

Attitudes of parents and health workers toward HPV vaccine in Mongolia: A Nationwide Cross-Sectional Survey

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INTRODUCTION

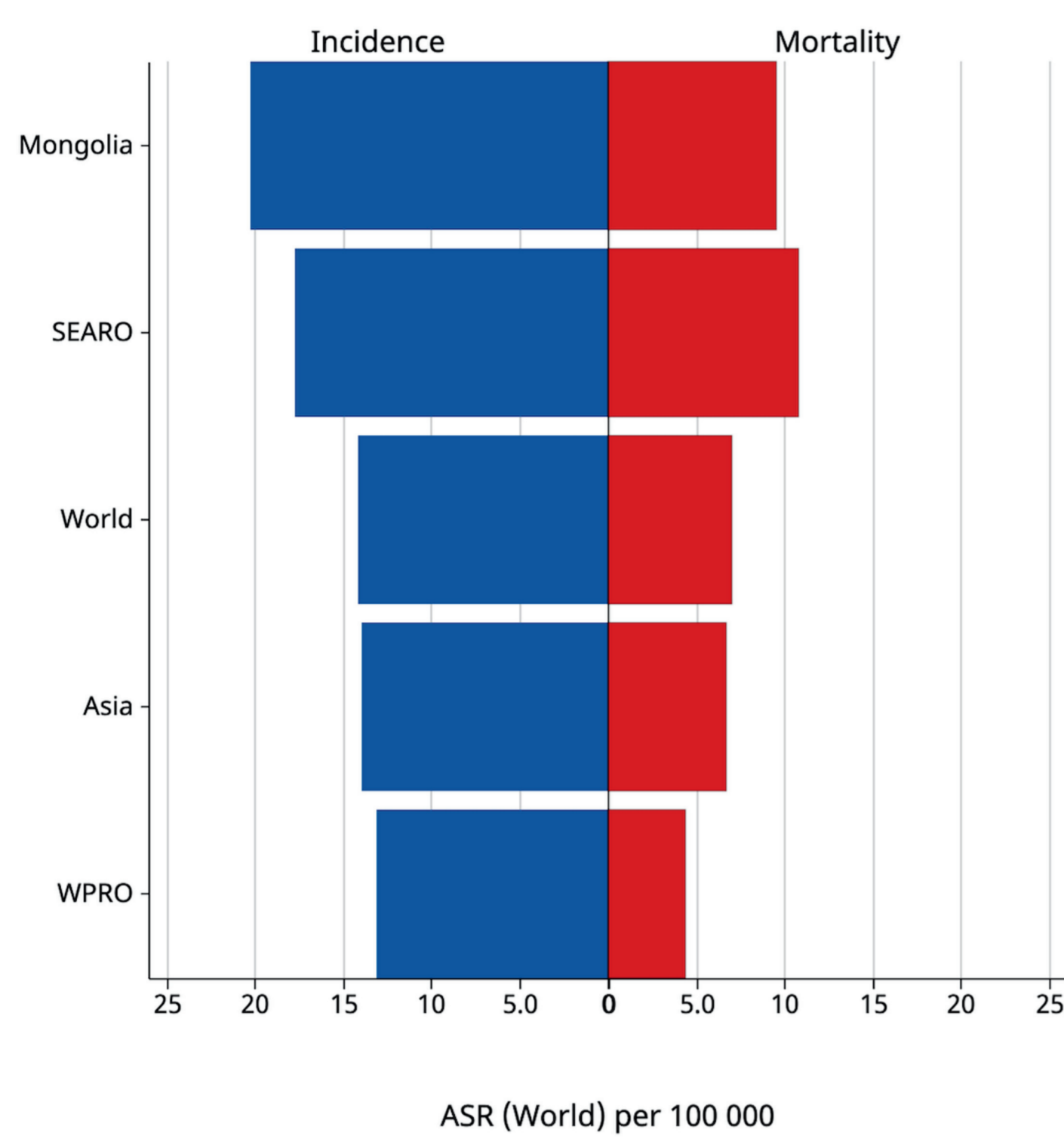


Figure 1. Age-Standardized Rate (World) per 100 000, Incidence and Mortality, in 2022
Cervix uteri. Mongolia-World-Asia-SEARO-WRPO

Cancer TODAY | IARC - <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>
Data version: Globocan 2022 (version 1.1)
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Cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates in Mongolia are higher than in the world and regional countries. Mongolia amended the Law on Immunization in 2023 to include the HPV vaccine as a mandatory immunization. Immunization with the HPV vaccine will begin nationwide in October of 2024. Thus, we aimed to determine the attitudes of parents and health workers regarding the new vaccine.

METHODS

Study design

Cross-sectional study

Study data collection methodology

Questionnaires and focus group interviews

Study population

Parents of children aged 9-11

Primary care and referral care physicians, nurses, and public health professionals

Study data were collected from May to June in 2024.



Figure 2. Mongolian regions

The study involved parents and health worker from 4 regions of Mongolia and 3 districts of Ulaanbaatar.

Attitude towards the vaccine was evaluated by identifying and agreeing. Focus group interviews determined the decision to get HPV vaccine and the factors influencing it.

RESULTS

A total of 3057 parents and 416 health workers participated in the study.

Seventy-eight per cent of parents have a negative attitude towards HPV vaccination. 79% of parents and 50% of health workers are hesitant to vaccinate their children against HPV. (Fig.3)

Parental attitudes about vaccines vary by age and location ($p < 0.05$).

The reasons for refusing and doubting vaccination are concerns about the quality of the vaccine, long-term effects and negative side effects. (Fig.4)

In the decision to vaccinate, evidence-based information and advice from healthcare professionals are considered the most important. (Fig.5)

Health workers appreciate the importance of the vaccine, but 64% are not confident in recommending the vaccine to citizens, and 88.56% believe that there is a need for training upon vaccination against HPV infection.

Results of qualitative interviews:

- Confidence in vaccines has declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Evidence-based information and education are important because there is insufficient information about new vaccines

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study underscore the critical need for comprehensive information and advocacy on the safety and efficacy of the HPV vaccine to address the prevailing negative attitudes.

We thank the Ministry of Health of Mongolia and UNICEF for supporting this study.

■ Will have HPV vaccine ■ Hesitant ■ Will not HPV vaccine

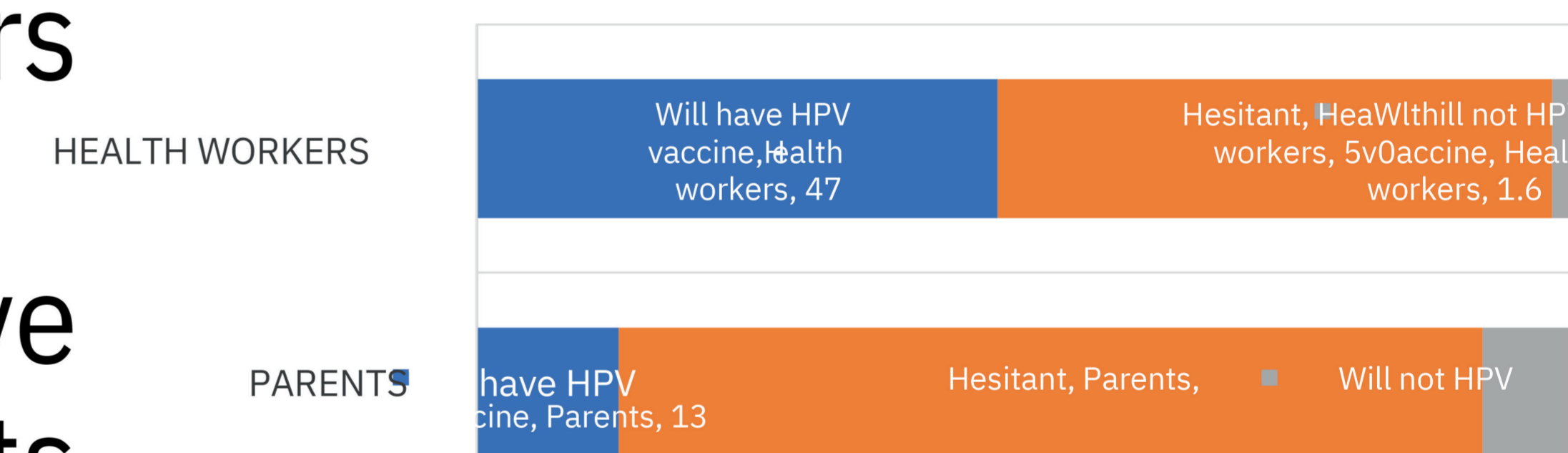


Figure 3. HPV vaccination decision

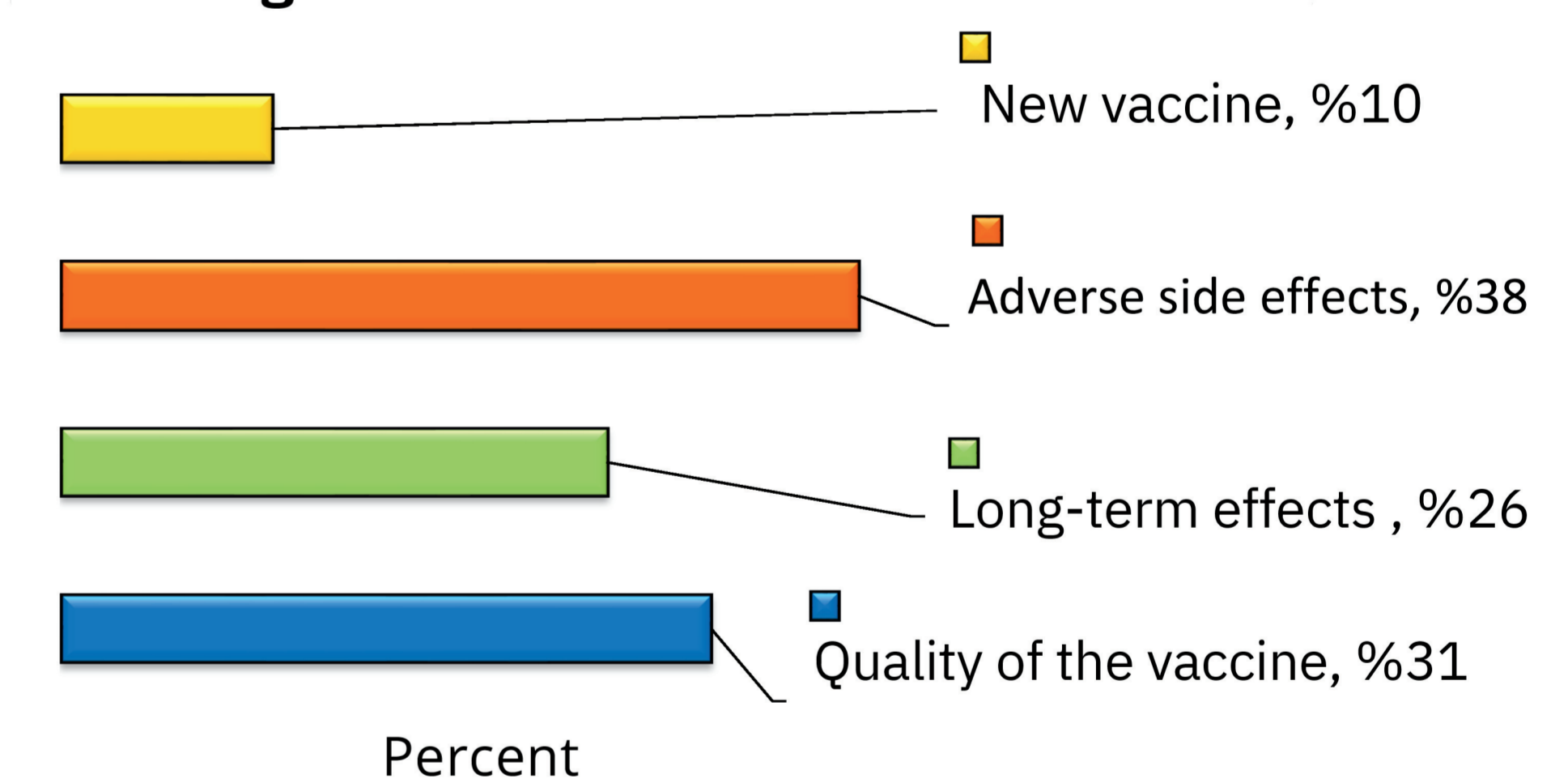


Figure 4. Reasons for refusing or doubting vaccination

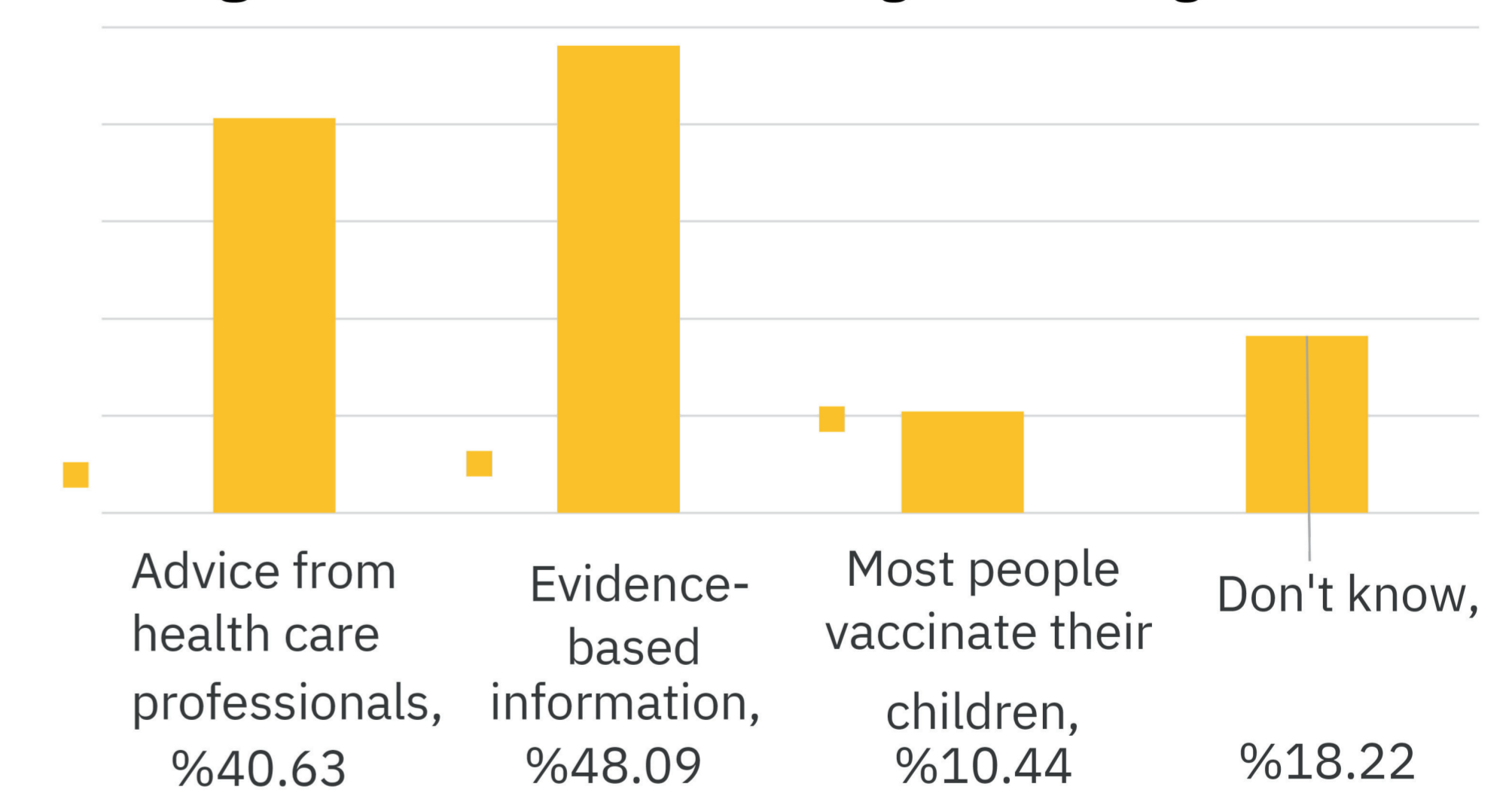


Figure 5. Factors influencing vaccination decisions