

Special Press Release

Of the 555 doctors surveyed in a Gallup Pakistan and PIMA Survey, 32% have already been afflicted by COVID-19; majority of the doctors surveyed consider COVID-19 to be of moderate to severe danger to the health of the public at large: Gallup Pakistan and PIMA Survey

(Islamabad, Karachi) March 2, 2021

A Gallup Pakistan - PIMA cross-sectional opinion survey of 555 doctors across Pakistan, majority of whom were working in COVID-19 exposed facilities shows that 32% of them have already been afflicted by COVID-19 during this pandemic. Majority doctors consider COVID-19 to be a moderate to severe danger for health of public at large while they consider the rollout of vaccines as slow with majority of health workers not having been offered vaccination yet. While 21% were ready to be vaccinated by any available vaccine, 19% were not convinced about the efficacy of vaccines.

Message from the esteemed President of PIMA, Professor Khubaib Shahid:

“It is a privilege for me to announce the results of the first of its kind survey of facts and perceptions about COVID-19 polled by doctors in Pakistan. The survey was organized by PIMA and conducted by Gallup Pakistan through answers to online queries from 555 responders from our profession. I am sure that the inferences will be a source of first-hand information on the subject for our health authorities and public at large.”

Key findings:

1. 89% of surveyed health professionals worked in facilities where they could encounter COVID-19 patients.
2. 32% have tested positive previously.
3. Vaccine rollout is slow as 59% health professionals have not been offered vaccination, the figure for KP is 74%.
4. 84% of surveyed health professionals consider COVID-19 to be a moderate to serious risk for the population at large
5. 81% health professionals surveyed were ready to be vaccinated while 19% were not convinced to be vaccinated.
6. While 21% were ready to take the first available vaccine, 46% would like to be offered Astra-Zeneca or Pfizer.



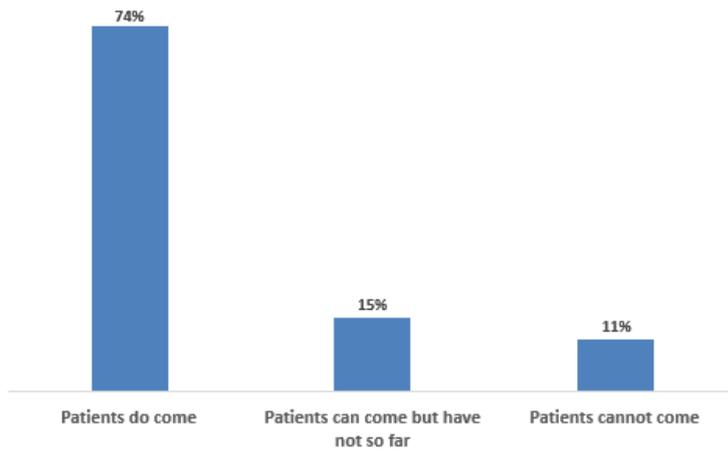
Key Findings of the Survey

1. Health Professionals across Pakistan have been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

Over 9 in 10 are working in places where COVID-19 patients come and over 50% have had significant exposure to such patients.

89% of surveyed health professionals worked in facilities where they could encounter COVID-19 patients

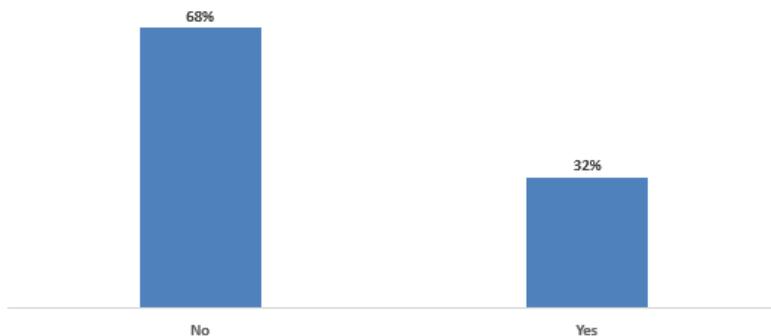
Question: Do you work at any such place where COVID-19 patients come for treatment or are likely to come for treatment?



Most alarmingly as high as 4 in 10 report having contracted COVID-19 already! Given the sacrifices our front-line workers have already made, the support and recognition offered to them has been paltry!

32% have tested positive previously

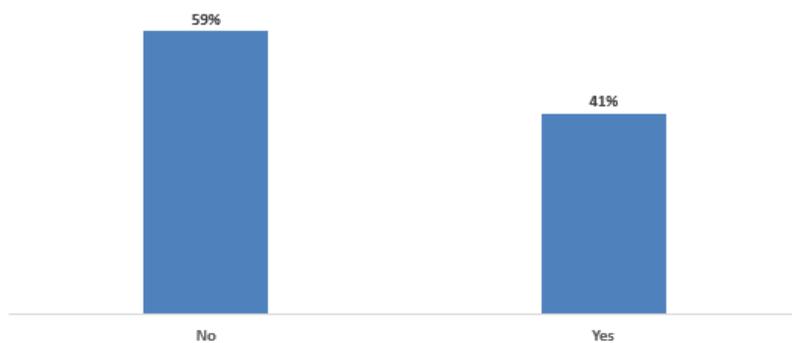
Question: Have you tested positive for COVID-19 previously?



2. Vaccine roll-out has been slow: The survey exercise coincided with the vaccine roll-out to the health community. We see that almost 60% doctors say they have not yet been offered the vaccine. This could be an information problem as well as a logistical issue.

Vaccine roll-out is slow as 59% health professionals have not been vaccination, the figure for KP is 74%

Question: Has a COVID-19 vaccine been offered to you till now?

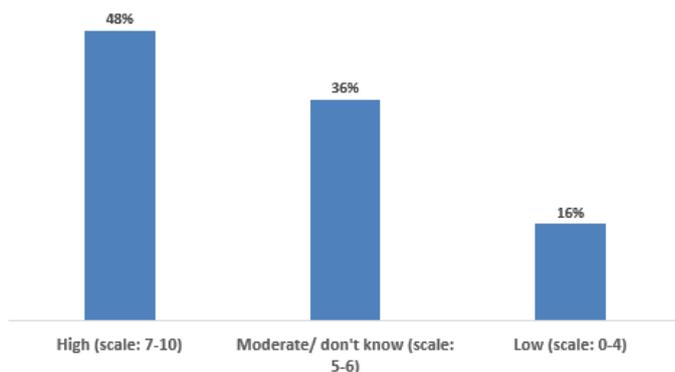


In KP, as high as 75% say they have not been offered vaccine. If we are to vaccinate all the 400,000+ health workers, the current pace needs to change rapidly.

3. Almost 1 in 5 doctors show a relaxed attitude towards COVID-19, and another 20% less than required serious attitude. When asked to rate the threat of COVID-19 as a disease to wider population 4 in 10 rate it to be low or somewhat low.

84% of surveyed health professionals consider COVID-19 to be of moderate to serious risk for the population at large on a scale of 5 to 10.

Question: In your opinion, for the population as a whole, how serious is COVID-19 on a scale of 0 to 10?



Source: Gallup & PIMA study on Healthcare workers on Vaccine Confidence

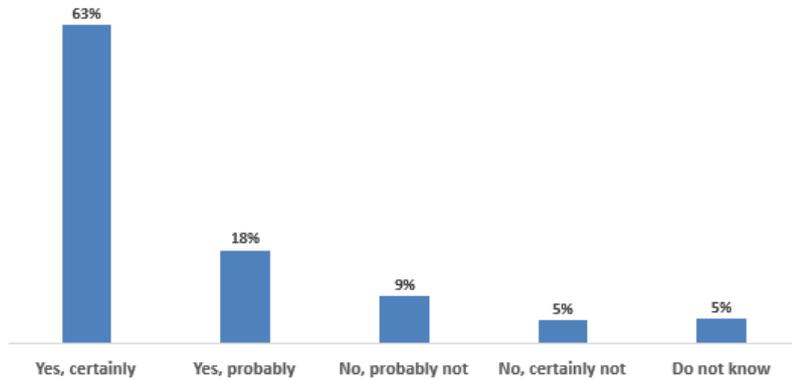


A pandemic that has killed millions and infected over 50 million may need to be taken more seriously by the health community.

4. A large majority of doctors over 80% are willing to take the COVID-19 vaccine

81% surveyed were ready to be vaccinated while 19% were not convinced to take these.

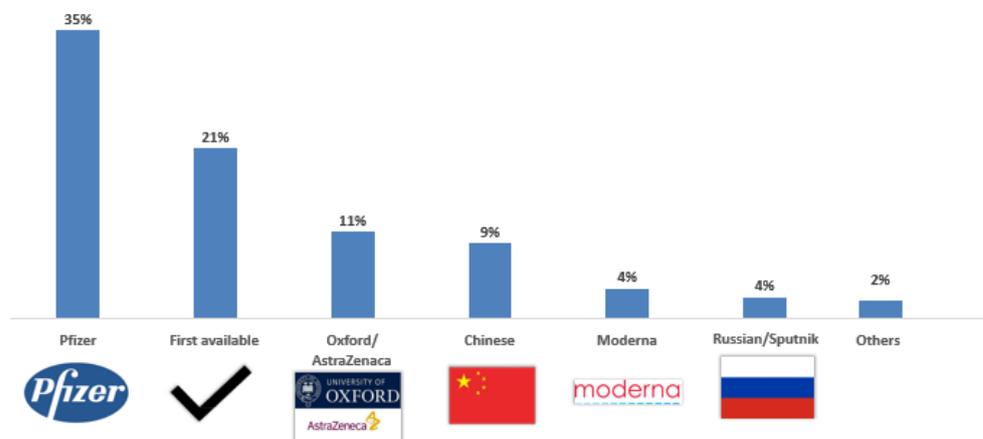
Question: If COVID-19 vaccine was offered to you, how likely is it that you would get vaccinated?



The most popular vaccine however is Pfizer which is not on the horizon to be offered. Currently offered vaccines have the lowest acceptability (Chinese and Russian).

While 21% were ready to take the first available vaccine, 46% would like to be offered Astra-Zeneca or Pfizer in ascending order of preference.

Question: Out of the following, which COVID-19 vaccine would you be willing to get?



This may be the single largest explanation for currently seen slow roll-out and early signs of rejection. The largest cause of concern for those who have low vaccine confidence are safety concerns as well as the lack of belief in COVID-19 itself. Unfortunately, social media was cited as the largest source of information and given the pervasiveness of fake news and various conspiracies the findings are no big surprise.

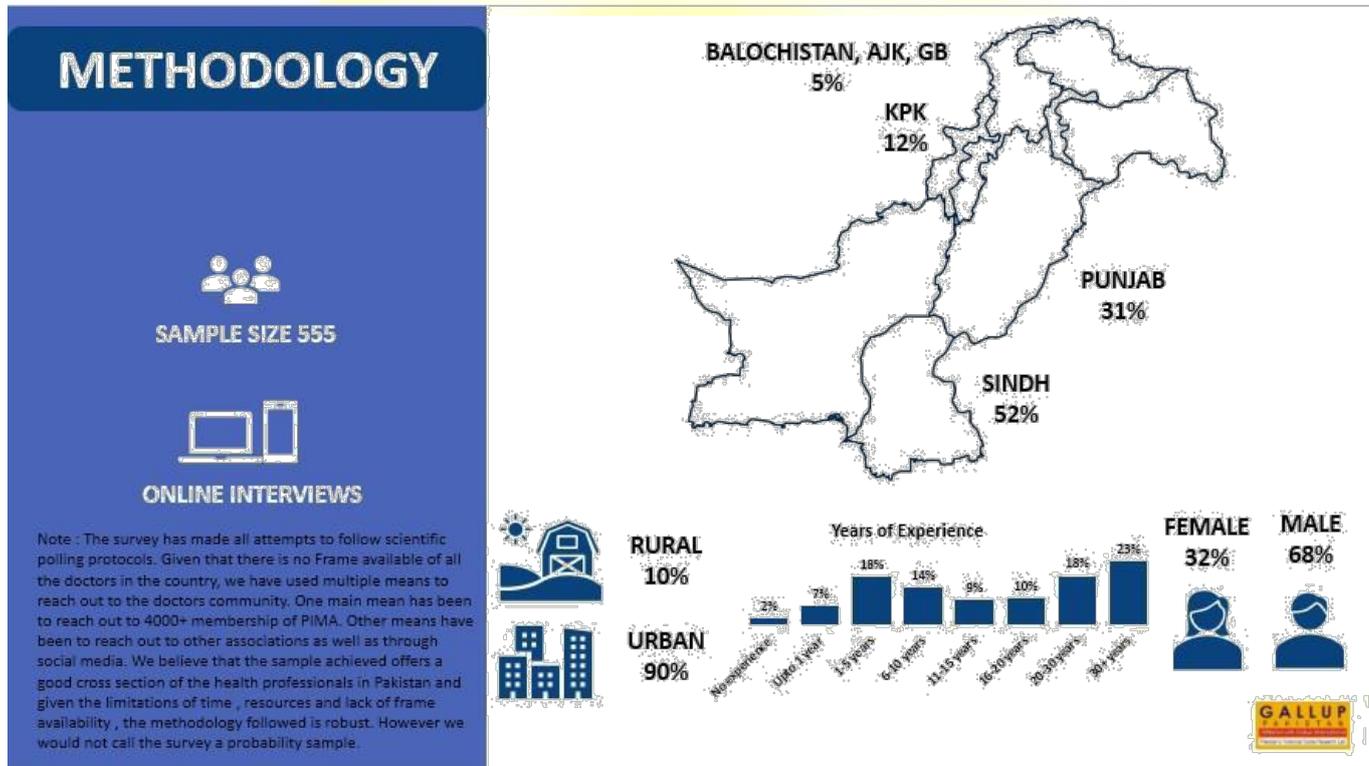
5. Positive news is that 9 in 10 doctors say they will be recommending the vaccine to their patients.

Views on COVID-19 and its vaccine: Do doctors have doubts?

Almost half of the doctors believe that COVID-19 is a high threat to the whole population. This might be much higher than the public who still consider it to be an exaggerated threat in large numbers. Most of the doctors (65%) dispel the misconception that having infection naturally will give better immunity than vaccine. But the rest are not sure on this. Thus, there is a room for educating doctors on this so that they can promote more positive attitudes and practices towards COVID-19 vaccine among their patients. It is encouraging to see very high proportion of doctors (84%) trusting science in creating new vaccines. The trust is relatively low (51%) in the Ministry of Health ensuring safety of vaccines. Despite having trust overall, more than half (58%) express doubts about safety of vaccine created in an emergency situation. This again points to an area where doctors need more education and clearing of their doubts about safety of COVID-19 vaccine to better promote them in the community. Despite having some personal doubts, majority of the doctors would recommend COVID-19 vaccines (when they become available) to their patients. This is a very encouraging finding as the public would be more likely to accept COVID-19 vaccine if it is endorsed by their doctors.

Methodology of Gallup Pakistan and PIMA National Survey of Health Professionals on Vaccine Confidence

Methodology snapshot is available below



Seminars and Roundtables:

Considering the centrality of doctors and the medical profession to the treatment of COVID-19, Gallup Pakistan would greatly welcome a series of seminars and roundtables, based on the findings of polls, with various collegial associations in the profession as well as medical universities and teaching institutions across the country. We would enthusiastically respond to institutions interested in joining hands in this public service activity.

Your feedback is appreciated. Please feel free to contact us at caf@gallup.com.pk in case of any queries or comments.



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup

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(7 Pages, English version Only)



Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.

*Best Regards,
Gallup Pakistan*

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Daily Gilani Poll
2019



of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2019)