



Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

Wave 2 Results - June 2021

Briefing: COVID-19 Vaccinations

Background

- This study is designed to systematically and responsively track the experiences of adults with learning disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic across the four UK nations.
- There will be three 'Waves' of data collection over a 12-month period. Wave 2 data were collected between April and May 2021.
- The data in this briefing are taken from Wave 2 of the study. If you want to find out more detail about the people who took part and the Wave 1 findings, you can download the full report [here](#).
- There are two 'Cohorts' of participants in this study. In Wave 2:
 - In Cohort 1, 598 adults with learning disabilities were interviewed by researchers.
 - In Cohort 2, family carers or paid support staff took part in an online survey about the experiences of 273 adults with learning disabilities who they supported/cared for. These were likely to be adults with more severe to profound learning disabilities.
- This document presents selected data about vaccinations from the Wave 2 results. You can download the Easy Read briefing about vaccinations [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine receipt

- 92% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 and 91% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 34% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 and 48% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Figure 1, below, shows the percentage of people with learning disabilities who had and had not received their COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the reasons for not receiving it.

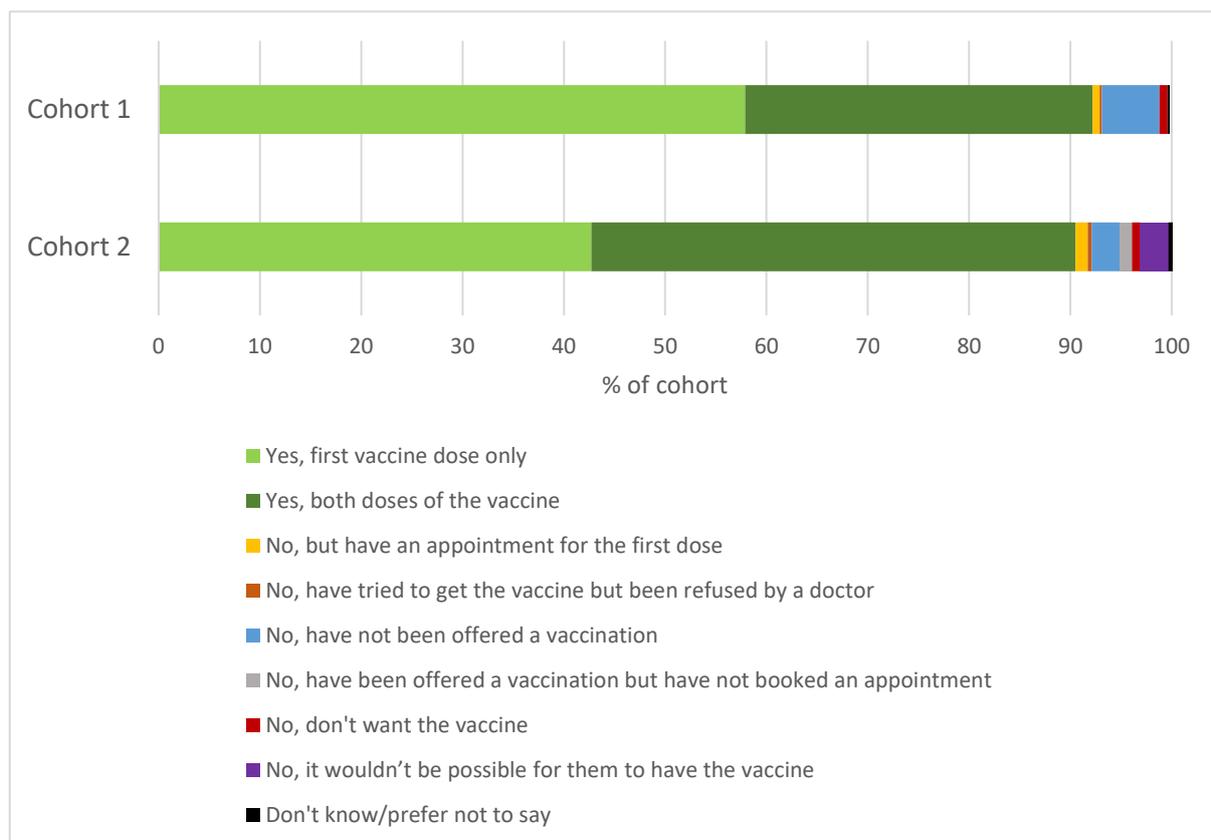


Figure 1. COVID-19 vaccine receipt and reasons for non-receipt

- Only one person in Cohort 1 wanted the vaccine but was refused by a doctor because they needed to be shielding to get the vaccine, but had not received a shielding letter from their GP. In Cohort 2, one person reported that a doctor refused to give the person they cared for the vaccine because they were too young.
- Only five people in Cohort 1 did not want the vaccine. The most reported reason for this was having a negative reaction/side effects to other vaccines at a younger age. In Cohort 2, two people with learning disabilities refused the vaccine and it was reported that for seven people with learning disabilities it was not possible for them to have the vaccine. The most commonly reported

reasons for not having the vaccine were concerns about administering the vaccine and specific needle phobias.

- 54% of family carers/paid support staff in Cohort 2 were confident that the legal process about capacity had been followed for people with learning disabilities who had had the COVID-19 vaccine (16% said that they were not followed, 7% didn't know because they were not present, and 23% said they did not know what these legal processes were).

Accessing COVID-19 vaccines

- 15% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they had had problems accessing or being called to get their vaccine.
- Of the people in Cohort 1 who reported having problems accessing or being called to get their vaccine, the most commonly reported issues were problems travelling to the venue and having to call to ask for an appointment on multiple occasions, instead of being called up for an appointment.
- 48% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that things were done for them that made it easier for them to get the vaccine. The most common things done were having family carers or paid support staff attending the vaccination appointments with them and receiving their vaccination at their day centre/residential home.

COVID-19 vaccine side effects

- 66% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 who had the COVID-19 vaccine had some side effects afterwards. In Cohort 2, 40% of people with learning disabilities who had had the COVID-19 vaccine were reported to have some side effects afterwards.
- Figure 2, below, shows the most frequently reported side effects after having the COVID-19 vaccine in both cohorts.

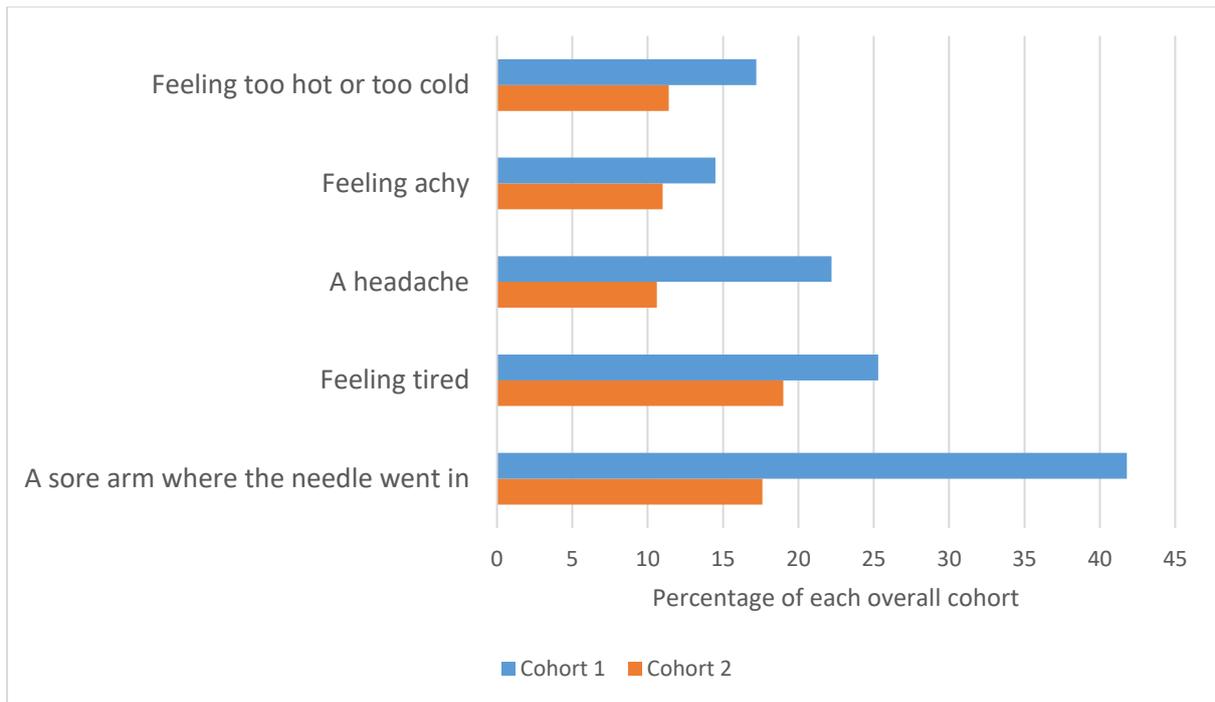


Figure 2. Most frequently reported side effects after having the COVID-19 vaccine

- For people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 who had side effects after their COVID-19 vaccine, 50% of people reported that these side effects lasted for more than one day. For 30% of people, they lasted for all of the next day, and for 21% of people, they lasted for a few hours.

Information about the COVID-19 vaccine

- 67% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they had good information to help them to decide whether to have the COVID-19 vaccine.
- In Cohort 2, 71% of participants who were supporting someone with learning disabilities reported that they had good information to help them to decide whether they would have the COVID-19 vaccine.

What happens next?

The Wave 3 interviews and surveys will be starting in July 2021 for people who took part in the Wave 1 and/or Wave 2 interviews and surveys.

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