

# ACNM IMMUNIZATION SURVEY REPORT: February 2024

## Survey goal and methods:

The RSV vaccine was approved for administration among pregnant people by the FDA in August 2023 and by Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in September 2023. ACNM sought to understand member's perceptions of and barriers to RSV access and administration. We also sought to identify how to better prepare midwives to recommend immunizations during pregnancy. ACNM developed and distributed an online survey among members during February 2024. 230 members responded, representing most states and a military hospital in Germany. Results were analyzed using excel and thematic (qualitative) analysis methods.

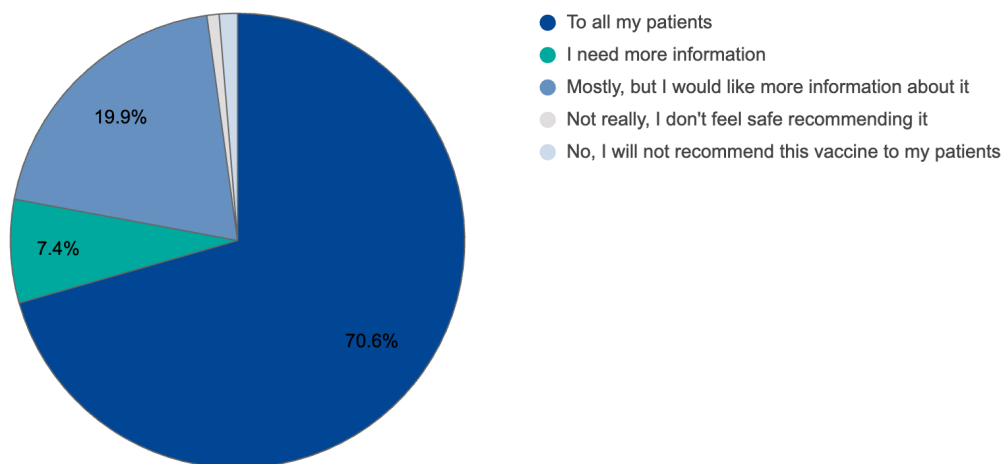
## Results:

230 members responded to the survey, representing most states and a military hospital in Germany. Results were analyzed using excel for statistical distributions and thematic (qualitative) analysis methods.

### *Most midwives are willing to recommend the RSV.*

The majority (71%) feel confident recommending the RSV vaccine to their patients. Almost a third (27%) would like more information. Only 3 respondents stated they would not recommend the vaccine to their patients.

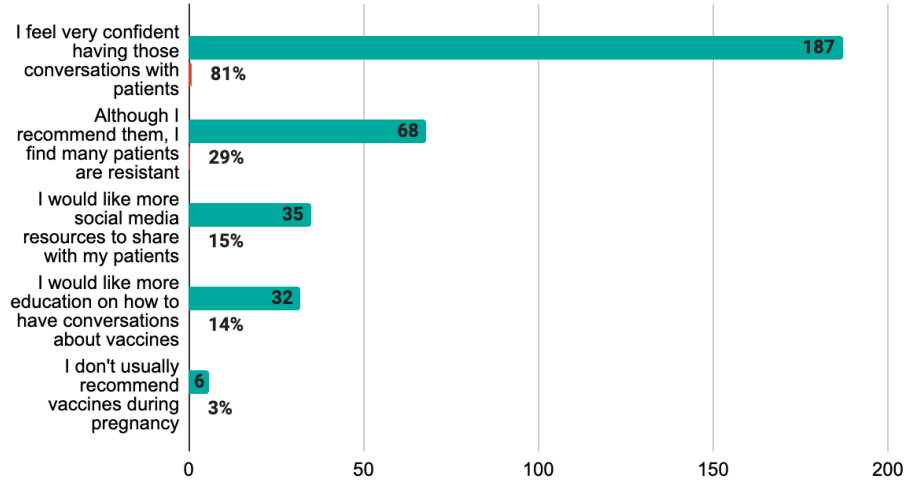
#### I feel comfortable recommending the RSV vaccine



## Midwives feel confident discussing vaccines with the patients.

Eighty-one (81%) of respondents feel very confident discussing vaccines with their patients, however a third find that patients are resistant to vaccines. Fourteen (14%) would like more education on how to have conversations about vaccines and 15% would like more social media resources. Six respondents stated they do not feel comfortable recommending vaccines to pregnant people.

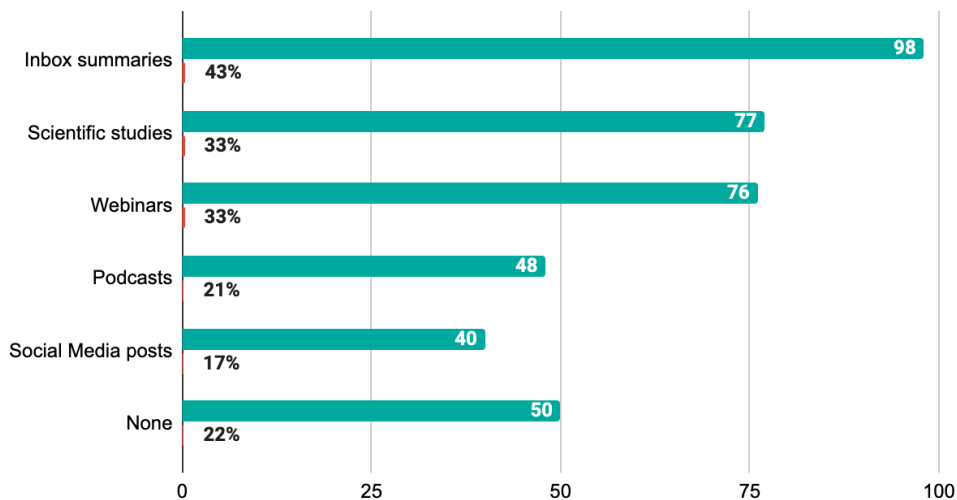
### When it comes to recommending vaccines in pregnancy



## Midwives would like vaccine information delivered to their inbox.

The preferred method of vaccine education is through emails (43%), followed by scientific studies and webinars. Only 21% prefer podcasts and 17% prefer social media posts.

### I would like more education on vaccines



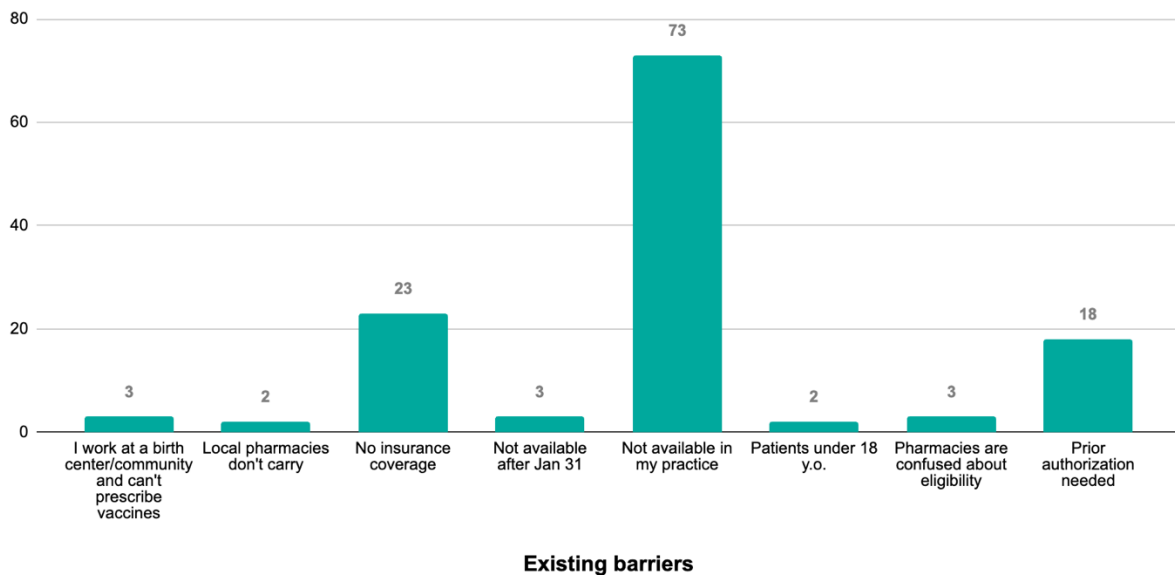
## Midwives encountered systemic barriers to RSV vaccine access.

Half of midwives encountered barriers to RSV vaccine access for patients. The most common reason was lack of availability at their practice site. Some midwives mentioned that it was late to arrive, and then ran out quickly. Others mentioned that when it finally arrived, patients were hesitant to get it. One midwife in Virginia mentioned the vaccine was only available in pharmacies and not in clinics.

Many midwives cited lack of insurance coverage, some referring to pregnancy vaccines not being covered by insurance, or requiring patients to seek reimbursement. Others mentioned that undocumented people cannot access vaccines due to lack of insurance coverage. Some midwives mentioned prior authorization is needed (Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon). Midwives who work in birth centers or community settings stated not being able to prescribe vaccines.

Midwives also mentioned that pharmacies are confused about the eligibility requirements, correct gestational weeks for administration, and one midwife mentioned their local pharmacy requires a letter in addition the prescription. Some midwives also mentioned their local pharmacies did not stock the vaccine.

### Barriers to RSV vaccine access



## Recommendations:

### For members:

- Distribute vaccine information, scientific studies, and updated information in member newsletters and other email blasts.
- Conduct quarterly or semi-annual webinars with updated vaccine information and open questions and answers to update members on vaccine information and recommendations.

### For public health systems:

- Advocate for improved distribution to clinical sites and pharmacies.
- Advocate for improved education of pharmacists to reduce barriers to access.
- Advocate for full insurance coverage of all pregnancy vaccines, and additional coverage for undocumented people.

## ACNMs social media campaign highlights RSV vaccines for pregnant people:

