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Aim

To assess attitudes towards the new COVID-19 vaccine and willingness to get vaccinated among the general public and the diabetes population.

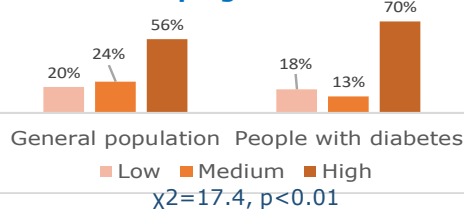
Methodology

This cross-sectional study was conducted in Israel between December 15 and 20 in 2020. Research populations were Internet users among 1) General adult population and 2) Adults with diabetes (without distinction between type 1 and type 2). The sample included **807** Hebrew speaking Internet users in Israel aged 18 and over: **503** of them represented the general population and **304** represented the diabetic population in the country. Data analysis compared the two populations and was conducted by gender.

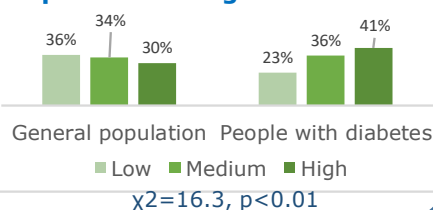
Results

Overall, significant differences were found in perceptions and willingness to get vaccinated between the general public and the diabetes population.

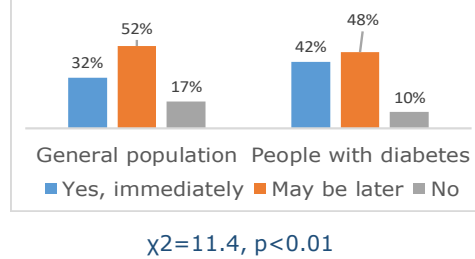
Level of apprehension from developing COVID-19



Perceived safety of the vaccine for people with background illnesses

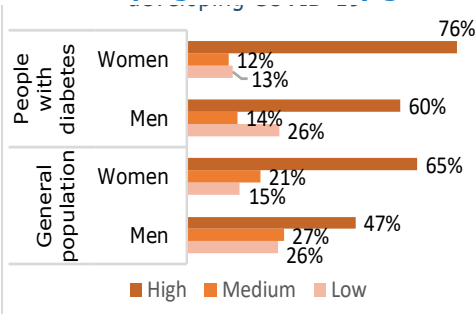


Willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19

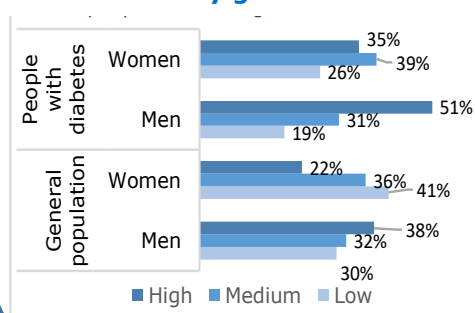


When asked about seasonal flu vaccination this year, there were **67%** positive answers among people with diabetes, in comparison to only **37%** in general group ($\chi^2=69.2, p<0.01$). About half of respondents in both groups (**50%** in general population and **57%** of people with diabetes) stated that in their opinion 50% of the people in Israel will take the vaccine against COVID-19. Significant differences were also observed between the two genders.

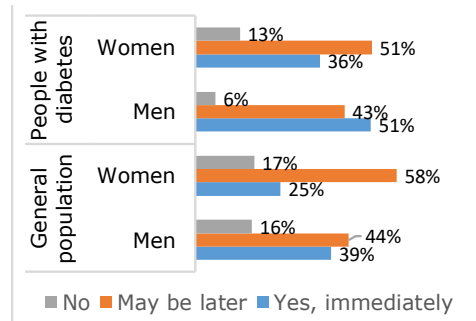
Level of apprehension from developing COVID-19 by gender



Perceived safety of the vaccine for people with background illnesses by gender



Willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19 by gender



Using multinomial regression model, we found the main impact factors that affected willingness to be vaccinated immediately in the group of people with diabetes:

- Perceived safety of the vaccine for people with background illnesses (OR=22, $p<0.01$);
- Seasonal flu vaccination this year (OR=9, $p<0.01$) and
- Perception that more than 50% of Israeli citizens will be willing to get vaccinated against COVID-19 (OR=5, $p<0.05$).

In addition, we found that gender have significant ($p<0.05$) association with willingness to be vaccinated immediately (comparing to not being vaccinated) only among people with diabetes. Men with diabetes will want to be vaccinated **5.9** times more than women with diabetes.

Discussion

These results reflect the differences between people with diabetes and the general population in attitudes and perceptions toward vaccination, especially with respect to gender, and could direct campaign efforts in similar future events.