

2009-2010 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Survey

Background

Policies of the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) promote influenza education and the goal of universal influenza vaccination. Physicians faced challenges in this effort during the 2009-10 influenza season. The novel H1N1 virus outbreak sparked a national focus on influenza, forced manufacturers to produce two vaccines in one year, and established two separate distribution systems for vaccine. Many physicians had already preordered the seasonal flu vaccine before the outbreak of H1N1. TMA and TPS members expressed concern about the slow delivery and insufficient supply early in the flu season.

This month, TMA and TPS surveyed their members about the physician experience with ordering seasonal flu vaccine. Survey results will help both organizations tailor resources to help physicians ensure their patients are vaccinated against influenza.

Methodology

This report contains the results of the 2009-2010 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Survey. Invitations to participate in the Web survey were e-mailed to 10,000 Texas physicians who practice internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, or obstetrics-gynecology. The survey yielded 408 physician responses from Jan. 8 to Jan. 22, 2010, a 4-percent response rate. This summary includes answers from all respondents.

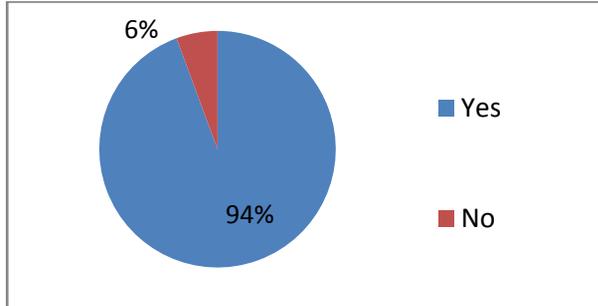
Findings

- 94 percent of respondents ordered vaccine for their patients.
- 46 percent of respondents received either no vaccine or an incomplete order.
- 83 percent referred some or all of their patients to another vaccine provider.
- Respondents reported referring patients most often to a pharmacy, local public health office, or grocery store.

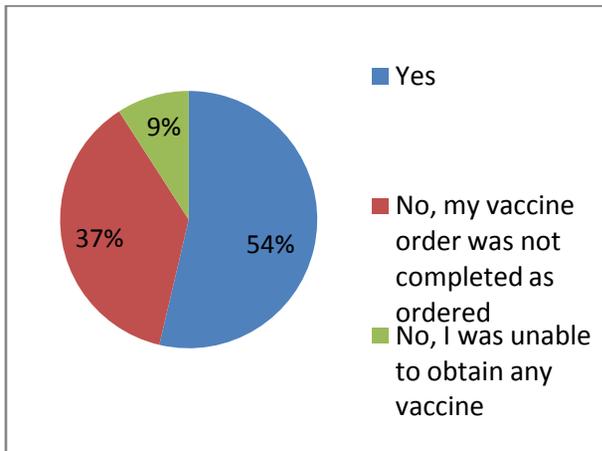
The majority of respondents were not able to meet their patients' demand for vaccine (71 percent).

2009-2010 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Survey Results

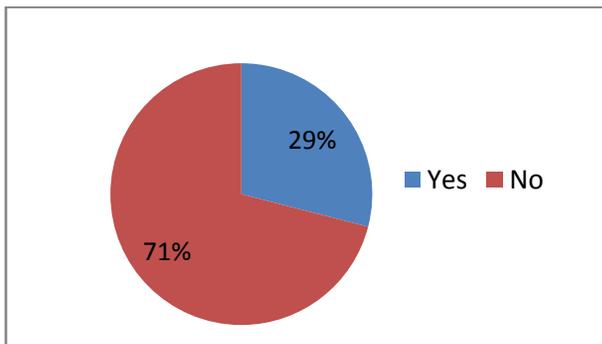
1) Did you order seasonal influenza vaccine for your patients in 2009?



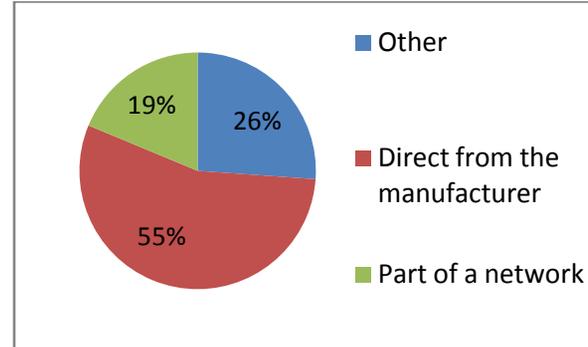
2) Did you receive the amount of seasonal influenza vaccine that you ordered?



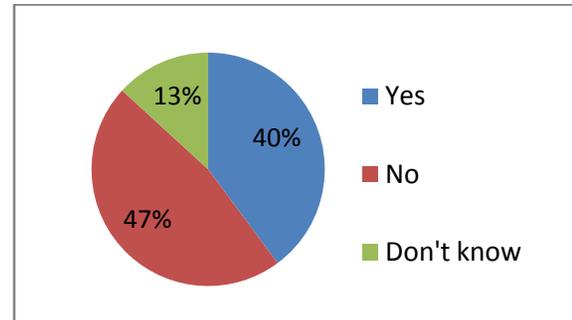
3) Did you receive enough vaccine to meet your patient demand?



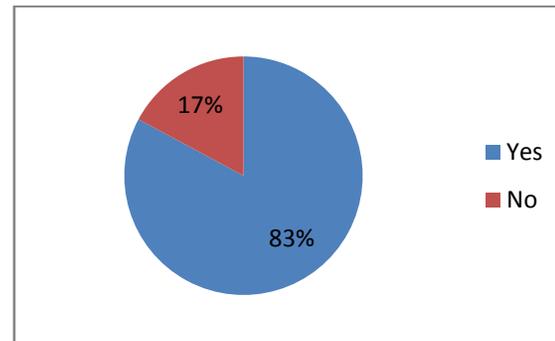
4) How did you order your influenza vaccine supply for your patients?



5) Were your patients satisfied with your seasonal influenza vaccination services?

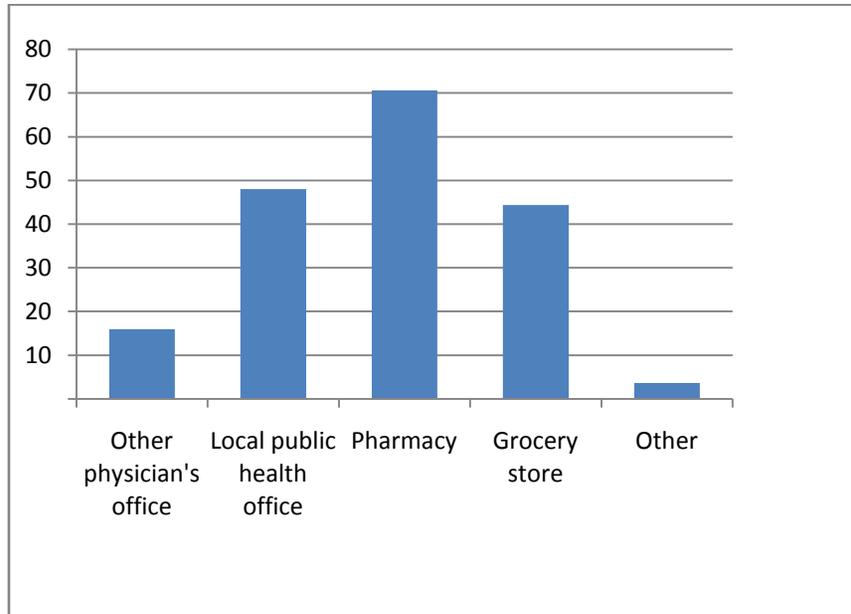


6A) Did you refer some or all of your patients for their seasonal influenza vaccination?



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- 6B) Please mark all the sites you referred some or all of your patients for seasonal influenza vaccination. Respondents could check all that applied.

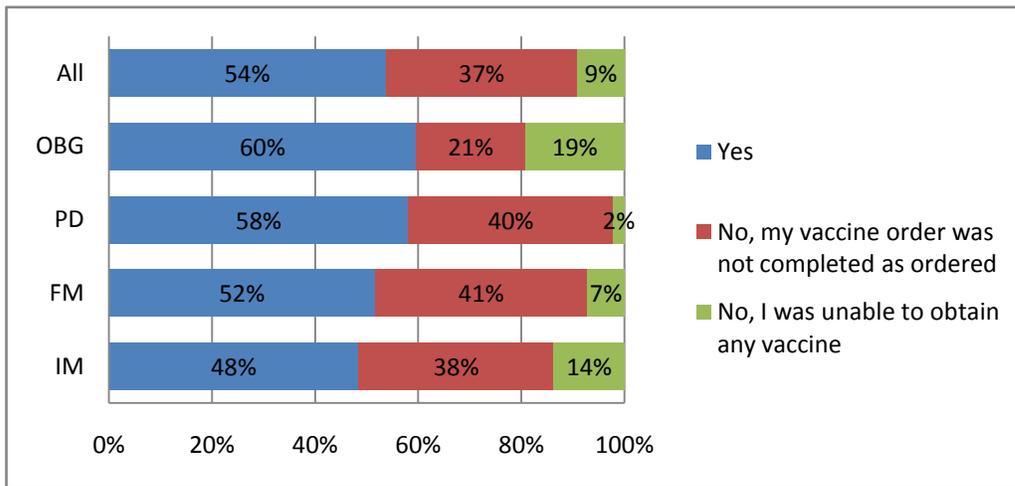


- 7) Include comments on your experience or about the flu vaccine distribution system and make any suggestions to help TMA propose improvements in the future. (See comments page)

The survey was sent to about 10,000 physicians who specialize in pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and internal medicine. In addition, the survey was sent to members of the following TMA councils and committees who practice these specialties: Council on Public Health, Council on Health Promotion, Council on Socioeconomics, Council on Scientific Affairs, Committee on Infectious Diseases, Committee on Child and Adolescent Health, Committee on Maternal and Perinatal Health, and Committee on Rural Health.

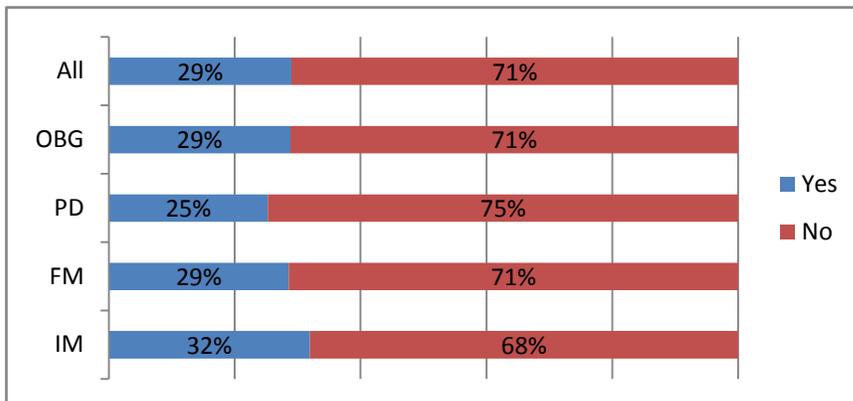
Responses were as follows: 57 OB-Gyns, 94 pediatricians, 158 family medicine specialists, and 97 internal medicine physicians.

Did you receive the amount of seasonal influenza vaccine that you ordered?



- OB-Gyns and pediatricians were more likely to report receiving the amount of vaccine they ordered.
- Among the four specialties, a higher percentage of OB-Gyns reported not being able to obtain any vaccine.

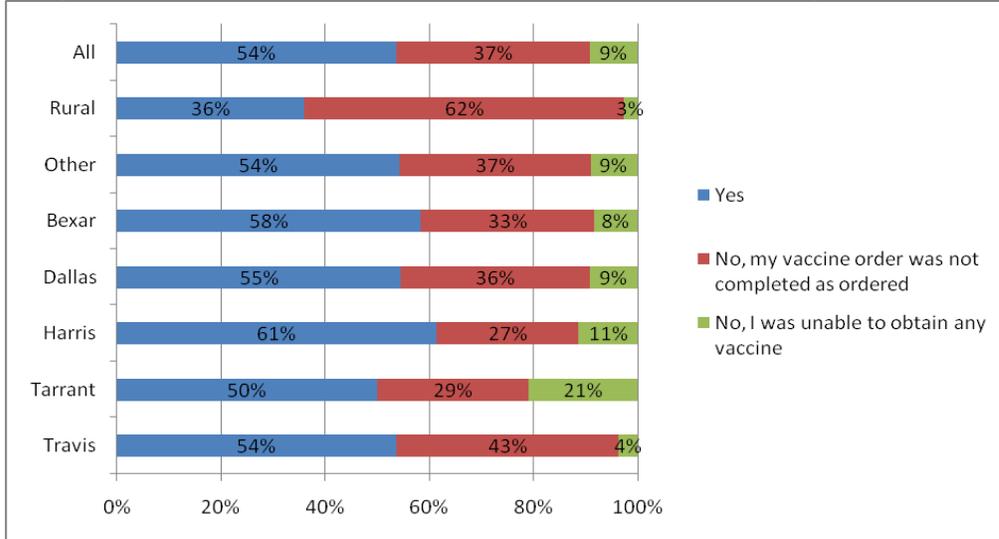
Did you receive enough vaccine to meet your patient demand?



- A majority in each specialty reported they didn't receive enough vaccine to meet the patient demand. Overall, 71 percent said they didn't receive enough.

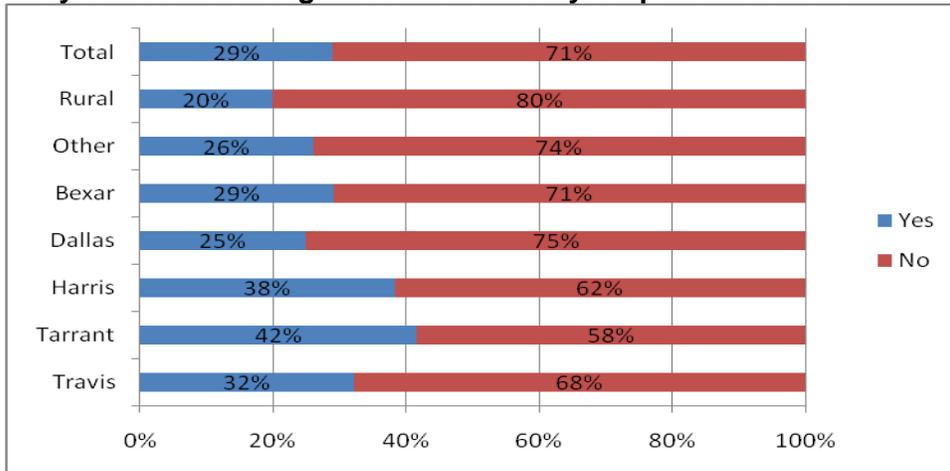
Of the 408 respondents, 194 practice in the five largest urban counties (Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis), 40 in rural counties, and 173 in metropolitan counties other than the five most populated counties.

Did you receive the amount of seasonal influenza vaccine you ordered?



- Overall, 54 percent of respondents reported receiving the amount of vaccine they ordered.
- A smaller percentage of physicians from rural counties reported receiving the amount of vaccine ordered than physicians from the other counties.

Did you receive enough vaccine to meet your patient demand?



- Overall, 71 percent of physicians reported not receiving enough vaccine to meet patient demand.
- Rural physicians (20 percent) reported the smallest percentage for receiving enough vaccine to meet patient demand.
- Physicians from Tarrant County reported the highest percentage for receiving enough vaccine to meet patient demand.

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How well did the seasonal influenza vaccine distribution work for your practice during the 2009-10 season? Please share your experience this year on seasonal vaccine ordering and distribution. The Texas Medical Association will use your responses to help us work on your behalf to improve the process. Thank you.

Please note, we are NOT asking about your experience with the H1N1 vaccine.

1) Did you order seasonal influenza vaccine for your patients in 2009? (You MUST answer this question. Thank you.)

- Yes
- No

2) Did you receive the amount of seasonal influenza vaccine that you ordered?

- Yes
- No, my vaccine order was not completed as ordered
- No, I was unable to obtain any vaccine

3) Did you receive enough vaccine to meet your patient demand?

- Yes
- No

4) How did you order your influenza vaccine supply for your patients?

- Direct from the manufacturer
- Part of a network
- Other (please specify)

If you selected other, please specify _____

5) Were your patients satisfied with your seasonal influenza vaccination services?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

6) Please mark all the sites to which you referred some or all of your patients for their seasonal influenza vaccination:

- Did not refer patients
- Other physician's office
- Local public health office
- Pharmacy
- Grocery store
- Other (please specify)

If you selected other, please specify _____

7) Please add comments on your experience or about the flu vaccine distribution system and make any suggestions to help TMA propose improvements in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.