

## BACKGROUND

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, community pharmacists have had to adapt significantly and shown able to take on more responsibilities to assist in public health and alleviate pressure from other areas of health services
- Community pharmacists play a vital role in providing immunizations, and incorporation of the COVID-19 vaccine into the community setting has allowed for a drastic increase in immunization rates
- As community pharmacists continue to become more relied upon and pharmacy workload continues to increase, it is important that their mental health does not take a toll as poor mental health can lead to decreased productivity, decision-making ability, and overall quality of care

## OBJECTIVE

- To evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine on the mental health of community pharmacists, identify barriers experienced when administering COVID-19 vaccines, and identify practices to implement or improve in order to combat these barriers

## METHODS

### Study Design

- Retrospective, observational, cross-sectional survey study
- Survey Design: Four section questionnaire assessing demographic information, level of agreeance in response to statements pertaining to COVID-19 vaccine administration, and barriers and improvements/implementations in order to help reduce the barriers identified

### Study Population

- Community pharmacists throughout various practice sites were able to chose to participate in this anonymous survey

### Study Measures

- The primary outcome assessed was effect of mental health due to various aspects of the COVID-19 vaccine

### Data Analysis

- Samples were described using frequencies/percentages
- Analysis computed via Excel Algorithms

## RESULTS

**Table 1: Community Pharmacist Response Comparison from Beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic vs. Currently**

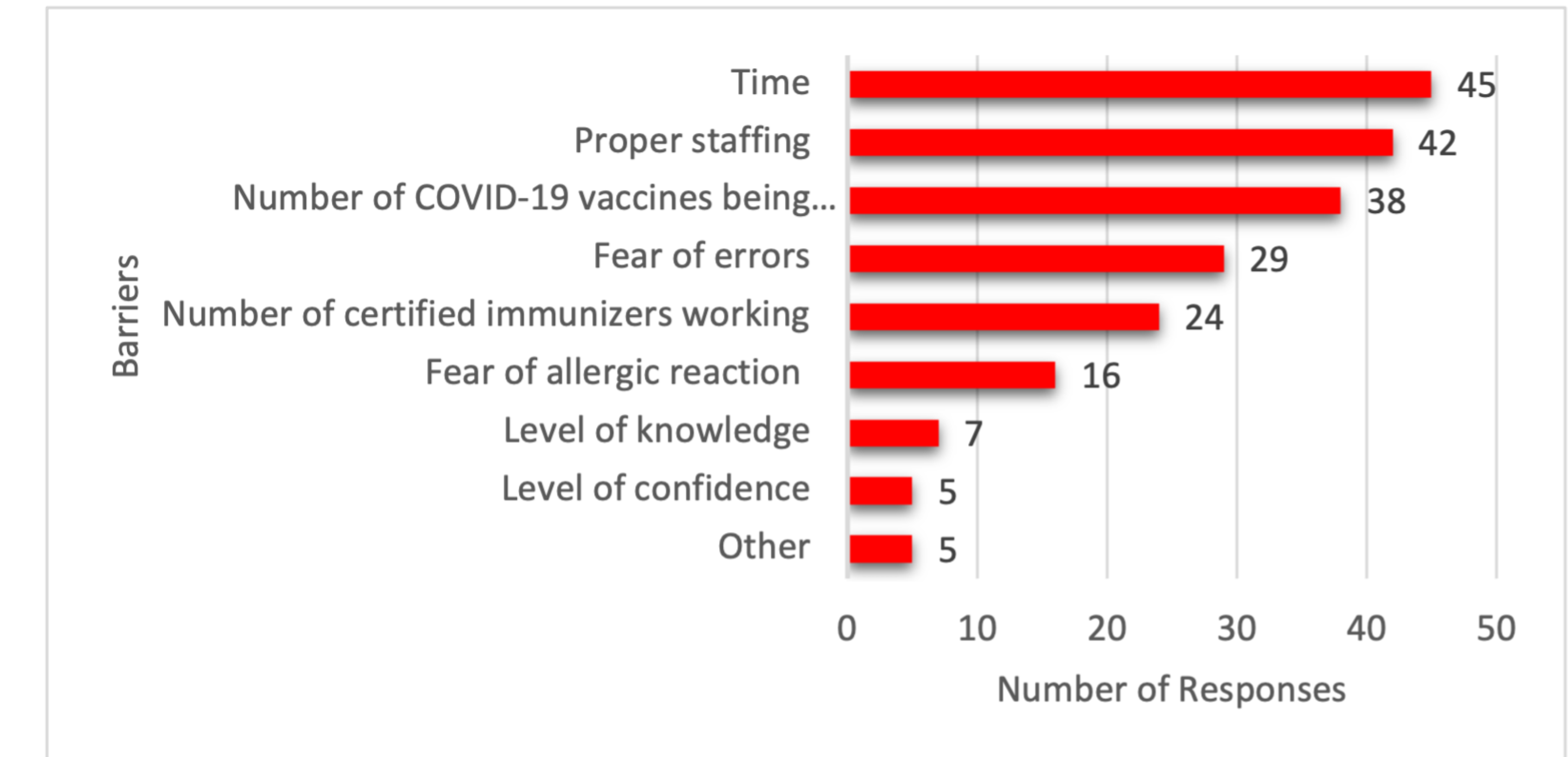
Statement	Strongly Agree N (%)	Somewhat Agree N (%)	Neither Agree or Disagree N (%)	Somewhat Disagree N (%)	Strongly Disagree N (%)
At the beginning the COVID-19 pandemic I felt confident in my ability to properly handle and administer COVID-19 vaccines	12 (24)	17 (34)	4 (8)	16 (32)	1 (2)
Currently I feel confident in my ability to properly handle and administer COVID-19 vaccines	25 (50)	15 (30)	7 (14)	2 (4)	1 (2)
At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic I felt overwhelmed with the amount of COVID-19 vaccines being administered	31 (62)	15 (30)	2 (4)	2 (4)	0 (0)
Currently I feel overwhelmed with the amount of COVID-19 vaccines being administered	5 (10)	8 (16)	10 (20)	19 (38)	8 (16)
At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic I felt as though COVID-19 vaccine administration disrupted pharmacy workflow	43 (86)	4 (8)	2 (4)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Currently I feel as though COVID-19 vaccine administration disrupted pharmacy workflow	11 (22)	13 (26)	9 (18)	13 (26)	3 (6)
At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic I worried about making a mistake administering COVID-19 vaccines	30 (60)	12 (24)	4 (8)	2 (4)	2 (4)
Currently I worry about making a mistake administering COVID-19 vaccines	9 (18)	14 (28)	11 (22)	12 (24)	4 (8)

**Table 2: Community Pharmacist Level of Agreeance to Various Statements Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**

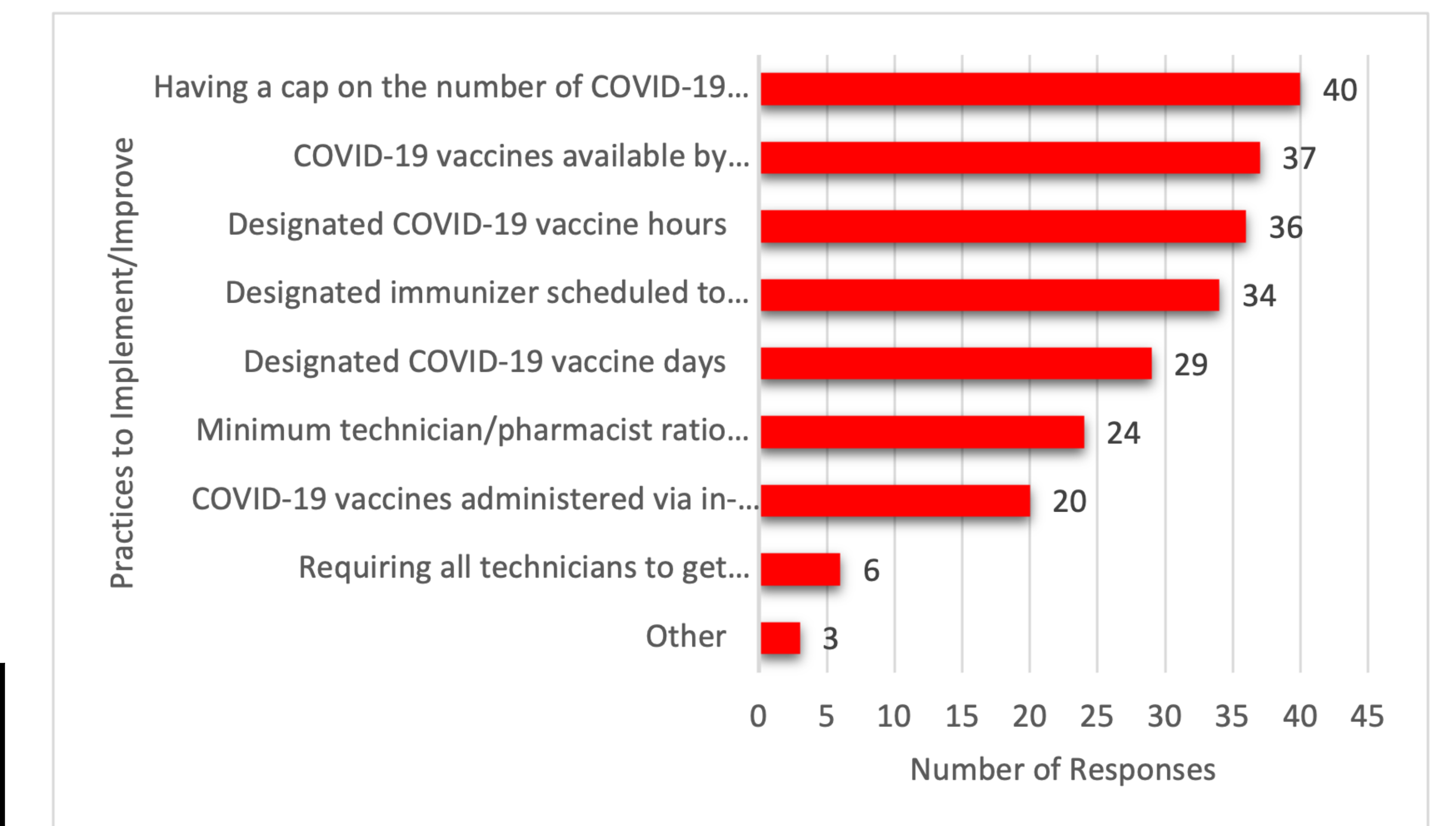
Statement	Strongly Agree N (%)	Somewhat Agree N (%)	Neither Agree or Disagree N (%)	Somewhat Disagree N (%)	Strongly Disagree N (%)
I have proper staffing to efficiently administer COVID-19 vaccines during normal pharmacy workflow	8 (16)	13 (26)	4 (8)	15 (30)	10 (20)
I frequently utilize immunizing technicians and/or interns to administer COVID-19 vaccines	14 (28)	8 (16)	7 (14)	9 (18)	12 (24)
I feel confident in immunizing technicians and/or interns ability to properly administer COVID-19 vaccines	11 (22)	17 (34)	12 (24)	9 (18)	1 (2)
Immunizing technicians and/or interns administering COVID-19 vaccines during pharmacy workflow reduces my stress level at work	18 (36)	15 (30)	12 (24)	3 (6)	2 (4)
I feel pharmacies should be able to administer all available COVID-19 vaccines	10 (20)	10 (20)	4 (8)	11 (22)	15 (30)
I am confident in my ability to administer all available COVID-19 vaccines	20 (40)	10 (20)	5 (10)	12 (24)	3 (6)

## RESULTS

**Figure 1: Community Pharmacist Barriers Perceived when Administering COVID-19 Vaccines**



**Figure 2: Community Pharmacist Opportunities to Enhance COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**



## CONCLUSION

- COVID-19 vaccine administration has led to increased workload for community pharmacists
- This study found that a majority of participants agreed that COVID-19 vaccine administration disrupts normal pharmacy workflow and disagreed to having the proper staffing for the increase in vaccine administration
- Several barriers were identified that had room for improvement regarding COVID-19 vaccine administration
- Practices should be implemented/improved to benefit the mental health of community pharmacists in order to provide patients with the best possible care