the rapid and prioritized vaccination of HCWs against COVID-19 to protect them and the public health [11–13].

HCWs' vaccination against infectious diseases is of utmost importance to prevent the spread of viruses, especially in health care facilities with patients. A great number of studies have already addressed the factors that influence vaccines' acceptance by HCWs [14–19]. Several factors are identified in systematic reviews and meta-analyses such as desire for self-protection, desire to prevent illness in family or friends, perceived severity and risk of the disease, perceived safety and effectiveness of vaccination, more favorable attitudes toward vaccination, etc.

COVID-19 vaccination acceptance among HCWs is essential to decrease the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 and to protect public health. Moreover, HCWs could inform and

educate people about COVID-19 vaccines building confidence in vaccines and promoting acceptance. To date, no systematic review and meta-analysis has investigated the willingness of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination. Thus, we performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to estimate the intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination and to find out related factors.

2. Materials and methods

2.1.Data sources and strategy

We followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines for this systematic review and meta-analysis [20]. We searched PubMed, Medline, Scopus, Web of Science, ProQuest, CINAHL and preprint services (medRxiv) for articles published from January 1, 2020 to July 14, 2021. Through the databases, in the query box we used the following strategy in all fields: ((("health care worker*" OR "healthcare worker*" OR "healthcare personnel" OR "health care personnel" OR "health personnel" OR "health care professional*" OR "healthcare professional*" OR HCWS OR HCW OR HCPS OR HCP OR staff OR "nursing staff" OR employee* OR professional* OR personnel OR worker* OR doctor* OR physician* OR clinician* OR nurs* OR midwives OR midwife* OR paramedic* OR hospital* OR practitioner*) AND (vaccin*)) AND (intent* OR willing* OR hesitancy)) AND (COVID-19 OR COVID19 OR COVID OR SARS-CoV* OR "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus*" OR coronavirus*). Also, we examined reference lists of all relevant articles that we found during the search process. Finally, we removed duplicates.

2.2.Selection and eligibility criteria

Study selection was performed by two independent reviewers, while a third, senior reviewer resolved the discrepancies. Firstly, we screened title, then abstract of the records and finally the full-text. We applied the following inclusion criteria: studies examining HCWs' intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination and related factors; studies that were written in English; studies included all types of HCWs working in clinical settings. On the other hand, we excluded qualitative studies, reviews, case reports, protocols, editorials, and letters to the Editor. Also, we excluded studies including students of health sciences, retired HCWs, patients, and general population.

2.3.Data extraction and quality assessment

We extracted the following data from each study: authors, location, sample size, age, gender, study design, sampling method, assessment of intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination, response rate, data collection time, type of publication (journal or preprint service), number of HCWs with intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination, type of occupation (physicians, nurses, assistant nurses, paramedical staff, etc.), factors related with intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination, and the level of analysis (univariate or multivariable). Assessment of intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination was referred to vaccine acceptance (e.g., binary yes/no answer, five or eleven point Likert-type scale). Perceived risk of COVID-19 is a combination of subjective perception of disease severity and susceptibility [21]. Fear of COVID-19 among HCWs mainly includes fear of getting sick with the disease and fear of infecting patients, family members, and friends [22]. Attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccination are defined as expressions of hesitancy or support measuring usually in Likert scales [23]. Two independent reviewers used the Joanna Briggs Institute critical appraisal tools to assess quality of studies (poor, moderate or good quality). An 8-point scale is used for cross-sectional studies with a score of ≤ 3 indicates poor quality, a score of 4-6 points indicates moderate quality, and a score of 7-8 points indicates good quality [24]. The Joanna Briggs Institute critical appraisal tool for cross-sectional studies includes eight different assessment domains e.g., inclusion criteria for the sample, detailed description of the settings, exposure and outcome measurement, identification of confounding factors and strategies to eliminate them, and statistical analysis.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

For each study we divided the number of HCWs with intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination with the sample size to calculate the proportion of HCWs with intention to accept vaccination and the relative 95% confidence interval (CI). Then, we transformed the proportions with the Freeman-Tukey Double Arcsine method before pooling [25]. Studies that used Likert scales to assess the intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination considered the answers "agree"/"strongly agree" as a positive answer. We used the I^2 and Hedges Q statistics to assess between-studies heterogeneity. I^2 values higher than 75% indicate high heterogeneity and a p-value<0.1 for the Hedges Q statistic indicates statistically significant heterogeneity [26]. The heterogeneity between results was very high and thus we applied a random effect model to estimate pooled effects [26]. We considered sample size, age, gender, response rate, data collection time, publication type (journal or pre-print service), type of occupation, studies quality, and the continent that studies were conducted as pre-specified sources of heterogeneity. Due to the limited variability of data in some variables, we decided to perform subgroup analysis for publication type, studies quality, and the continent that studies were conducted and meta-regression analysis for sample size, gender

distribution, and data collection time as the independent variables. We conducted a leave-one-out sensitivity analysis to determine the influence of each study on the overall effect. This type of analysis performs sequent meta-analyses by leaving out exactly one study at each meta-analysis. In that case, we can investigate the way that each study affects the overall effect size estimate identifying influential studies. The Egger's test was used to assess the publication bias with a P-value<0.05 indicating publication bias [27]. We did not perform meta-analysis for the factors related with intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination since the data were highly heterogeneous and limited. We used OpenMeta[Analyst] for the meta-analysis [28].

3. Results

3.1.Identification and selection of studies

Flowchart of the literature search according to PRISMA guidelines is presented in Figure 1. Initially, we identified 3022 potential records through electronic databases and 730 duplicates were removed. After the screening of the titles and abstracts, we removed 2114 records and we added one more record found by the reference lists scanning. We included 24 studies in this systematic review and meta-analysis that met our inclusion criteria.

Please insert Figure 1, about here

3.2.Characteristics of the studies

Main characteristics of the 24 studies included in this review are presented in Table 1.

> A total of 39,617 HCWs were included in this systematic review with a minimum of 208 HCWs [29] and a maximum of 12,034 HCWs [30] among studies. Ten studies were conducted in Asia (China, Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Kuwait and Hong Kong) [31–40], six studies in North America (USA and Canada) [30, 41– 45], four studies in Europe (France, Germany and Greece) [46–49], three studies in Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eastern Cape and Zambia) [29, 50, 51], and one study was multicenter (France, Belgium and Canada) [52]. Females were more in 19 studies [30–37, 39–47, 51, 52], while males were more in four studies [29, 38, 49, 50]. All studies were cross-sectional, while 23 studies used convenience sampling method and one used snowball sampling method [44]. Nineteen studies were published in journals [30, 31, 34, 36–40, 42–52] and fine studies in pre-print services [29, 32, 33, 35, 41]. One study did not report data regarding age [48], one regarding gender distribution [48], and 12 regarding response rate [29, 34, 37, 39, 40, 44-46, 48-51]. Ten studies used a yes/no answer to assess intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination [30, 35, 36, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 50, 51], nine studies used a yes/no/uncertain answer [29, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 40, 44, 52], and five studies used Likert-type scales [33, 42, 47–49].

> Intention of HCWs to accept vaccination and study population in the studies included in this systematic review are presented in Table 2. Intention ranged from 27.7% [50] to 90.1% [51]. Percentage of physicians that participated in studies ranged from 12.1% [34] to 60.6% [52], while percentage of nurses ranged from 12.5% [40] to 100% [31, 33]. Four studies did not report detailed data regarding study population [32, 38, 48, 49].

> > Please insert Tables 1 and 2, about here

3.3.Quality assessment

Quality assessment of cross-sectional studies included in this review is shown in Table 3. Quality was moderate in six studies [29, 32, 34, 42, 47, 48] and good in 18 studies [30, 31, 33, 35, 37–41, 43–46, 49–52].

Please insert Table 3, about here

3.4.Meta-analysis

The overall proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was 63.5% (95% CI: 56.5-70.2%) (Figure 2). The heterogeneity between results was very high (I²=99.59%, p-value for the Hedges Q statistic<0.001). A leave-one-out sensitivity analysis showed that no single study had a disproportional effect on the pooled proportion, which varied between 62.1% (95% CI: 55.3-68.7%), with Adeniyi et al. [51] excluded, and 65.0% (95% CI: 58.1-71.6%), with Nzaji et al. [50] excluded (Supplementary Figure S1).

According to subgroup analysis, the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was higher for the studies that were published in journals (64.9% [95% CI: 57.0-72.4%], I²=99.66) than those in pre-print services (58.0% [95% CI: 43.2-72.2%], I²=98.75). Moreover, the proportion was almost the same for the studies with moderate quality (62.0% [95% CI: 49.5-73.8%], I²=98.86) and those with good quality (64.0% [95% CI: 55.4-72.1%], I²=99.68). The proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was higher in studies that were conducted in Europe (65.5% [95% CI: 50.0-79.6%], I²=99.22) and Asia (69.0% [95% CI: 59.4-77.9%], I²=98.84) compared to those in Africa (56.7% [95% CI: 12.2-95.2%], I²=99.77) and North America (52.9% [95% CI: 40.8-64.9%], I2=99.78). Meta-

regression showed that the closer each study was performed to now, the more likely HCWs were to accept COVID-19 vaccination (coefficient=0.024, [95% CI: 0.006-0.042], p=0.008). Also, the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was independent of the sample size (p=0.17), and gender distribution (p=0.15). P-value<0.05 for Egger's test implied potential publication bias.

Please insert Figure 2, and Supplementary Figure S1 about here

3.5. Factors related with intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination

Twenty studies [30, 31, 33, 35–47, 49–52] investigated factors related with intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination, while 18 studies [30, 31, 33, 35–41, 43–46, 49–52] used multivariable analysis to control confounding (Table 4). Statistically significant factors are presented in Table 4 and were discussed in the following paragraphs.

We found that several demographic characteristics were associated with COVID-19 vaccination acceptance. Profession was an important predictor since six studies [40–42, 46, 47, 50] found that physicians were more prone to get vaccinated against COVID-19 than other HCWs and especially nurses and paramedical staff. Male HCWs [30, 31, 37, 43–47, 49, 50, 52] and white HCWs [30, 43, 44] were more likely to be vaccinated. A great number of studies [30, 37, 42–46, 49, 52] found that older age was associated with an increase in COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. Higher education level [30, 39, 40, 44, 49, 51], increased outcome [44], and work in healthcare facilities in urban areas [30, 44] were related with increased COVID-19

vaccine acceptance. Also, HCWs with chronic conditions were more likely to be vaccinated against COVID-19 [31, 44].

Flu vaccination during previous season was associated with intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination [31, 37, 39, 44, 46, 51, 52]. Stronger vaccine confidence [33] and positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine [35, 37, 39, 44, 50–52] increased HCWs' willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Fear about COVID-19 [46], individual perceived risk about COVID-19 [38, 39, 44, 46], and weaker complacency about the COVID-19 [33] were related with increased COVID-19 vaccination acceptance. Complacency was measured on a 7-point Likert scale (strongly disagree to strongly agree). HCWs exposed and in contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients [31, 44, 45] and those with a previous COVID-19 infection [37] were more likely to accept COVID-19 vaccine.

Please insert Table 4, about here

4. Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first systematic review and meta-analysis that assesses the intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination and related factors. Twentyfour papers met our inclusion criteria and the primary reasons that other papers were excluded from this review include irrelevant research question, study population other than HCWs, and other types of publications (e.g. qualitative studies, reviews, case reports, protocols, editorials, and letters to the Editor). We found that the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was moderate (63.5%) with a wide range among studies from 27.7% to 90.1%. This moderate level of acceptance may be attributable to several reasons, e.g. inadequate knowledge among HCWs regarding COVID-19 [37, 53], negative attitude towards the disease [53, 54], and

> feelings of fear and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic [55–58]. Also, concerns raised for COVID-19 vaccination are related with inadequate knowledge about such new vaccines regarding the long term side effects, effectiveness, efficacy etc. Better knowledge of COVID-19 among HCWs affects their attitude, increases their confidence, and promotes preventive measures such as the vaccination [59-61]. According to our subgroup analysis, the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was higher in studies in Europe and Asia than those in North America and Africa. This finding is in accordance with a study [62] in 10 countries in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East where the influenza vaccination coverage rate in general population was much higher in Europe than in Asia and Africa. This difference may be attributable mainly to the fact that a national influenza vaccination policy and recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccination are standard in developed countries but this is not the case in many developing countries in Africa. Also, the availability of influenza vaccines is low in Africa [63], while the number of influenza vaccines per capita is much higher in highincome countries compared to lower and middle-income countries (median number; 139.2 vs. 6.1 per 1000 population) [64].

> The positive effects of the influenza vaccine in health outcomes and in financial terms are well known [10, 65–67], but the vaccination rate is low even among HCWs. A meta-analysis [19] with 45 studies in mainland China found that the influenza vaccination rate was 17.7%, 9.4%, 7.8%, and 3.5% for HCWs, general population, pregnant women, and people with chronic conditions respectively. A similar finding was found in studies in Europe (United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Spain) where HCWs received influenza vaccination more often than the general population but in low levels, ranging from 15% to 29% [68]. A meta-analysis [69] included studies in

Italy found that the proportion of influenza vaccination among nurses and ancillary workers was 13.47% and 12.52% respectively. Influenza vaccination coverage is higher in the USA (80.6%) [70] and Canada (ranging from 35.5% to 51%) [71, 72], but still lower than the national Healthy People 2020 target of 90% [73].

We found a difference in intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination between the professions, with physicians most inclined to get vaccinated compared to other HCWs and especially nurses and paramedical staff. This finding is confirmed by two metaanalyses [69, 74] including studies in Italy, where the prevalence of influenza vaccination among physicians was 23.18% [74], among nurses was 13.47%, and among ancillary workers was 12.52% [69]. Several other studies [70, 75, 76] worldwide confirm the fact that the influenza vaccination coverage among physicians is the highest. In general, physicians are more prone to accept vaccination than other HCWs, e.g. the full hepatitis B vaccination coverage among physicians is 2.6 times higher than nurses [18]. Several reasons could be behind this observation such as greater misconceptions about vaccines among nurses and other HCWs, less fear and care about infectious diseases, less knowledge and more doubt about vaccine efficacy. This finding is a major concern in health care settings especially during the COVID-19 pandemic since nurses and assistant nurses have more and longer direct contact with patients than other HCWs [77]. Also, the seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies is higher among frontline health care workers and health care assistants [78] indicating that nurses and assistant nurses represent a high-risk group for SARS-CoV-2 infection.

We found that older age was related with an increase in willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19. This finding is unsurprising since HCWs are quite familiar with the fact that older age is one of the strongest risk factors for COVID-19 mortality [79–

81]. Therefore, it is more probable for older HCWs to take the COVID-19 vaccine due to their own self-interest. In a similar way, we found that HCWs with chronic conditions were more prone to get vaccinated against COVID-19. This finding makes sense since HCWs with comorbidity is a high-risk group for complications and death from COVID-19 as this is the case for the general population also according to several meta-analyses [80–84]. Older HCWs with comorbidity confront COVID-19 with fear and anxiety affecting critically their decision to accept a COVID-19 vaccine. An interesting result in our review is that male gender was associated with greater likelihood of taking COVID-19 vaccine. Two reviews regarding influenza vaccination [19] and hepatitis B vaccination [18] did not find any relation between gender and vaccination coverage. A possible explanation for our observation could be that the individual perceived risk about COVID-19 is higher among male HCWs.

According to our study, being vaccinated against flu during previous season was associated with COVID-19 vaccine acceptance. Similarly, HCWs with vaccine confidence and positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine were more likely to be vaccinated against COVID-19. These findings are of utmost importance since the WHO named vaccine hesitancy as one of the top ten threats to global health in 2019 [85]. Health care workers especially at primary care should communicate in a clear way the message that vaccines are safe and effective to improve vaccination coverage in communities [86]. Since a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine seems to be the only solution for this pandemic, the positive attitude of HCWs towards vaccination is imperative. Vaccine hesitancy among HCWs with regard to other vaccines, such as seasonal influenza vaccine already exists.[87–89] In case of the COVID-19 vaccine the situation can be worse since vaccine hesitancy is fuelled by fake news and conspiracy theories [90]. The reluctance or refusal of HCWs to vaccinate against

COVID-19 could diminish the trust of individuals and trigger a ripple effect in the general public [91, 92]. There is a need to build confidence and trust in communities to rollout successfully a COVID-19 vaccine.

Additionally, we found that individual perceived risk about COVID-19 was related with increased COVID-19 vaccination acceptance among HCWs. HCWs may be reluctant to receive a novel COVID-19 vaccine when they believe that it is not protect against a significant personal threat. On the other hand, the self-perceived susceptibility to and seriousness of a vaccine infectious disease such as COVID-19 may increase vaccine acceptance [93]. This association has already observed in case of COVID-19 not only in the general public [94] but also in HCWs[48]. A warning sign to public health safety is that vaccine hesitancy is greater among nurses than among physicians [95–97].

Our study is subject to several limitations. In particular, more than the half of studies was of moderate quality, while four out of 24 studies were published in pre-print services which do not apply peer-review process. We performed subgroup analysis according to studies quality and publication type to overcome this limitation. The statistical heterogeneity in results was very high due probably to variability in study designs and populations. In that case, we applied a random effects model and we performed subgroup and meta-regression analysis. We included all studies conducted till to July 14, 2021 but vaccines are now available and HCWs attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination could be changed for this reason. Our meta-regression analysis showed that the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination was independent of the data collection time but studies of current attitudes should be performed. Data with regards to the factors related with intention of HCWs to accept COVID-19 vaccination were limited, while five studies used multivariable

> models to eliminate confounding. We consider this as a potential area for future study. Moreover, all the studies included in this review were cross-sectional studies making causal inferences impossible. Finally, the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination may be an overestimation since studies evaluated selfreported answers that could be subject to social desirability bias, with HCWs knowing that the general public expects a high COVID-19 vaccination coverage among them.

Conclusion

HCWs are identified worldwide as priority recipients of the novel COVID-19 vaccine since they represent a high-risk group for SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission risk of SARS-CoV-2 in clinical settings between patients and HCWs is high. Also, HCWs serve as trusted community workers on public health topics and their role in promoting COVID-19 vaccine acceptance is critical. Thus, COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among HCWs should be eliminated to inspire the general public towards a positive attitude regarding a novel COVID-19 vaccine. We found a great variability of COVID-19 vaccination acceptance among HCWs worldwide and knowledge of the factors that influence this acceptance would be essential to provide information about vaccination programs, determine priority groups for vaccination, take extra protective measures, etc. Knowledge of the factors that affect intention of HWCs to accept COVID-19 vaccination is limited and there is an urgent need for further studies to make more valid inferences. Since vaccination is a complex behavior, understanding the way that HCWs take the decision to accept or not COVID-19 vaccination will give us the opportunity to develop the appropriate interventions to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake and promote vaccination programs worldwide.

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Author contributions

P.G, D.F. and D.K. were responsible for the conception and design of the study. P.G, I.V., D.F., A.B., and D.K. were responsible for the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. All the authors drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content.

Figure 1. Flowchart of the literature search according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis.

Figure 2. Forest plot of the proportion of HCWs that intend to accept COVID-19 vaccination.

Supplementary Figure S1. A leave-one-out sensitivity analysis of the proportion of HCWs that intent to accept COVID-19 vaccination.

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Reference	Location	Sample	Age, mean (SD)	Females	Study	Sampling	Assessment of	Response	Data collection	Publication
		size (n)		(%)	design	method	intention to	rate (%)	time	in
							accept COVID-			is mac
							19 vaccination			in It is made available under a CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license to display the preprint Journal Journal
Gagneux-Brunon et al.	France	2047	<30 years: 22.7%;	74	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	NR	March 26 to July	abe authorized a low real of the second seco
(2020)[46]	Trunce	2017	30-49: 47.3%; 50-	, ,	sectional	sampling			2, 2020	for funder a
(2020)[40]			64: 26.8%; >64:		sectional	sampning			2,2020	CC-B
										Y-NC-N
			3.1%							VD 4.0
Nzaji et al. (2020)[50]	Democratic	613	40.3 (11.7)	49.1	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	NR	March 01 to April	Journale
	Republic of				sectional	sampling			30, 2020	ational
	the Congo									license
Demosioneric et el	Carrow	4(1	44.2 (10.9)	74	Creat	Commission	Eine and Libert	02.2	E-h-m	
Papagiannis et al.	Greece	461	44.2 (10.8)	74	Cross-	Convenience	Five point Likert-	92.2	February 10-25,	Journal V
(2020)[47]					sectional	sampling	type scale (fully		2020	ne pre
										print

Table 1. Main characteristics of the studies included in this systematic review.

										as
							disagree to fully			vas not certified by
							agree)			rtified
										by
Wang et al. (2020)[31]	Hong Kong	806	<30 years: 21.6%;	87.5	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	5.2	February 26 to	Journal <mark>e</mark> ≓
			30-39: 31.1%; 40-		sectional	sampling	answer		March 21, 2020	is ma
			49: 27.1%; >49:							Journa It is made available under
			20.2%							ne auth tilable
										nor/fur under
Detoc et al. (2020)[48]	France	1421	NR	NR	Cross-	Convenience	Five point Likert-	NR	March 26 to April	Journald
					sectional	sampling	type scale		20, 2020	-BY-N
							(definitely no to			iunder, who has granted medRxii er สิCC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 Internatio
							certainly yes)			1.0 In
										ternat
Fu et al. (2020)[32]	China	352	<30 years: 36.9%;	58.8	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	96.2	March 17-18,	Pre-prung
			30-39: 31.8%; 40-		sectional	sampling	answer		2020	service
			49: 22.2%; >49:							to disp
			9.1%							license to display the prepr license . servise .
										e prep

Kwok et al. (2020)[33]	Hong Kong	1205	40.8 (10.5)	89.7	Cross-	Convenience	Eleven-point	78.9	March 16 to April	Pre-p
					sectional	sampling	Likert-type scale		29, 2020	servi
							(0=definitely no,			
							10=definitely yes)			
Chawe et al. (2020)[29]	Zambia	208	<30 years: 50%;	41.8	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	NR	June 10-29, 2020	Pre-pr servi
			30-39: 38%; >39:		sectional	sampling	answer			servi
			12%							
Gadoth et al. (2020)[41]	USA	609	<30 years: 14.6%;	68.8	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	55.7	September 24 to	Pre-pr servi
			30-39: 37.8%; 40-		sectional	sampling			October 16, 2020	servi
			49: 22.3%; >49:							
			21.4%							
Verger et al. (2021)[52]	France,	2678	18-39 years:	69.3	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	17.6	October to	Journ
	Belgium,		34.4%; 40-59		sectional	sampling	answer		November, 2020	
	Canada		years: 46.7%; >59							Journ

			years: 18.9%							
Shaw et al. (2021)[42]	USA	5287	42.5 (13.6)	72.7	Cross-	Convenience	Five point Likert-	55.0	November 23 to	Journa
					sectional	sampling	type scale (fully		December 5,	_
							disagree to fully		2020	IT IS ITTAC
							agree)			ide ava
						~ .				
Unroe et al. (2021)[43]	USA	8243	18-24 years:	86.8	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	33	November 14-17,	Journg
			12.7%; 25-40		sectional	sampling			2020	2
			years: 37%; 41-60							6
			years: 38.9%; >60							
			years: 11.4%							4.0
			-							
Shekhar et al. (2021)[44]	USA	3479	<40 years: 54%;	75	Cross-	Snowball	Yes/no/uncertain	NR	October 7 to	Journ
			≥40 years: 46%		sectional	sampling	answer		November 9,	Ī
									2020	Journa
Kose et al. (2021)[34]	Turkey	1138	<25 years: 89.6%;	72.5	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	NR	September 17-20,	Journ

			≥25 years: 10.4%		sectional	sampling	answer		2020	
Kuter et al. (2021)[30]	USA	12,034	<40 years: 51%;	71.7	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	34.5	November 13 to	Journ
			40-64 years:		sectional	sampling			December 6,	
			39.2%; >64 years:						2020	Pre-pr
			3.6%							
Barry et al. (2020)[35]	Kingdom of	1512	21-30 years:	62.4	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	75.3	November 4-14,	Pre-pr
	Saudi Arabia		25.5%; 31-40		sectional	sampling			2020	servie
			years: 44.8%; 41-							
			50 years: 19.7%;							
			>50 years: 10.1%							
Huynh et al. (2021)[36]	Vietnam	410	39.3 (9.3)	68.8	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	48.0	January to	Journ
					sectional	sampling			February, 2021	
Kaplan et al. (2021)[37]	Turkey	1574	39.4 (10.8)	58.8	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	NR	December 25-31,	Journ
					sectional	sampling	answer		2020	
					sectional	sumpting			2020	

Qattan et al. (2021)[38]	Kingdom of	673	<39 years: 67.1%;	39.8	Cross-	Snowball	Yes/no/uncertain	91.4	December 8-14,	Journ
	Saudi Arabia		≥39 years: 32.9%		sectional	sampling	answer		2020	Jourr
Nohl et al. (2021)[49]	Germany	1296	<40 years: 63.8%;	21.8	Cross-	Convenience	Five point Likert-	NR	December 4,	Journ
			≥40 years: 36.2%		sectional	sampling	type scale (fully		2020 to January	
							disagree to fully		15, 2021	
							agree)			Journ
Dzieciolowska et al.	Canada	2761	44.0 (6.5)	72.2	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	NR	December 15-28,	Journ
(2021)[45]					sectional	sampling			2020	
Sun et al. (2021)[39]	China	505	32.4 (8.9)	77.4	Cross- sectional	Convenience sampling	Yes/no answer	NR	January 4-6, 2021	Journ Journ Journ
Al-Sanafi & Sallam	Kuwait	1019	34 (9.7)	61.4	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no/uncertain	NR	March 18-29,	Jour
2021)[40]					sectional	sampling	answer		2021	
Adeniyi et al. (2021)[51]	Eastern	1308	26-55 years:	81.5	Cross-	Convenience	Yes/no answer	NR	November to	Jouri
			79.1%; >55 years:							

	Cape	20.9%	sectional	sampling	December, 2020	
NR: not rej	ported		• •		•	

Reference	Intention to accept	Physicians	Nurses (%)	Assistant nurses	Paramedical staff	Pharmacists	Others (%)
	vaccination, n/N (%)	(%)		(%)	(%)	(%)	
Gagneux-Brunon et al.	1574/2047 (76.9)	21.1	18.1	10.7		24.5	25.6*
(2020)[46]							
Nzaji et al. (2020)[50]	170/613 (27.7)	27.2					72.8 [†]
Papagiannis et al. (2020)[47]	200/461 (43.4)	30.5	47.5		19		
Wang et al. (2020)[31]	322/806 (40.0)		100				
Detoc et al. (2020)[48]	1158/1421 (81.5)						
Fu et al. (2020)[32]	269/352 (76.4)						
Kwok et al. (2020)[33]	759/1205 (63.0)		100				
Chawe et al. (2020)[29]	97/208 (46.6)						100 [‡]

Table 2. Intention of health care workers to accept vaccination and study population in the studies included in this systematic review.

Gadoth et al. (2020)[41]	197/609 (32.3)	39.9 [§]	33.8				26.3
Verger et al. (2021)[52]	2132/2678 (79.6)	60.6	39.4				
Shaw et al. (2021)[42]	3040/5287 (57.5)	19.5	22.7	17.8	6.2	2.4	31.4
Unroe et al. (2021)[43]	3704/8243 (44.9)		19.4	43.6			37*
Shekhar et al. (2021)[44]	1247/3479 (35.8)	35	45				20
Kose et al. (2021)[34]	276/439 (62.9)	12.1	69.7				18.2*
Kuter et al. (2021)[30]	7666/12,034 (63.7)						
Barry et al. (2020)[35]	1058/1512 (70.0)	42.1	50.1 [¶]				7.8**
Huynh et al. (2021)[36]	312/410 (76.1)	17.1	35.6		16.6		30.7 ^{††}
Kaplan et al. (2021)[37]	1332/1574 (84.6)	66.8	17.5		7.3	4.4	4 ^{‡‡}
Qattan et al. (2021)[38]	340/673 (50.5)						

Nohl et al. (2021)[49]	739/1296 (57.0)						
Dzieciolowska et al.	2233/2761 (80.9)	18.8	23.1				58.1*
(2021)[45]							
Sun et al. (2021)[39]	387/505 (76.7)	40.8	53.3				5.9*
Al-Sanafi & Sallam	849/1019 (83.3)	28.7	12.5			20.2	38.6*
(2021)[40]							
Adeniyi et al. (2021)[51]	1179/1308 (90.1)	13.5	45.2	28.7	8.1	4.7	

* midwives, physiotherapists, administrative staff, laboratories staff, research staff; [†] nurses and others; [‡] laboratories staff; [§] physicians, nurse practitioners, physician, assistants, certified registered nurse anesthetists; ^{||} personnel with or without patient contact; [¶] nurses with midwives; ^{**} technicians and pharmacists; ^{††} technical and administrative staff; ^{‡‡} dentists

	Gagneux-	Nzaji et	Papagiannis	Wang et	Detoc et	Fu et al.	Kwok et	Chawe et	Gadoth et	Verger et
	Brunon et	al.	et al.	al.	al.	(2020)[32]	al.	al.	al.	al.
	al.	(2020)[50]	(2020)[47]	(2020)[31]	(2020)[48]		(2020)[33]	(2020)[29]	(2020)[41]	(2021)[52]
	(2020)[46]									
1. Were the criteria for	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	N		N	N		N	V
inclusion in the sample										
clearly defined?										
2. Were the study subjects	√	V	V	V			V	V	V	
and the setting described in										
detail?										
3. Was the exposure	V	V	V	V	\checkmark	V	N	V	V	V
measured in a valid and										
reliable way?										

Table 3. Quality of cross-sectional studies included in this systematic review.

4. Were objective, standard	V		 V	V	V	V		N	V
criteria used for									
measurement of the									
condition?									
5. Were confounding factors	\checkmark	N	V			√		V	N
identified?									
6. Were strategies to deal	\checkmark					\checkmark		\checkmark	N
with confounding factors									
stated?									
7. Were the outcomes			 V	\checkmark		1		\checkmark	
measured in a valid and									
reliable way?									
8. Was appropriate statistical	V	√	 V	√	V	V	N	V	V
analysis used?									

Total quality	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Good	Good

Table 3 (continued). Quality of cross-sectional studies included in this systematic review.

	Shaw et	Unroe et	Shekhar et	Kose et al.	Kuter et	Barry et	Huynh et	Kaplan et	Qattan et	Nohl et al.
	al.	al.	al.	(2021)[34]	al.	al.	al.	al.	al.	(2021)[49]
	(2021)[42]	(2021)[43]	(2021)[44]		(2021)[30]	(2020)[35]	(2021)[36]	(2021)[37]	(2021)[38]	
1. Were the criteria for inclusion	√	N	N		√	N			√	
in the sample clearly defined?										
2. Were the study subjects and	√	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	√	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	√	√
the setting described in detail?										
3. Was the exposure measured	√	N	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	N	\checkmark	V	√
in a valid and reliable way?										
4. Were objective, standard	√	√	\checkmark	V	√	√	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
criteria used for measurement of										
the condition?										

5. Were confounding factors			V		\checkmark	V		V	N	V
identified?										
6. Were strategies to deal with		N	V		V	V	N	N	N	N
confounding factors stated?										
7. Were the outcomes measured	V	\checkmark	V	\checkmark						
in a valid and reliable way?										
8. Was appropriate statistical	N	V	V	N	V	V	V	N	N	V
analysis used?										
Total quality	Moderate	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

Table 3 (continued). Quality of cross-sectional studies included in this systematic review.

et al. (2021)[45]	(2021)[39]	(2021)[40]	(2021)[51]
(2021)[45]			
V		ν	√
	N	V	√
	N	V	√
\checkmark			√
V	N	N	√
V	N	V	√
$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$	√		√
√	ν	ν	√

Total quality	Good	Good	Good	Good

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Table 4. Statistically significant factors related with intention of health care workers to accept COVID-19 vaccination.

Reference	COVID-19 vaccination acceptance	Level of
		analysis
Gagneux-Brunon et al.	- Male gender (OR:1.88; 95% CI:1.38-2.56, p<0.001)	Multivariable
(2020)[46]	- Older age (≥30 vs. <30 years, OR:1.66; 95% CI:1.32-2.09, p<0.001)	
	- Physicians vs. nurses (OR:6.37; 95% CI:4.23-9.60, p<0.001) and assistant nurses (OR:7.76; 95% CI:4.98-	
	12.08, p<0.001)	
	- Flu vaccination during previous season (OR:4.69; 95% CI:3.59-6.11, p<0.001)	
	- Fear about COVID-19 (OR:2.03; 95% CI:1.58-2.61, p=0.001)	
	- Individual perceived risk (OR:2.48; 95% CI:1.93-3.2, p<0.001)	
Nzaji et al. (2020)[50]	- Male gender (OR:1.17; 95% CI:1.15-2.6, p=0.008)	Multivariable
	- Physicians vs. others (OR:1.59; 95% CI:1.03-2.44, p=0.035)	
	- Positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine (OR:11.49; 95% CI:5.88-22.46, p<0.001)	
Papagiannis et al. (2020)[47]	- Male gender (p=0.001)	Univariate
	- Less years of work experience (p=0.019)	

	- Physicians vs. nurses (p<0.001) and paramedical staff (p<0.001)		
Wang et al. (2020)[31]	- HCWs with chronic conditions (OR:1.83; 95% CI:1.22-2.77)		
	- HCWs exposed and in contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients (OR:1.63; 95% CI:1.14-2.33)		
	- Flu vaccination during previous season (OR:2.03; 95% CI:1.47-2.81)		
Kwok et al. (2020)[33]	- Younger age (b=-0.07; 95% CI: -0.12 to -0.01; p=0.02)	Multivariable	
	- Stronger vaccine confidence (b=0.29; 95% CI:0.22-0.25; p<0.001		
	- Collective responsibility (b=0.12; 95% CI:0.06-0.19; p<0.001)		
	- Weaker complacency (b=-0.11; 95% CI: -0.17 to -0.05; p<0.001)		
Gadoth et al. (2020)[41]	- Physicians vs. nurses (p<0.05)	Multivariable	
Verger et al. (2021)[52]	- Older age (40-59 vs. 18-39 years, OR:1.75; 95% CI:1.35-2.33, >59 vs. 18-39 years, OR:2.86; 95% CI:2.00-	Multivariable	
	4.17)		
	- Male gender (OR:1.89; 95% CI:1.44-2.49)		
	- Flu vaccination during previous season (OR:2.70; 95% CI:2.00-3.57)		
	- Positive attitude towards vaccines (OR:1.74; 95% CI:1.15-2.63)		
	- Trust in science (OR:2.63; 95% CI:1.54-4.55)		

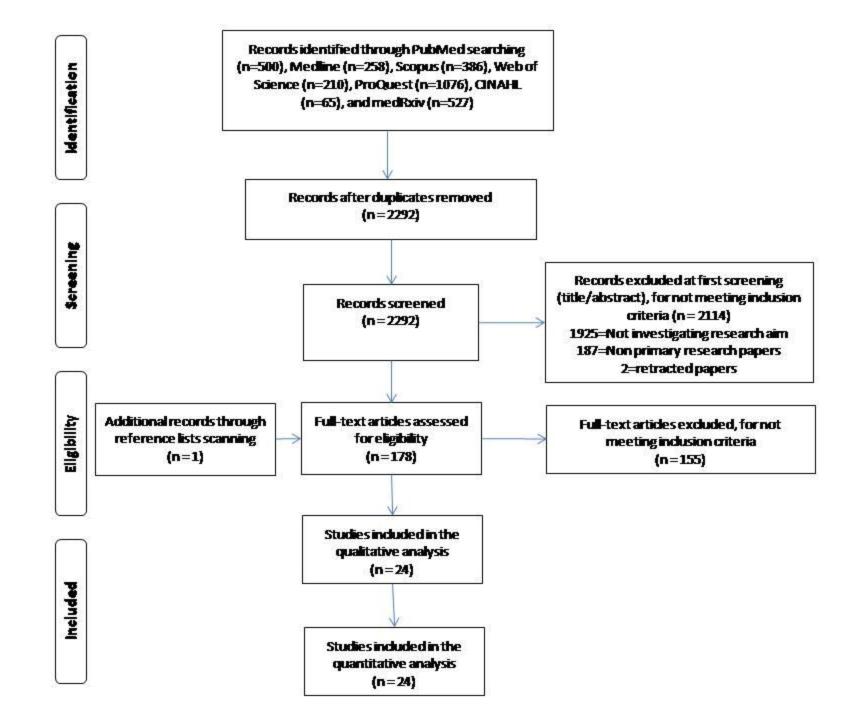
Shaw et al. (2021)[42]	- Older age (p<0.001)	Univariate
	- Male gender (p<0.001)	
	- Physicians vs. others (p<0.001)	
Unroe et al. (2021)[43]	- Older age (p<0.001)	Multivariable
	- Male gender (p<0.001)	
	- White HCWs vs. others (p<0.001)	
Shekhar et al. (2021)[44]	- Older age (p<0.001)	Multivariable
	- Male gender (p<0.001)	
	- Asian and white HCWs vs. others (p<0.001)	
	- Increased outcome (p<0.001)	
	- Healthcare facilities in urban and suburban areas vs. rural areas (p<0.001)	
	- Higher education level (p<0.001)	
	- Flu vaccination during previous season (p<0.001)	
	- Individual perceived risk (p<0.001)	
	- HCWs with chronic conditions (p<0.001)	
	- HCWs exposed and in contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients (p<0.001)	

Kuter et al. (2021)[30]	- Older age (40-64 vs. <40 years, OR:1.40; 95% CI:1.26-1.56, >64 vs. <40 years, OR:3.50; 95% CI:2.50-4.90)			
	- Male gender (OR:2.41; 95% CI:2.12-2.75)			
	- White HCWs vs. Black (OR:4.34; 95% CI:3.70-5.26) and Hispanic (OR:1.96; 95% CI:1.49-2.56)			
	- Higher education level (Bachelor's or Master's degree vs. less than Bachelor's degree, OR:1.84; 95% CI:1.59-			
	2.13, postgraduate degree vs. less than Bachelor's degree, OR:4.59; 95% CI:3.83-5.50)			
	- Healthcare facilities in urban areas vs. rural areas (OR:2.44; 95% CI:1.85-3.33)			
Barry et al. (2020)[35]	- Male gender (OR:1.55; 95% CI:1.12-2.14)	Multivariable		
	- Positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine (OR:2.15; 95% CI:1.71-2.71)			
Huynh et al. (2021)[36]	- Positive attitude towards vaccines (OR:4.36; 95% CI:2.35-8.09; p<0.001)	Multivariable		
Kaplan et al. (2021)[37]	- Older age (p<0.05)	Multivariable		
	- Routine uptake of adult vaccination (p<0.05)			
	- Previous infection with COVID-19 (p<0.05)			
	- Positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine (p<0.05)			
Qattan et al. (2021)[38]	- Individual perceived risk (OR:2.09; 95% CI:1.07-4.09, p=0.031)	Multivariable		
Nohl et al. (2021)[49]	- Male gender (p<0.001)	Multivariable		

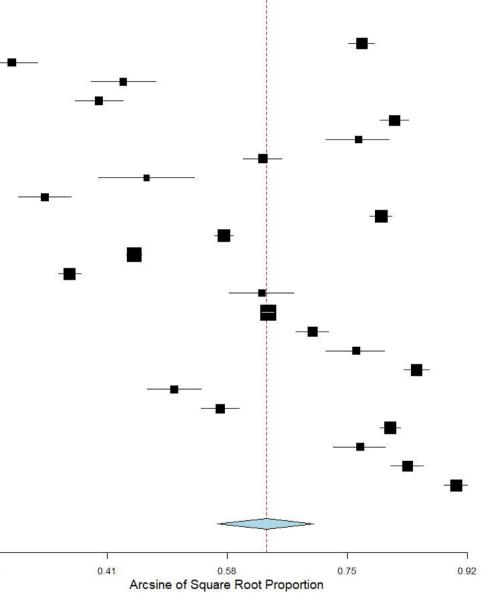
	- Higher education level (p=0.013)		
Dzieciolowska et al.	 Older age (p=0.026) Male gender (OR:1.62; 95% CI:1.16-2.26, p=0.004) 		
(2021)[45]	- Older age (>60 years vs. <30 years; OR:3.28; 95% CI:1.74-6.18, p<0.001)		
	- HCWs exposed and in contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (OR:3.88; 95% CI:2.29-6.58, p<0.001)		
Sun et al. (2021)[39]	- Higher education level (postgraduate degree vs. less than Bachelor's degree, OR:2.35; 95% CI:1.14-4.88,	Multivariable	
	p=0.021)		
	- Living with elderly individuals (OR:1.93; 95% CI:1.07-3.46, p=0.028)		
	- Flu vaccination during previous season (OR:4.73; 95% CI:2.29-9.79, p<0.001)		
	- Individual perceived risk (OR:1.99; 95% CI:1.19-3.29, p=0.008)		
	- Understanding of the COVID-19 vaccines (OR:2.32; 95% CI:1.36-3.98, p=0.002)		
Al-Sanafi & Sallam	- Dentists and physicians vs. nurses (p<0.001)	Multivariable	
(2021)[40]	- Male gender (p<0.001)		
	- Higher education level (p<0.001)		
Adeniyi et al. (2021)[51]	- Higher education level (p<0.001)	Multivariable	
	- Positive attitude towards a COVID-19 vaccine (p<0.001)		

	- Routine uptake of adult vaccination (p<0.001)		
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b: coefficient beta regression; CI: confidence interval; HCW: health care worker; OR: odds ratio



Studies	Estin	nate (95	& C.I.)	Ev/Trt
Gagneux-Brunon et al. (France) 2020	0.769	(0.750,	0.787)	1574/2047
Nzaji et al. (Congo) 2020	0.277	(0.243,	0.313)	170/613
Papagiannis et al. (Greece) 2020	0.434	(0.389,	0.479)	200/461
Wang et al. (Hong Kong) 2020	0.400	(0.366,	0.434)	322/806
Detoc et al. (France) 2020	0.815	(0.794,	0.835)	1158/1421
Fu et al. (China) 2020	0.764	(0.718,	0.807)	269/352
Kwok et al. (Hong Kong) 2020	0.630	(0.602,	0.657)	759/1205
Chawe et al. (Zambia) 2020	0.466	(0.399,	0.534)	97/208
Gadoth et al. (USA) 2020	0.323	(0.287,	0.361)	197/609
Verger et al. ((France, Belgium, Canada) 2020	0.796	(0.781,	0.811)	2132/2678
Shan et al. (USA) 2021	0.575	(0.562,	0.588)	3040/5287
Unroe et al. <mark>(</mark> USA) 2021	0.449	(0.439,	0.460)	3704/8243
Shekhar et al. (USA) 2021	0.358	(0.343,	0.374)	1247/3479
Kose et al. (Turkey) 2021	0.629	(0.583,	0.673)	276/439
Kuter et al. (USA) 2021	0.637	(0.628,	0.646)	7666/12034
Barry et al. (Saudi Arabi) 2020	0.700	(0.676,	0.723)	1058/1512
Huynh et al. (Vietnam) 2021	0.761	(0.719,	0.801)	312/410
Kaplan et al. (Turkey) 2021	0.846	(0.828,	0.864)	1332/1574
Qattan et al. (Saudi Arabi) 2021	0.505	(0.467,	0.543)	340/673
Nohl et al. (Germany) 2021	0.570	(0.543,	0.597)	739/1296
Dzieciolowska et al. (Canada) 2021	0.809	(0.794,	0.823)	2233/2761
Sun et al. (China) 2021	0.766	(0.728,	0.802)	387/505
Al-Sanafi & Sallam (Kuwait) 2021	0.833	(0.810,	0.855)	849/1019
Adeniyi et al. (Eastern Cape) 2021	0.901	(0.885,	0.917)	1179/1308
Overall (I^2=99.6 % , P< 0.001)	0.635	(0.565,	0.702)	31240/50940



0.24

