

# CARE

COVID-19 Attitudes, Resilience  
and Epidemiology

## CARE Survey 6: COVID-19 rapid antigen testing and changes over time

Research commissioned by the Victorian Department of Health



## **Suggested citation:**

Niamh Meagher, Katitza Marinkovic Chavez, Lauren Carpenter, Colin McDougall, Stephanie Fletcher-Lartey, David Price, Margaret Hellard, Lisa Gibbs, Freya Shearer. “CARE Survey 6: COVID-19 rapid antigen testing and changes over time.” Report to the Victorian Department of Health. University of Melbourne. December 2021.

## **Acknowledgements:**

Participants responding to the survey

Optimise study team

YouGov





# SURVEY SUMMARY

- 1,019 participants surveyed
- Survey conducted from 6th to 15th December, 2021
- Cross-sectional comparisons of each survey of approximately 1,000 participants are presented to track changes over time
- A significant proportion of the December sample are repeat participants:
  - 591 completed three surveys (July, September and December)
  - 205 completed two surveys (September and December)
  - 223 completed one survey (December only)
- Results have been weighted by age, gender and location, and are representative of Victorian adults (18+ years)

# CONTEXT OF SURVEY

- Increased availability of self-administered rapid antigen testing (RAT)
- Very high coverage of two dose vaccination course (>90% of 12+ years)
- Updates to the recommendations for 3<sup>rd</sup> doses of COVID-19 vaccines
  - Interval between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses shortened to 5 months
- TGA and ATAGI approve use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in 5 to 11 year old children
  - Rollout of vaccines for this age group announced for 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2022
- Easing of public health and social measures
- Changes in border restrictions and testing requirements for travel
- Early stages of emergence of the Omicron variant in Australia



**VACCINATION**



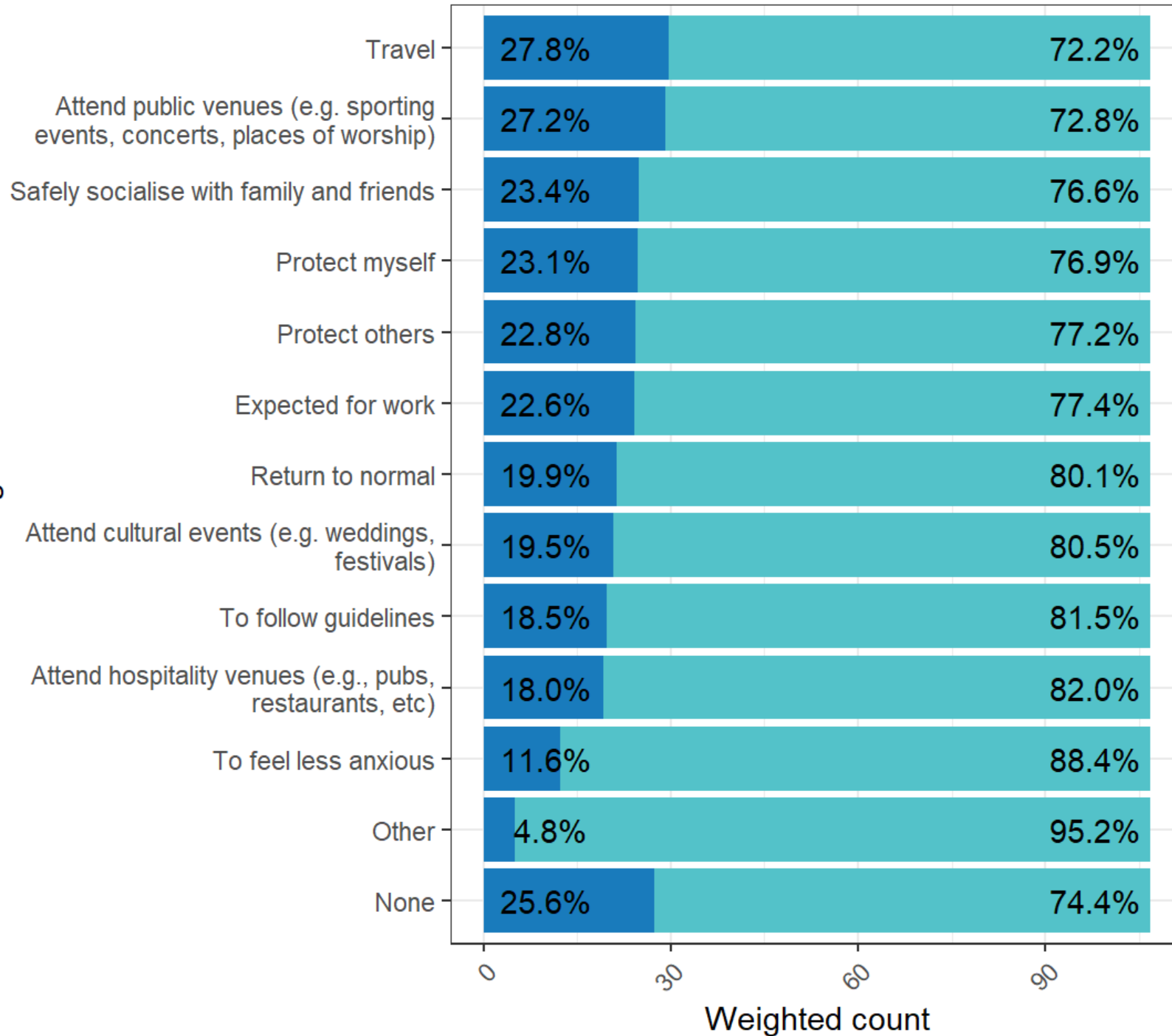
# PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH VACCINATION

- 89.5% of participants are already vaccinated
- Of the 106 unvaccinated participants:
  - 39.6% are probably or definitely going to get vaccinated
  - 32.1% are probably not or definitely not going to get vaccinated
  - 20.8% are unsure about vaccination
  - 7.5% preferred not to say
- Just 5 (0.6%) vaccinated participants have received 1 dose only
  - 4 respondents indicating their next dose was not yet due
  - 1 had chosen not to get a second dose due to bad side effects

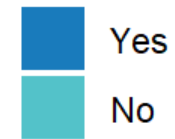
# REASONS TO GET VACCINATED

- Among the unvaccinated participants, the most common reasons they **would** get vaccinated were:
  - I want to be able to travel (27.8%)
  - I want to be able to attend public venues where vaccination might be required (e.g., sporting events, concerts, places of worship, etc.) (27.2%)
  - I want to be able to safely visit and socialise with family and friends (23.4%)
  - I want to protect myself from COVID-19 (23.1%)
- 25.6% of unvaccinated participants reported having no reason to get vaccinated (compared to 20.0% in September)

Reason to get vaccinated



Reason for vaccination?



Weighted count

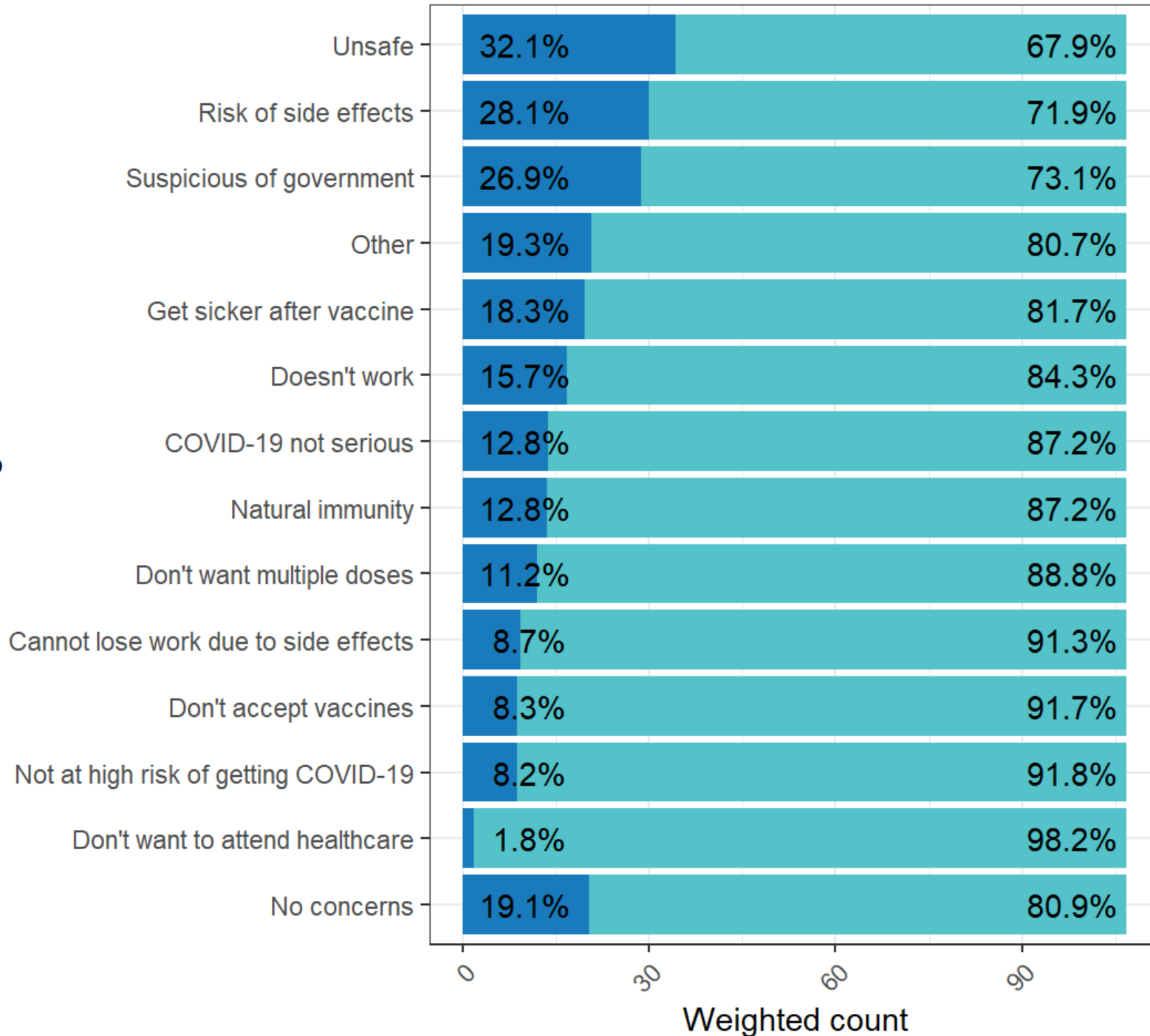




# REASONS NOT TO GET VACCINATED

- Among the unvaccinated participants, the most common reasons for **not** getting vaccinated were:
  - I am worried that is not safe and hasn't been tested enough for safety (32.1%)
  - I am worried that I may develop a serious side effect after getting the COVID-19 vaccine (28.1%)
  - I am suspicious about why the government wants everyone to get vaccinated (26.9%)
- 19.1% of unvaccinated participants reported no concerns about COVID-19 vaccines (compared to 17.2% in September)

Reason to not get vaccinated



Reason for no vaccination?



# OTHER REASONS NOT TO GET VACCINATED

- 21 (19.3%) unvaccinated participants indicated they had other reasons for not getting vaccinated:
  - *"COVID vaccines are ineffective, unsafe, poisonous"*
  - *"I do not want to take the risk of the vaccine having a negative impact on my underlying health condition"*
  - *"Don't think anyone should be forced to have it"*
  - *"Because of a major adverse from a vaccine I had 30 years ago I still suffer from every day"*
  - *"Virus is mutating, I am not in a vulnerable group, vaccines work poorly, herd immunity will not be reached, should not be vaccinating entire population in a pandemic"*

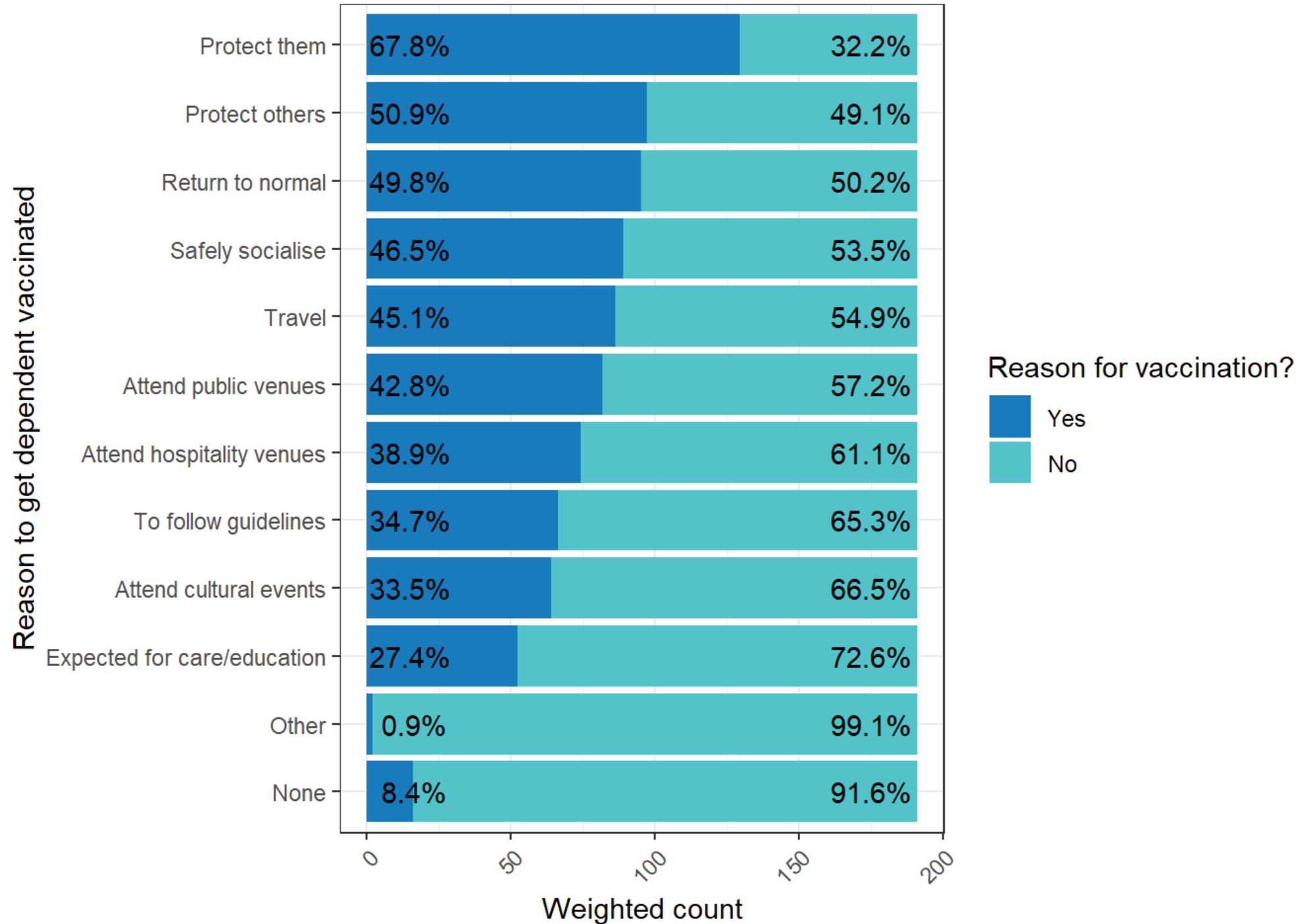
# VACCINATION IN CHILDREN

- Parents were asked whether they would vaccinate children in three age brackets:

	<b>Aged 0 to 5 years</b>	<b>Aged 6 to 11 years</b>	<b>Aged 12 to 17 years</b>
They have already been vaccinated	1.1%	3.9%	45.4%
Definitely yes	24.8%	43.9%	26.3%
Probably yes	11.2%	18.3%	7.6%
I'm not sure yet	29.4%	12.8%	9.1%
Probably not	9.2%	6.4%	1.2%
Definitely not	19.0%	11.5%	5.4%
Prefer not to say	5.3%	3.2%	5.0%

# ATTITUDES TOWARD VACCINATION OF CHILDREN

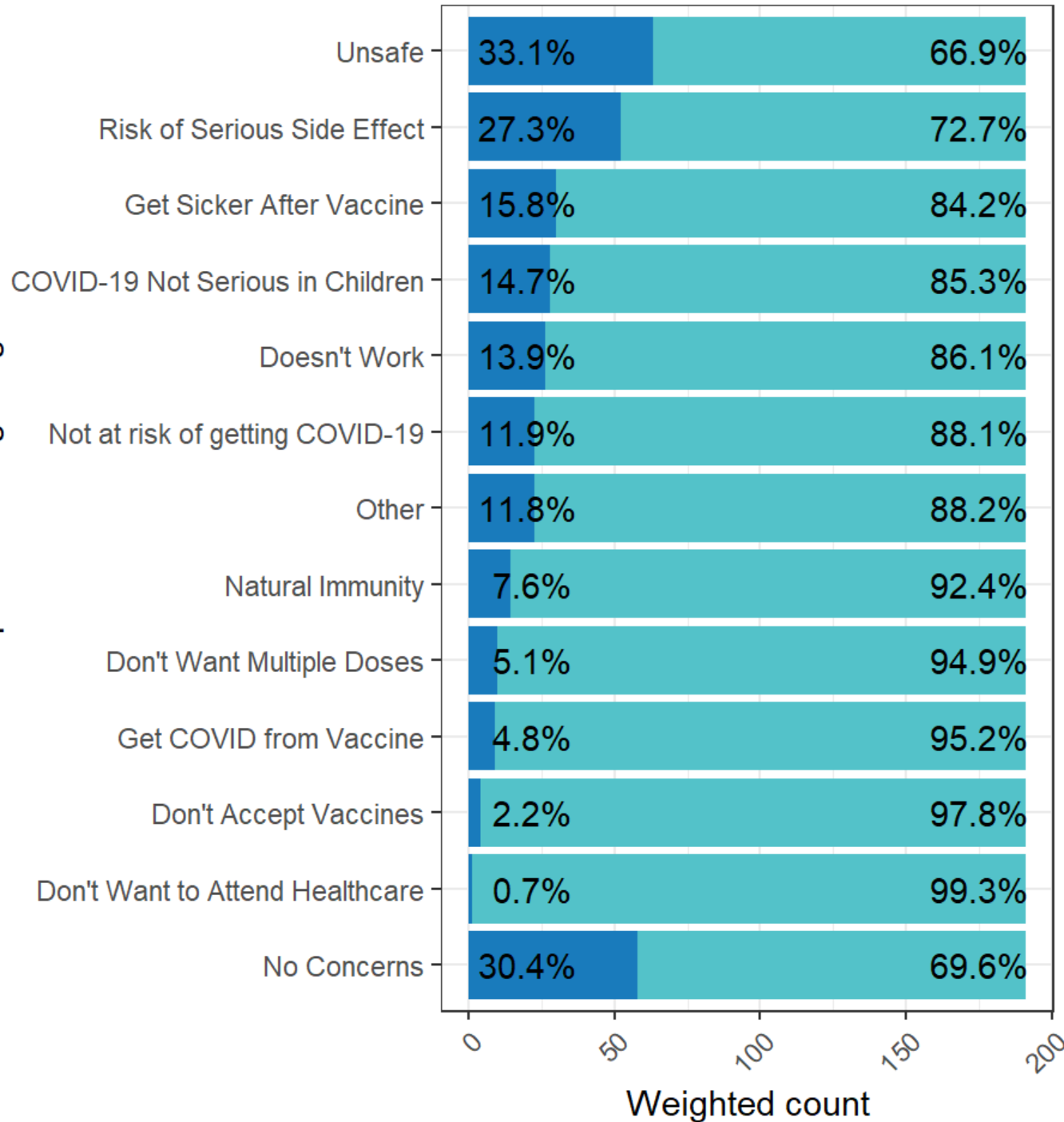
- Respondents with dependents aged <18 years provided reasons for and against vaccination of their children
- The most common reasons parents **would** vaccinate their children included:
  - I want to protect them against COVID-19 (67.8%)
  - I want to protect others from COVID-19 (50.9%)
  - I want life to return to normal (49.8%)
  - I want them to be able to safely visit and socialise with family and friends (46.5%)
- 8.4% indicated there was no reason they would vaccinate their child



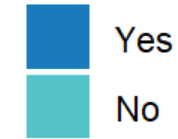
# ATTITUDES TOWARD VACCINATION OF CHILDREN

- The most common reasons parents **would not** vaccinate their children included:
  - I am worried that is not safe and hasn't been tested enough for safety (33.1%)
  - I am worried that my child may develop a serious side effect after getting the COVID-19 vaccine (27.3%)
  - I am worried that my child would get sicker if I got COVID after the vaccine (15.8%)
  - I don't think the vaccine is necessary because COVID-19 is not that serious in children (14.7%)
- 30.4% had no concerns about getting their child vaccinated when available

Reason for dependent not getting vaccinated



Reason for no vaccination?





## For more information on:

### CARE

Dr Freya Shearer

[freya.shearer@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:freya.shearer@unimelb.edu.au)

### Optimise

Professor Margaret Hellard AM

[margaret.hellard@burnet.edu.au](mailto:margaret.hellard@burnet.edu.au)

Dr Katherine Gibney

[katherine.gibney@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:katherine.gibney@unimelb.edu.au)

