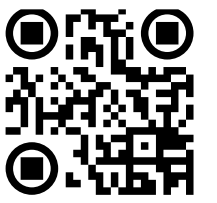




Insights into TB vaccine acceptability among adolescents in Khayelitsha through community engagement



Ed Young^{1,2}, Mbali Jiyane¹, Usi Mqina¹, David Barr³, [Anastasia Koch](#)^{1,2,4}

1 Eh!woza, 3rd Floor Isivivana Centre, 8 Mzala Street, Khayelitsha, South Africa **2** Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit, Dept. Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT **3** Department of infectious Diseases, The Queen Elizabeth University hospital, 1345 Govan road, Glasgow **4** Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT

BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

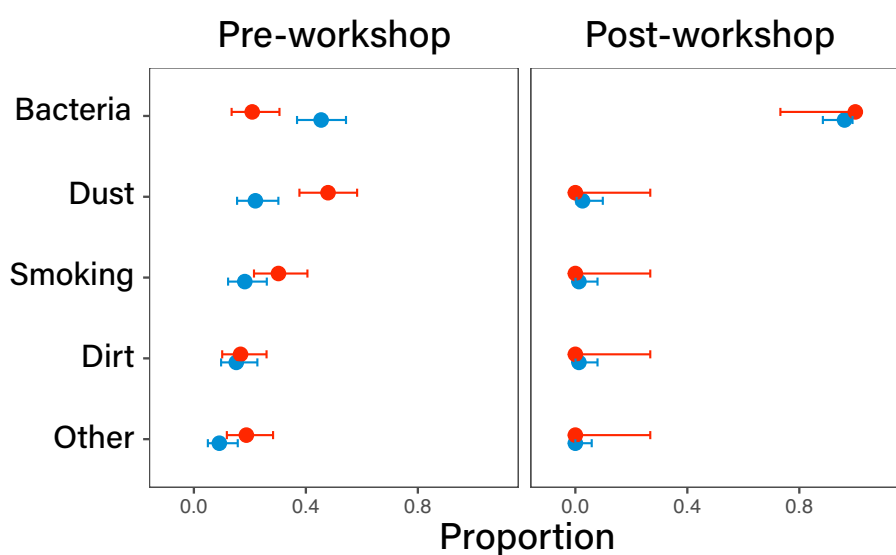
Eh!woza is an NPO based in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, an area where very high rates of TB intersect with socio-economic challenges. Over 55.6% of people live in informal housing, TB prevalence is at 37% and there are high rates of non-communicable diseases(1). Khayelitsha has also been the site for high-impact TB research, including several clinical trials (2), and is currently a trial site for the M72 TB vaccine. Eh!woza was established in 2014 through informal and equal value collaboration between artists, biomedical researchers, and youth in Khayelitsha (3).

Programmes are **youth-focussed** and combine engaging young people with **biomedical research and storytelling** to uncover the **lived experience of health challenges**, developing approaches and infrastructure for more equitable knowledge exchange between most-affected communities and researchers.

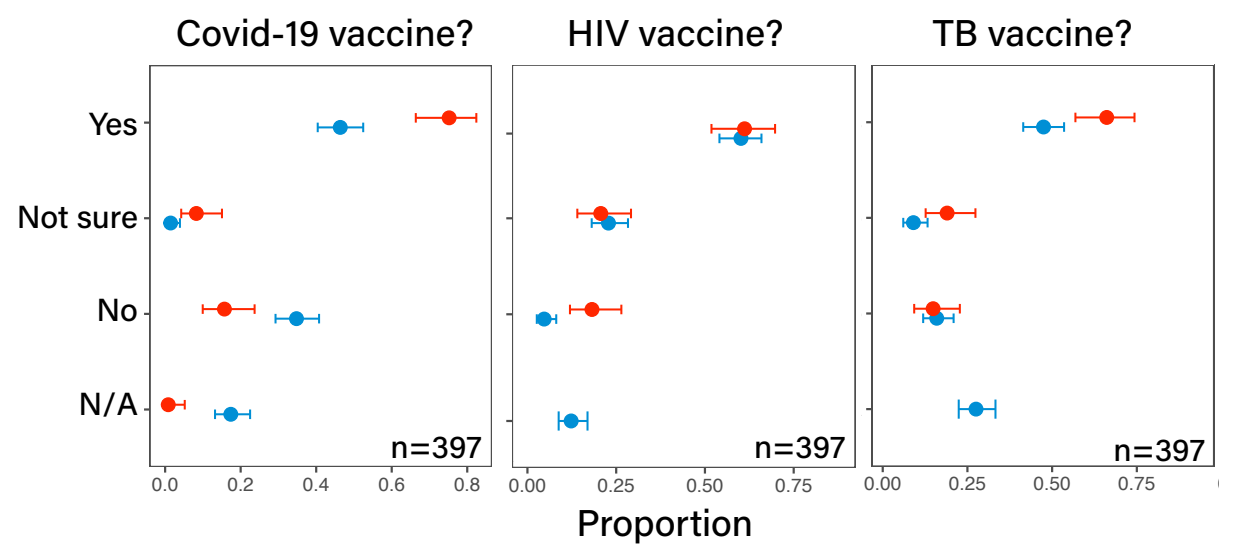
Starting in 2022 surveys were administered before and after workshops as a way of understanding how to position engagement work; participant perspectives of health challenges; and internal impact assessment. Some of the questions asked focused on willingness to vaccinate, with a focus on COVID-19, TB and HIV. Data were collected either before or after engagement workshops and represents responses from 400 adolescents (14-18 years old), living in Khayelitsha.

RESULTS

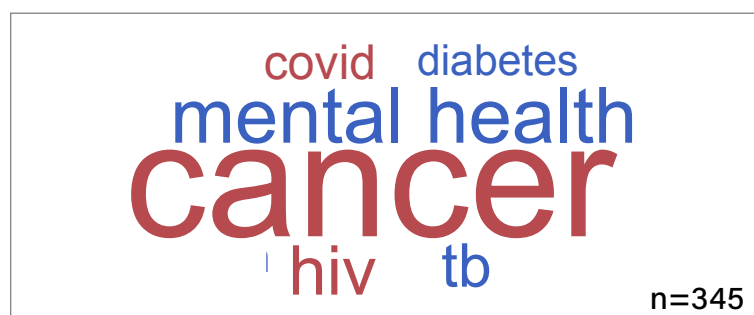
1. Adolescent perceptions of the cause of TB



2. Adolescent reluctance/willingness to vaccinate



4. Diseases of most concern to adolescents



3. Reasons for adolescent reluctance to vaccinate



DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS

Data above indicates:

- Many young people in Khayelitsha don't know what causes TB and confusing risk factors as a causative agent.
- Eh!woza's workshops are effective for knowledge uptake, with learners understanding that Mtb causes TB
- Reasons for being reluctant to vaccinate are different for Covid-19 specifically.
- There is a lack of knowledge around what a vaccine is, conflating vaccines with treatment.
- Most young people are not concerned about TB, and are more fearful of Cancer. This likely due TB education in the national schools curriculum.
- Taken together these data highlight the critical need for engagement around the basics of both TB and vaccines.

References and acknowledgements

1. Mgnuni et al. 2023. BMC Infect. Dis. PMID: [36855103](#). 2. Stinson et al. 2016. Int. J. Epi. PMID: [27208042](#). 3. Masuku et al. 2018. BMJ Med Hum. PMID: [30482821](#). We thank the Wellcome Trust for core funding (228178/Z/23/Z) and all facilitators, collaborators, and most importantly, participants of our work for valuable contributions.



Scan here for Eh!woza's **landscaping report** on factors that would encourage more **TB vaccine advocacy** and uptake in **South Africa**.



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