

Pharmacy Workforce Perceptions on Recent Policy Changes for Pharmacy-Based Immunization Practices: Results from a Cross-Sectional Survey

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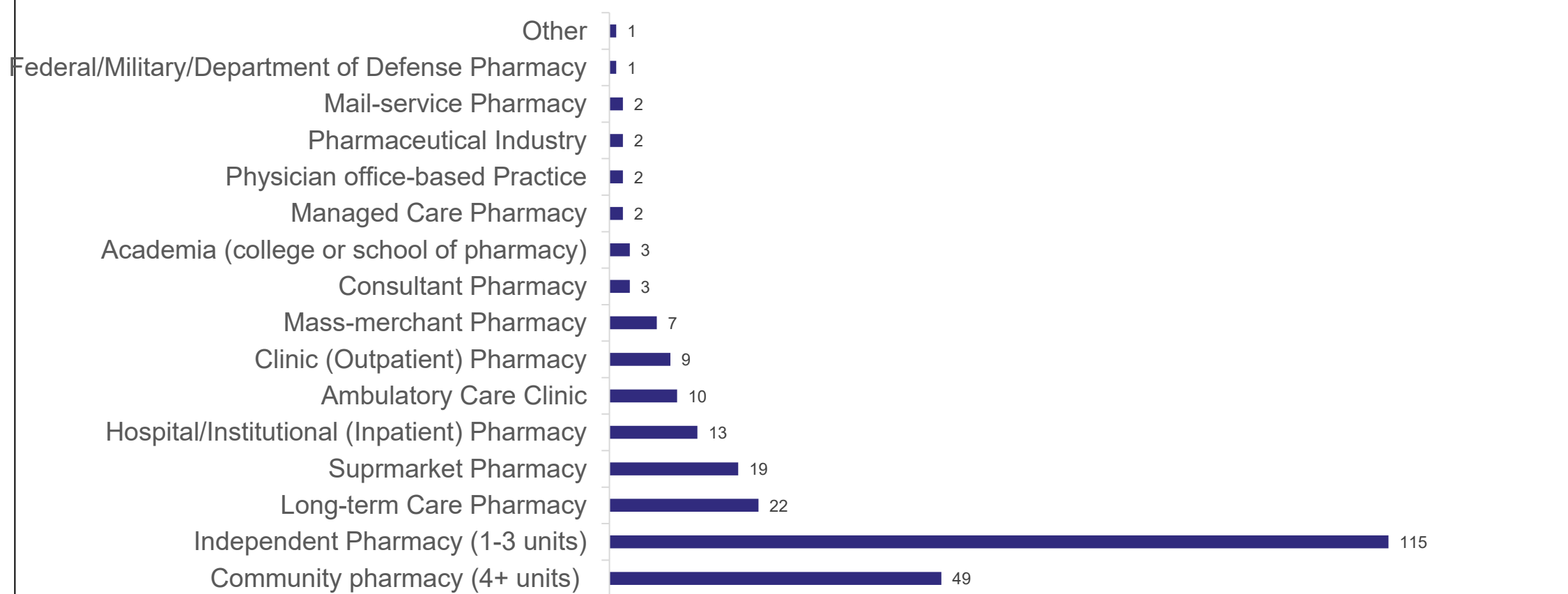
Background

Recent modifications to vaccination policy have continued to shape pharmacy-based immunization practices nationwide. Pharmacists and pharmacy personnel's authority to administer vaccinations was affected, as were perceptions within the pharmacy workforce. The Pharmacy-based Vaccine Access Work Group, composed of representatives from a diverse group of national organizations across pharmacy practice settings, conducted a cross-sectional survey in March 2026 to examine perceptions of these policy changes among pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians. This survey highlights how policy shifts have influenced vaccine uptake, acceptance of pharmacists' recommendations, and understanding of shared clinical decision-making.

Selection Criteria

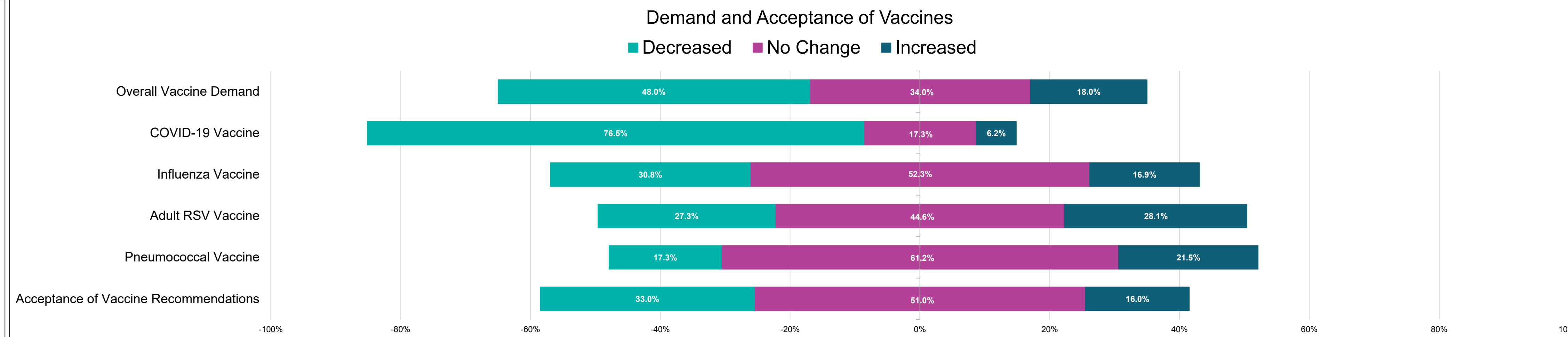
Participants were engaged based on their involvement and membership in participating organizations in the Pharmacy-based Vaccine Access Work Group. Responses were voluntary.

- N = 260
 - 236 pharmacists, 12 pharmacy technicians, 5 student pharmacists

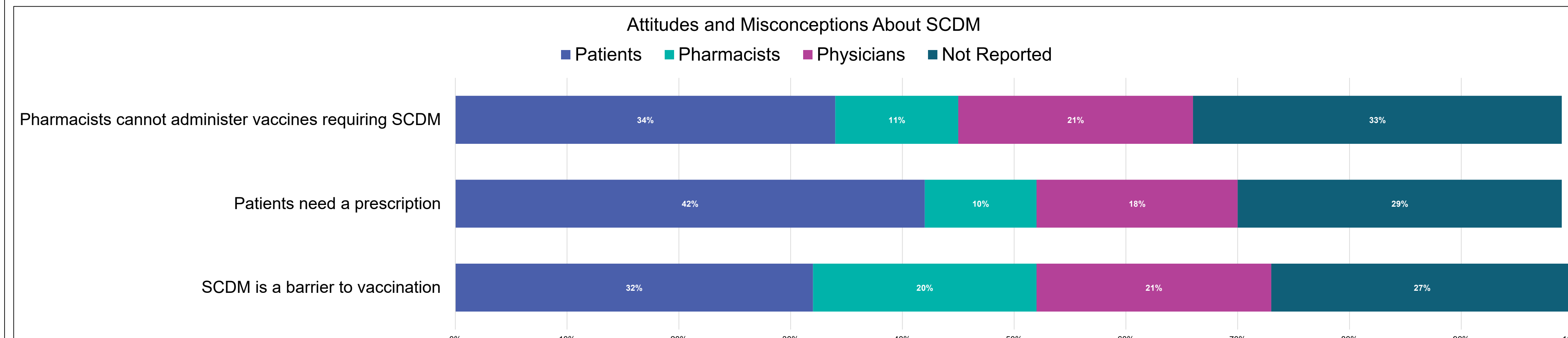
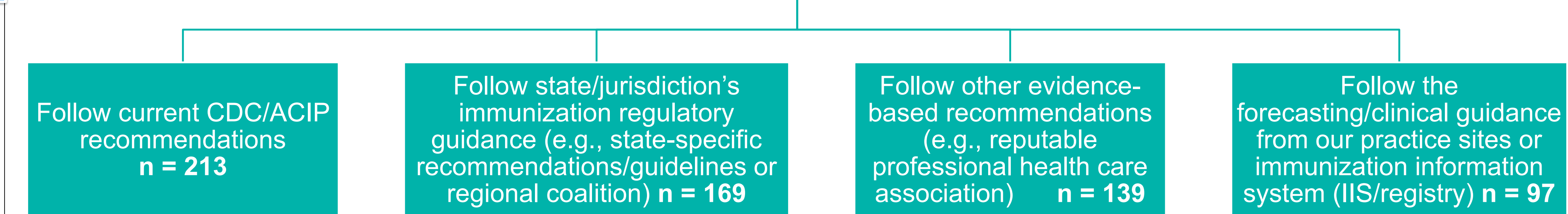


- Most represented states
 - Texas, Maryland, New York, Ohio, & Pennsylvania

Findings



What types of guidance are pharmacists using for clinical assessment and decision-making processes?



Conclusion

Pharmacy-based immunization services are facing increasing challenges driven by declining patient acceptance, particularly for COVID-19 vaccines, as pharmacists and pharmacy personnel report greater hesitancy, confusion, and time spent addressing patient concerns during vaccine encounters. Operational and policy-related barriers, including evolving ACIP recommendations, reimbursement limitations for pharmacist-provided services, and staffing constraints, continue to impact workflow efficiency and the sustainability of vaccination programs within pharmacy settings. Despite these challenges, pharmacists and pharmacy personnel remain essential in driving vaccine uptake, as demand varies by vaccine type and practice setting, and patient acceptance is strongly influenced by proactive pharmacist recommendations and access to immunization services at the point of care.

Recommendations

- Strengthen pharmacist-led communication strategies
 - Equip pharmacists and pharmacy personnel with concise, evidence-based tools to address vaccine hesitancy, confusion, and misinformation at the point of care.
- Advance payment and policy reforms
 - Advocate for reimbursement parity for pharmacist-provided vaccination services and streamline regulatory processes to reduce delays and variability in vaccine access.
- Enhance proactive vaccination practices
 - Encourage routine screening, make strong recommendations, and offer vaccines at every patient interaction to improve uptake.
- Improve patient education and awareness
 - Develop clear, simplified resources to help patients understand vaccine eligibility, schedules, and the benefits of coadministration.
- Leverage multi-provider collaboration
 - Promote consistent messaging across pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and other providers to reinforce patient confidence and acceptance of vaccines.

More from the work group

Access the guiding principles for state policy on pharmacy-personnel administered vaccines.



Pharmacists' Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine personnel authority

