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## **Attitudes and Experiences of Frontline Nursing Home Staff Towards Coronavirus Testing**

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# 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.

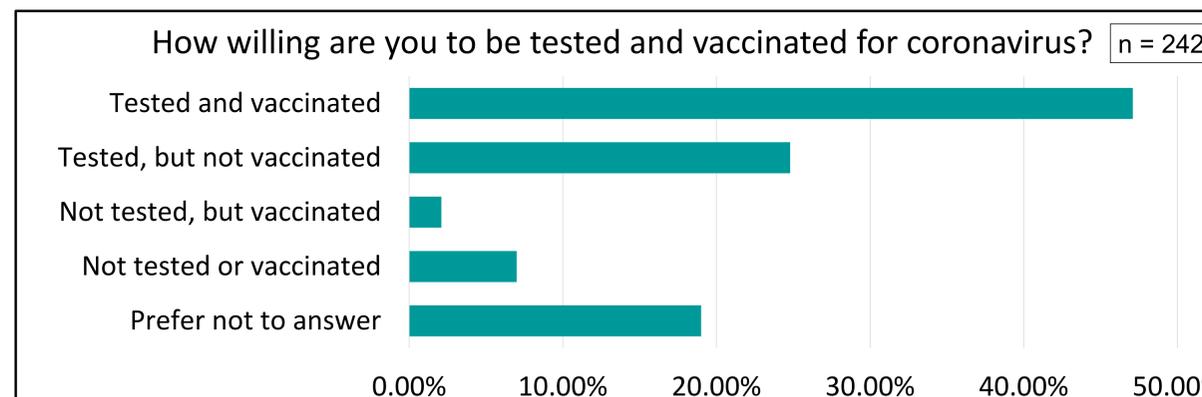
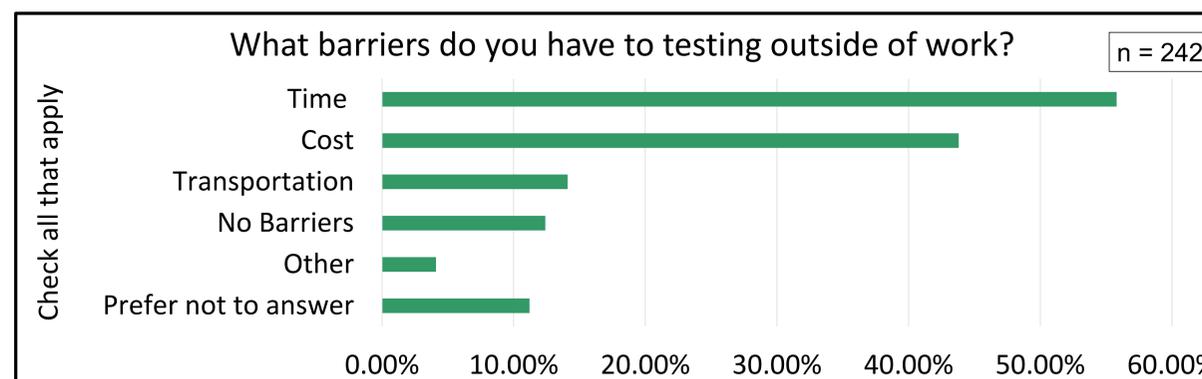
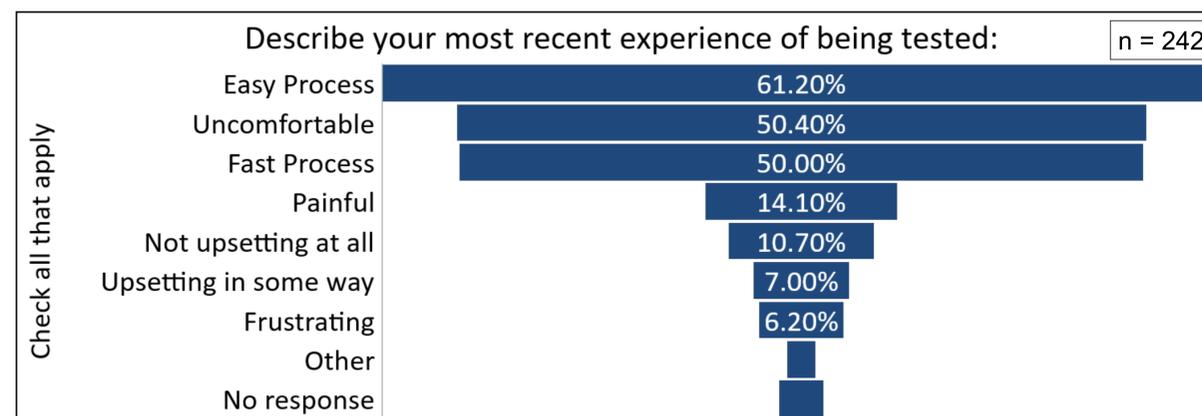
## Objectives

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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