

COVID-19 Booster Vaccine Uptake amongst Healthcare Workers in Ireland: Results from PRECISE-5

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PRECISE Study

Antibody Test for COVID-19



Background

COVID-19 vaccination has proven effective at reducing the incidence and severity of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Amongst healthcare workers (HCWs) in Ireland, uptake of the primary vaccination course has been high. However, vaccine hesitancy remains a significant barrier to booster uptake in this population.

The aim of this study was to assess the demographic factors associated with full booster uptake amongst the subgroup of HCWs who participated in PRECISE-5.

Methods

This was a sub-study of PRECISE-5: a prospective observational cohort study conducted across two large teaching hospitals in Ireland.

Participants enrolled over a 12 day period in November 2022.

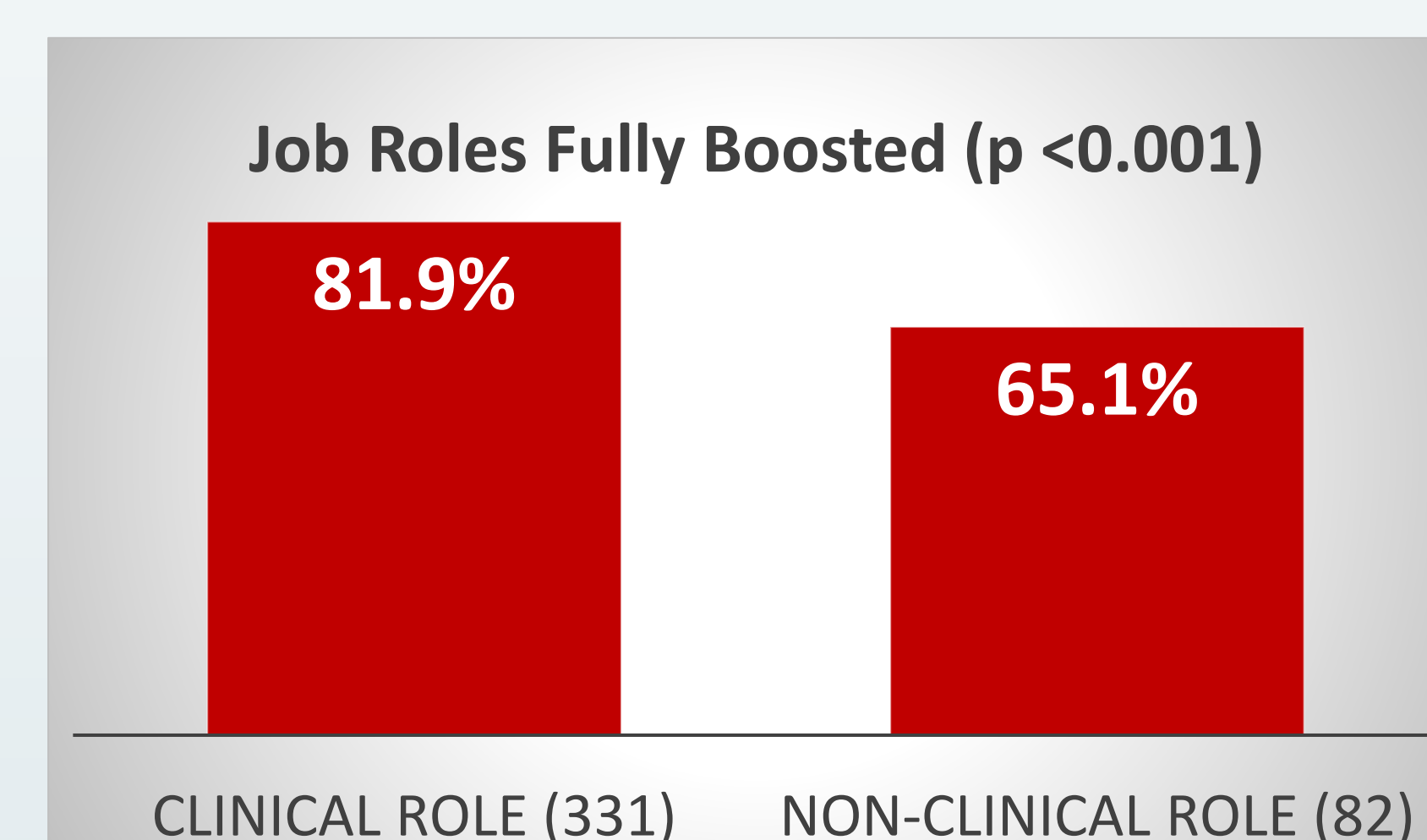
An online survey was conducted, with participants providing a self-reported vaccination history and other demographic details.

Those who were fully boosted with 2 or more boosters were then compared with those who had received a primary vaccination course only.

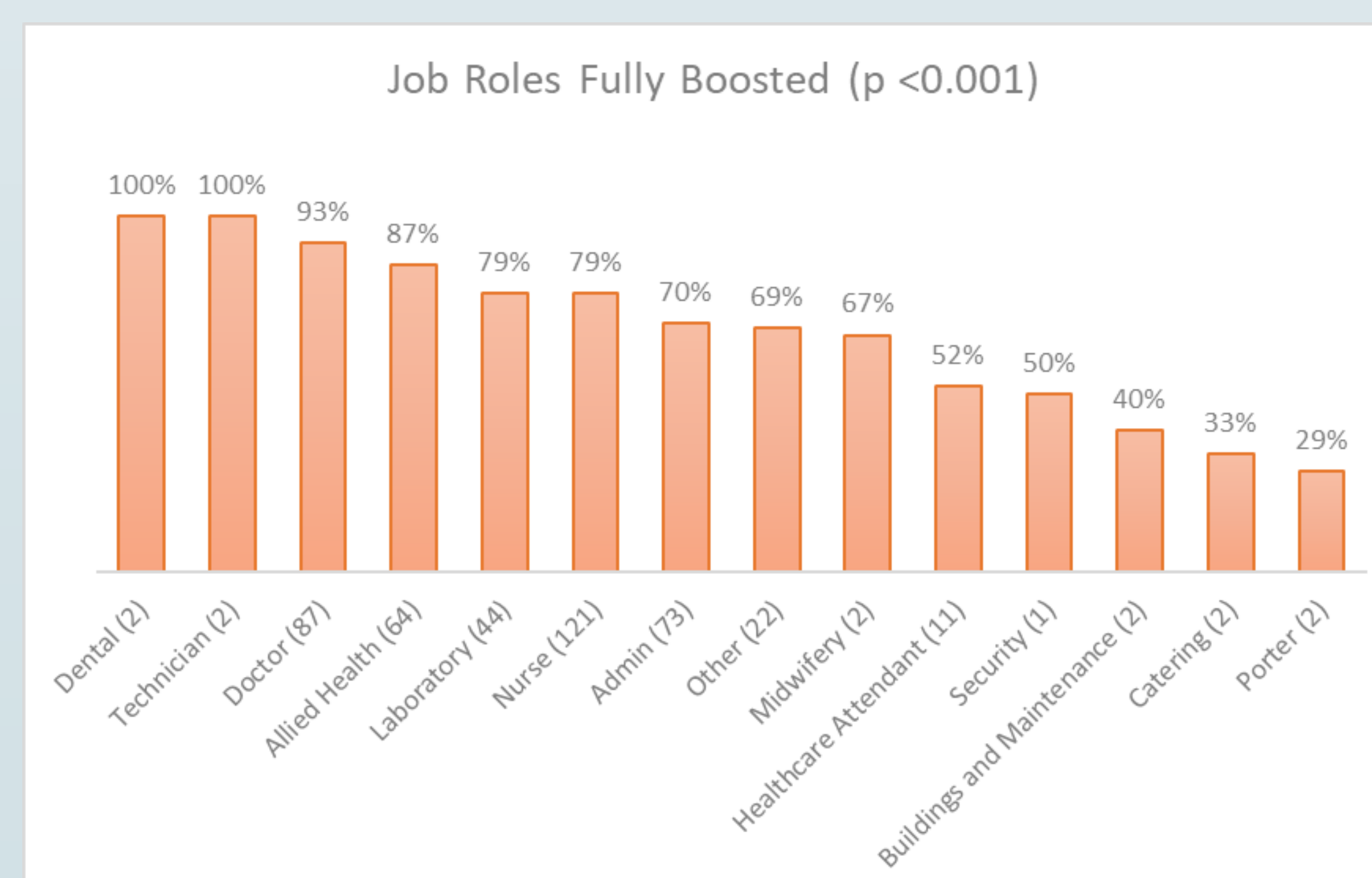
Results

562 participants, a subgroup of HCWs at both sites, were included in this univariate analysis, of which 76.5% (n = 430) were female, 23.1% (n = 130) were male, and 0.4% (n = 2) preferred not to say.

A clinical role was associated with a higher full booster uptake.

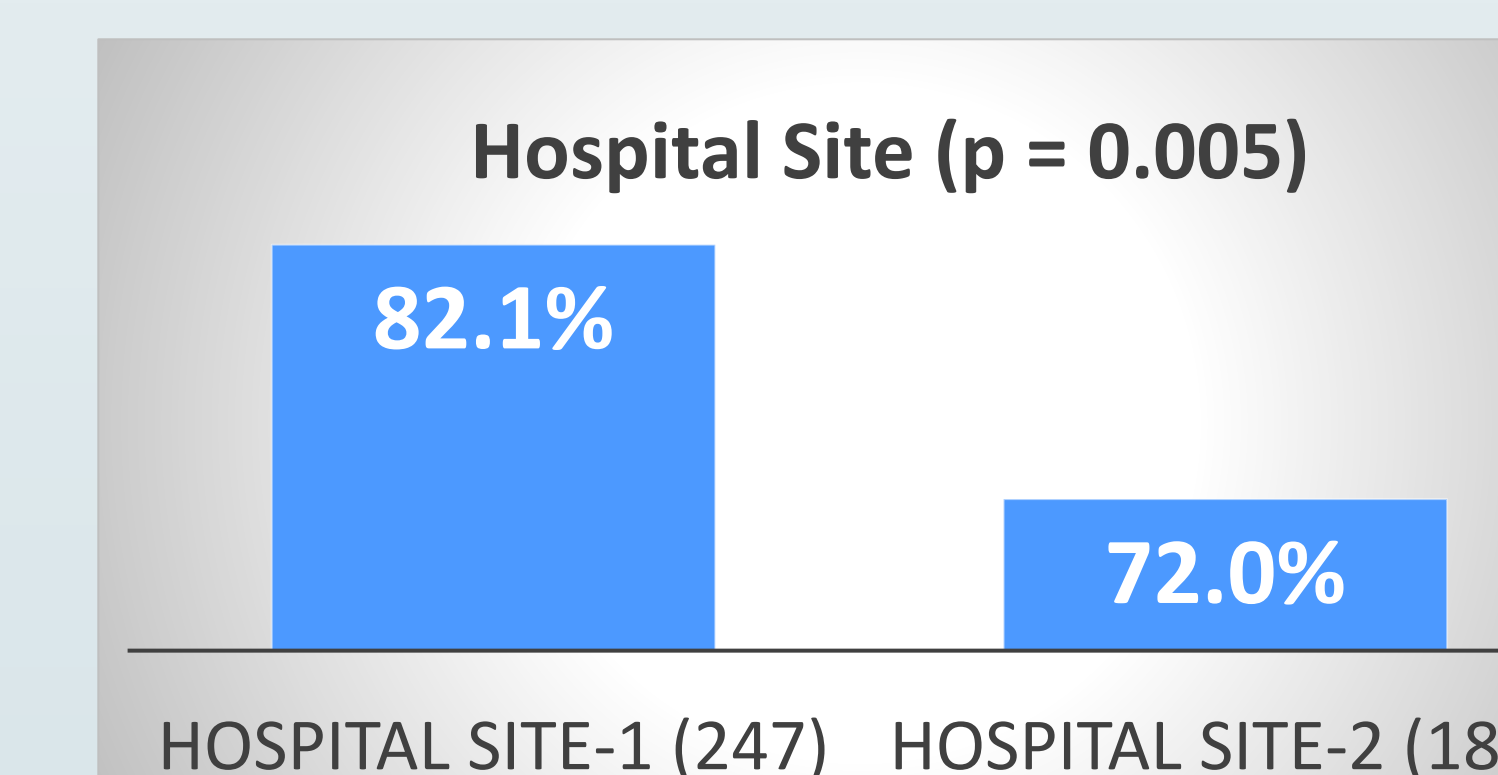
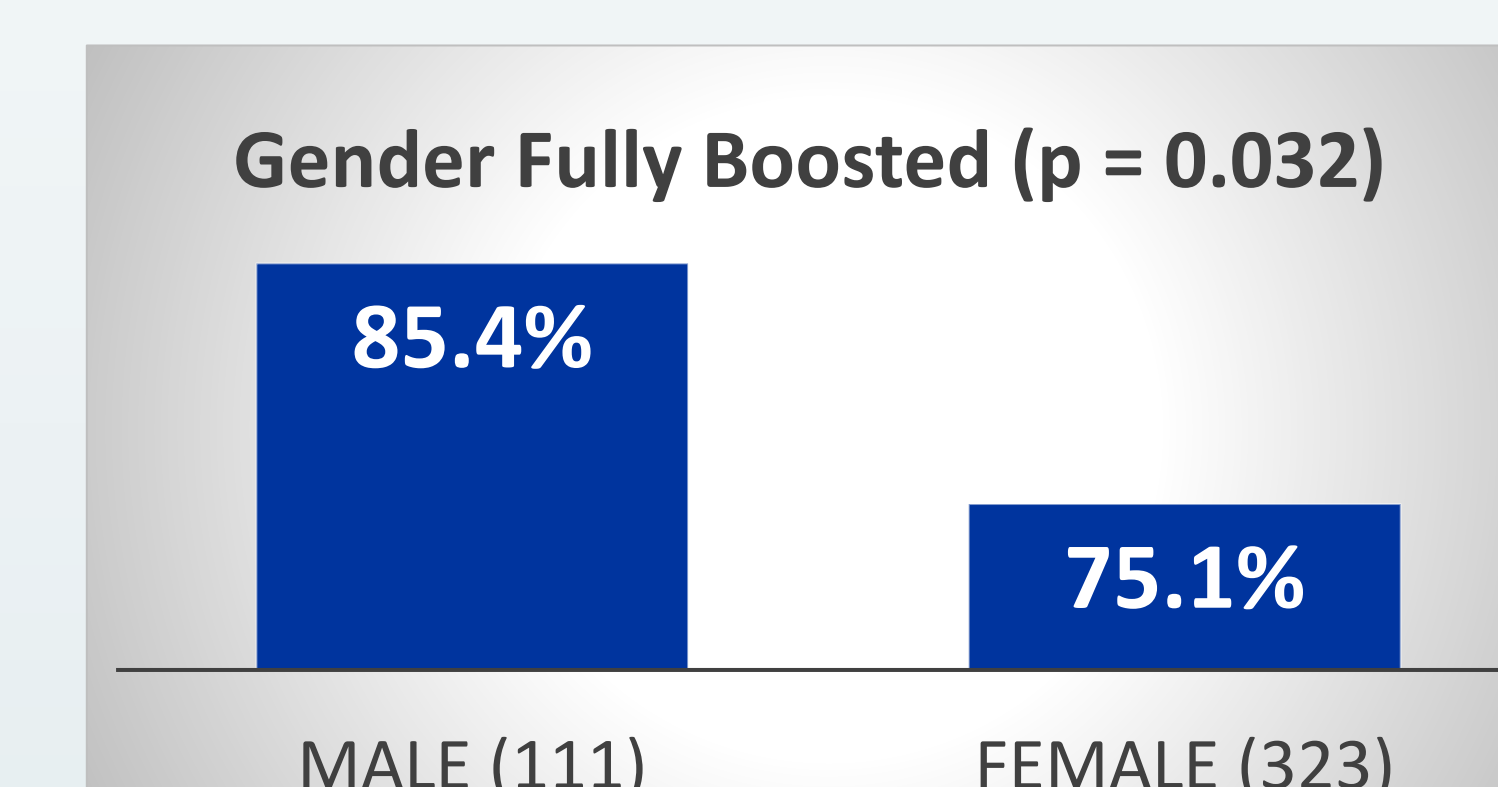


Job roles most likely to be fully boosted included Dental, Technician, Doctor, Allied Health, and Laboratory. Job roles least likely to have been fully boosted included Porter, Catering, Security and Healthcare Attendant.



Older age was associated with higher full booster uptake (p <0.001). The mean age of those fully boosted was 45.69 years, while the mean of those with a primary vaccination course only was 40.24 years.

Sex, as well as hospital employment location, also had a significant association with full booster uptake.



Ethnicity, and risk factors for severe disease such as treatment with immunomodulatory drugs or a serious medical condition, did not have a significant association with booster uptake.

Conclusion

This is the first data assessing COVID-19 vaccination and booster uptake amongst HCWs in Ireland.

In this study, while the initial vaccination rate was high, only 3 in 4 reported a full uptake of subsequent booster doses.

Reduced uptake of boosters reveal an emergence of vaccine hesitancy amongst HCWs as the pandemic progressed.

Disparities amongst different demographic subgroups were also evident, with HCWs in clinical roles and with higher educational attainment more likely to receive booster doses.

This data will help to inform future COVID-19 and seasonal vaccination programmes in the healthcare service in general, as well as identifying subgroups where strategies are needed to modify attitudes towards vaccination.

