

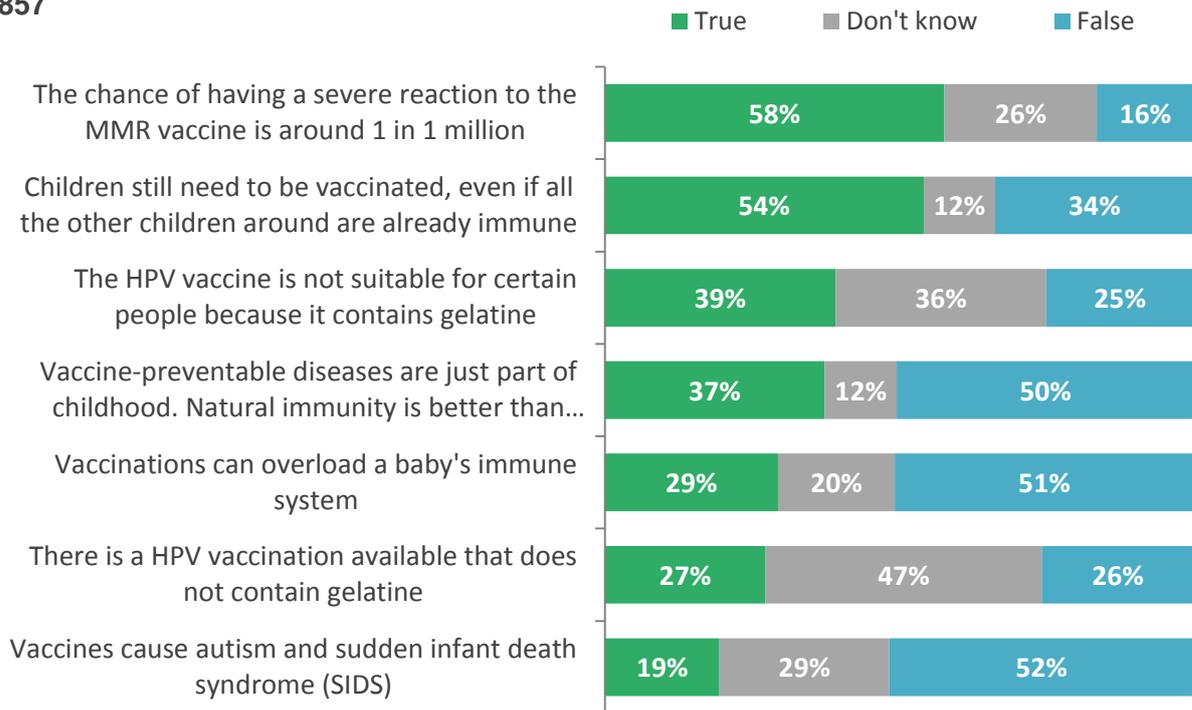
Vaccination myths

To gauge awareness (and linked to the Capability¹ aspect of COM-B) residents were asked whether they thought a range of statements about vaccinations were true or false. Just under six in ten (58%) residents were aware that the chance of having a severe reaction to the MMR vaccine is around 1 in 1 million. Nevertheless, 16% believed this statement was false and 26% simply did not know.

Just over half of residents (54%) recognised that children still need to be vaccinated even if other children are already immune. However, just over one-third (34%) of residents felt this statement was false, suggesting they had not considered children coming into contact with other people and adults.

Views by sub-groups of the population to both these statements were broadly similar.

Figure 1: Beliefs about statements about vaccinations
Base: 857



Some four in ten (39%) felt that the HPV vaccine is not suitable for certain people because it contains gelatine. A similar proportion (36%) simply did not know whether it was suitable for all or not, while one-quarter (25%) believed the statement was false.

Compared to those from a White ethnic background, a significantly higher proportion of residents from Asian, Black or Other ethnic backgrounds felt this statement was true.

¹ Psychological capability being the capacity to engage in the necessary thought processes - comprehension, reasoning, etc.

When considering the statement that there was a HPV vaccine that did not contain gelatine, the greatest proportion of residents simply did not know; 47% indicated this. The remainder were split between believing that statement was true or believing it was false. There were no statistically significant differences by ethnic background for this statement, however proportionally more (33%) of those aged 25 to 34 felt the statement was false.

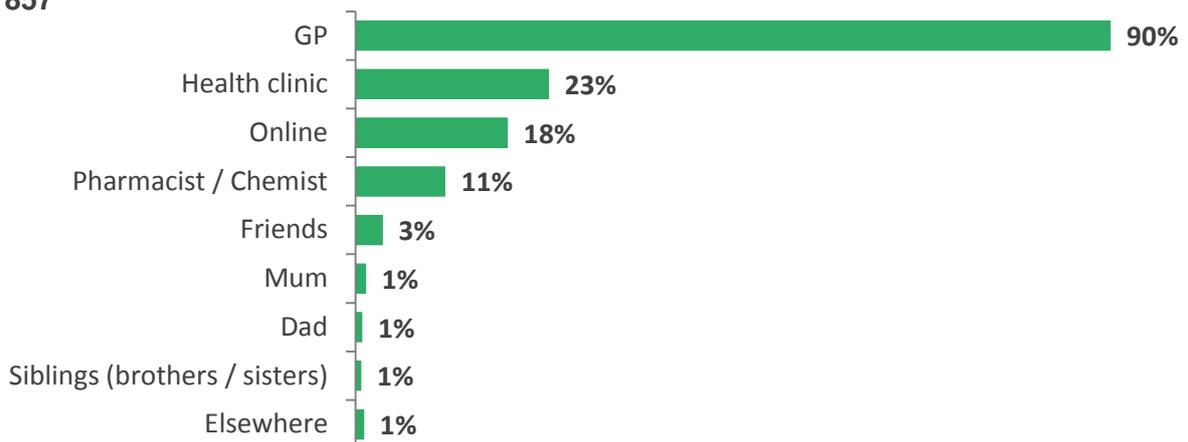
Perhaps worryingly, almost two-fifths (37%) of residents believe that vaccine-preventable diseases are just part of childhood, and that natural immunity is better than vaccine-acquired immunity. This figure rises to 43% for those from an Asian background and falls to 32% for those from a White background.

Some three in ten (29%) residents believe that vaccinations can overload a baby's immune system. This rises to 38% for those aged 25 to 34. However, just over half of residents (51%) believe this statement to be false. Proportionally more of this age group also believe that vaccines cause autism and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) – overall, 19% believe this statement is true, but this rises to 30% for those aged 25 to 34.

Advice on vaccinations

Residents were asked to indicate from a list of possible sources, where they would have gone for advice on vaccinations if they had needed it. The majority would go/have gone to their GP; nine in ten indicated this. This rises to 97% for those aged 65 and over.

Figure 2: Sources of advice on vaccinations
Base: 857



Around one-quarter (23%) would go to a health clinic, while 18% would search for information online and 11% would ask a pharmacist.

Overall, just 3 % would rely on family members for advice but this rises to 13% for those aged 16 to 24.