

Uptake and reasons for refusal of travel vaccine recommendations in 1329 new attendances at the Sheffield Travel Health Clinic

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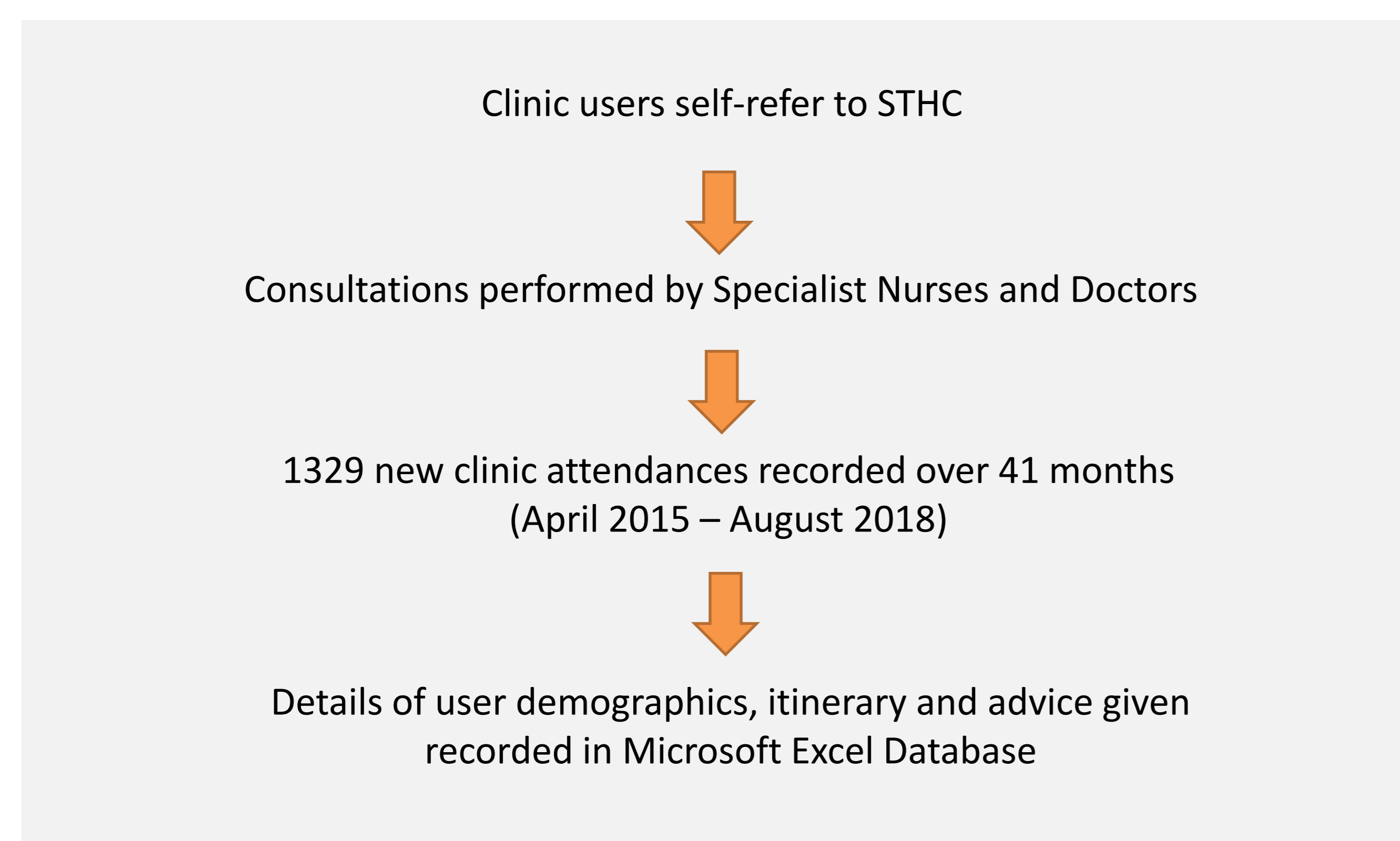
BACKGROUND

- Recommending vaccines to protect travellers against infectious diseases forms a key component of the pre-travel health consultation. When vaccines are taken up, this generally offers a highly effective, safe way of providing long-lasting protection for the individual and can reduce healthcare-associated costs relating to the management of unwell or concerned returning travellers.
- Sheffield Travel Health Clinic (STHC) is a private clinic run within the NHS by the Infectious Diseases Department at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield.
- In this project we performed a retrospective analysis of 1329 patients seen in STHC.

Questions Raised:

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|---|---|---|
| Who is attending travel clinic? | → | What is the age distribution of clinic users? |
| What are the travel patterns? | → | Where are clinic users going and why are they going there? |
| What is our vaccine uptake? | → | Of those who are recommended vaccine, how many users decline? |
| What are the reasons for vaccine decline? | → | How should this shape our practice? |

METHODS

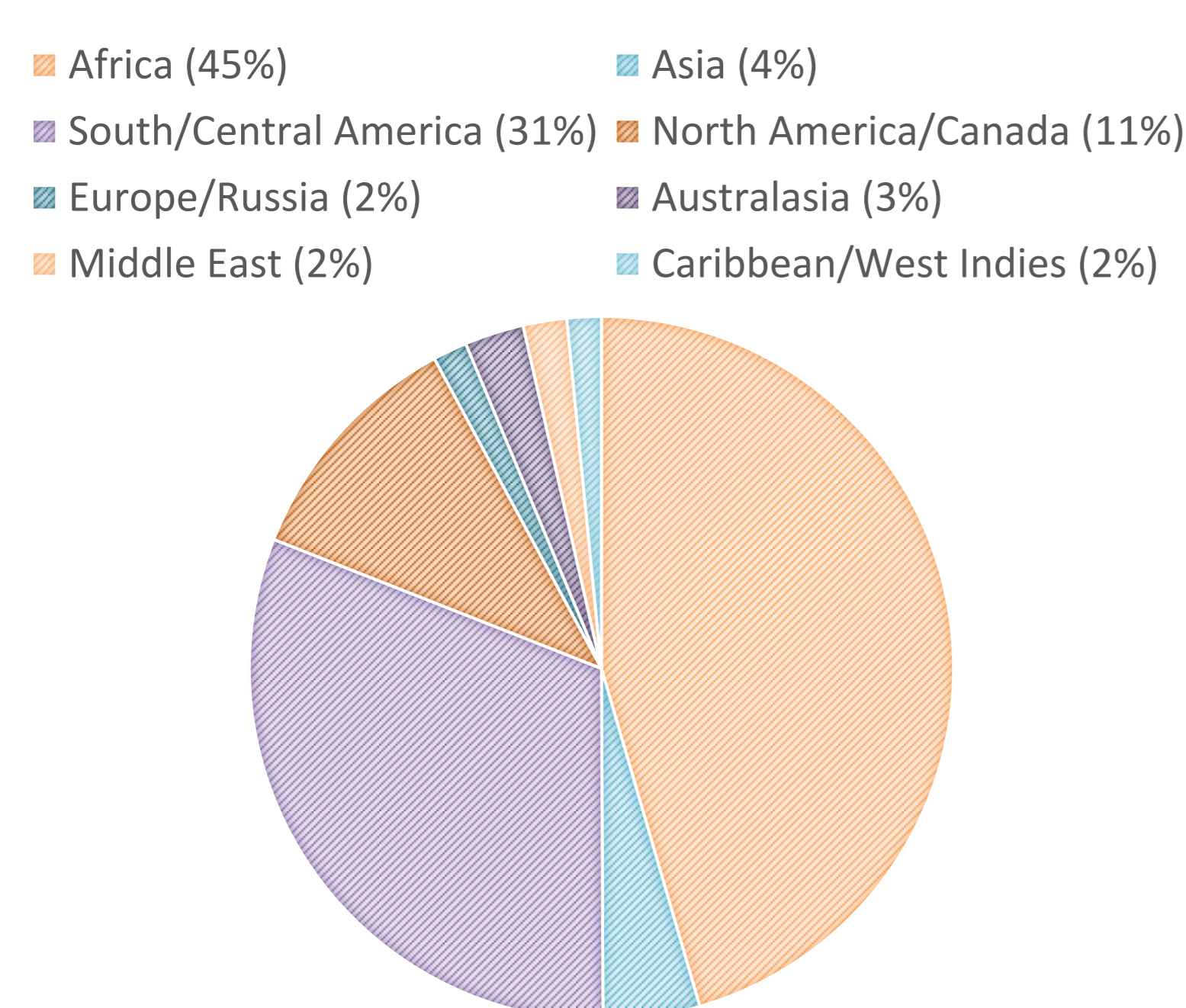


RESULTS

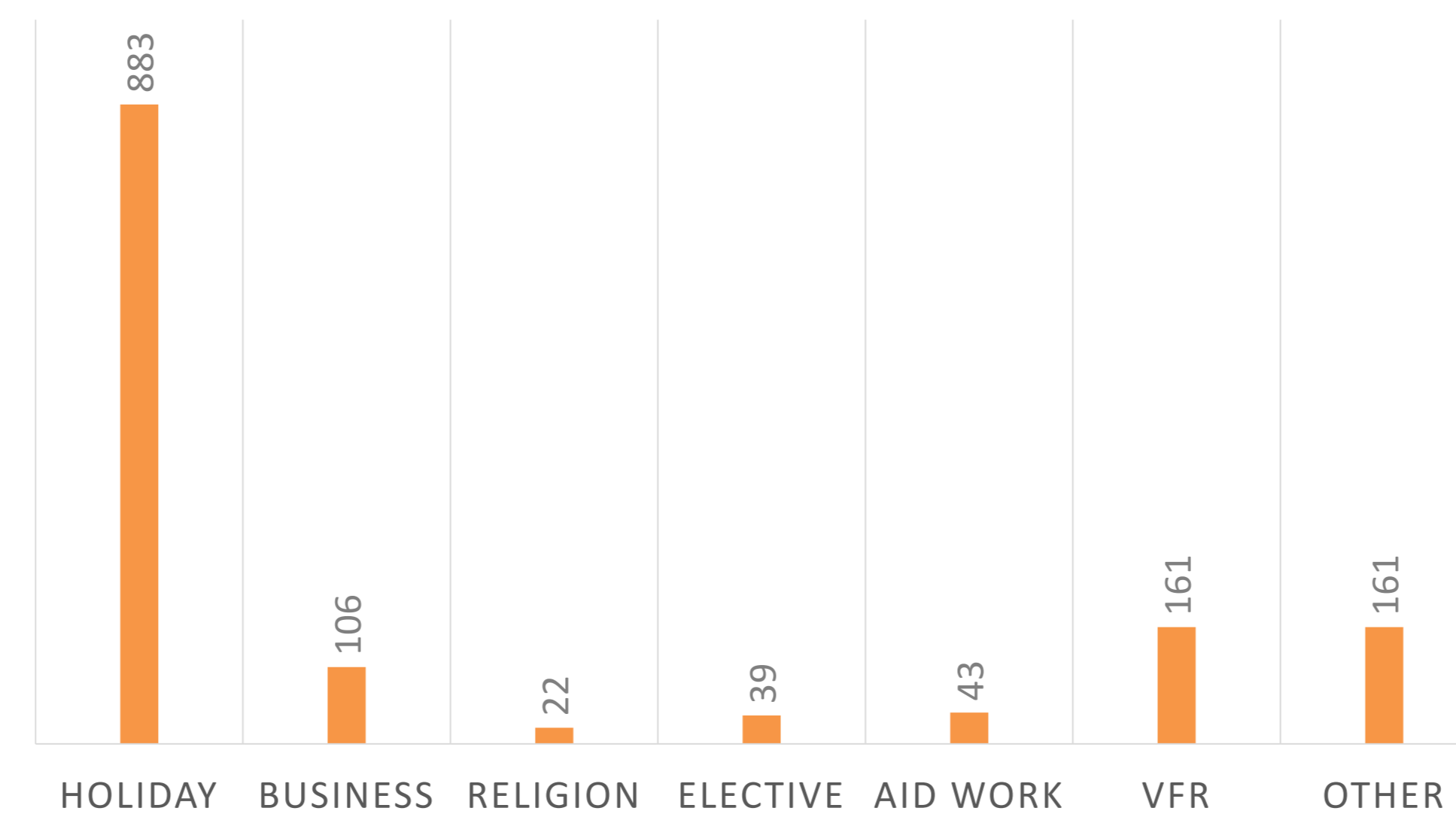
- Most clinic users attended only a single visit (1145)
- 81 clinic users attended more than once (range 2-5 visits). Reasons included: further travel, reconsideration of vaccination or receipt of booster vaccination
- The median age of travellers was 36 with a bimodal distribution - peaks at ~25 and ~62 years
- Most users were members of the public (84%), others were NHS employees (15%) or their relatives (1%)
- Most common activities were: backpacking (25%), trekking and camping (24%) and package holidays (20%)
- Single region itineraries were the most common
- 3468 vaccines recommended, 2151 taken up (62%)

RESULTS

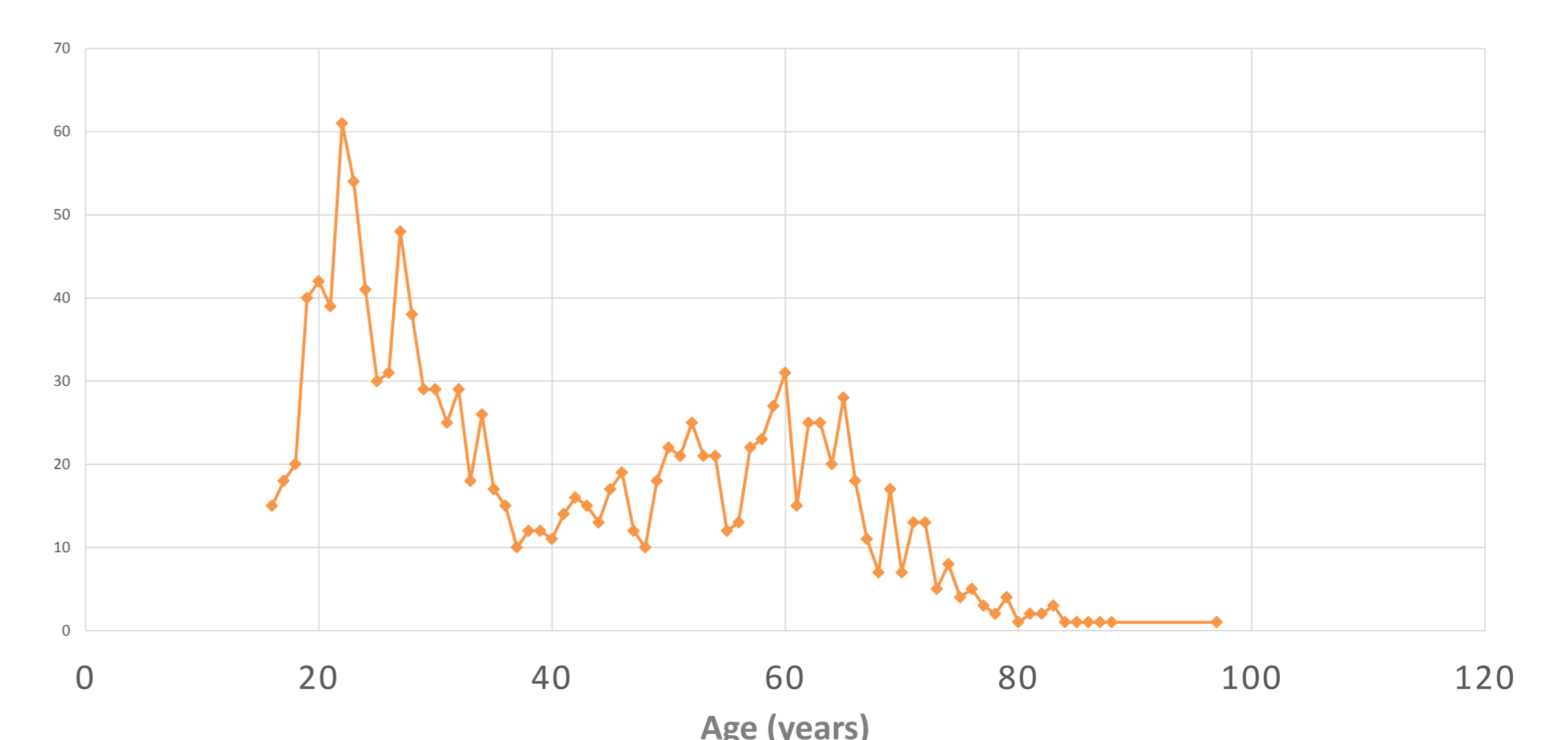
DESTINATIONS



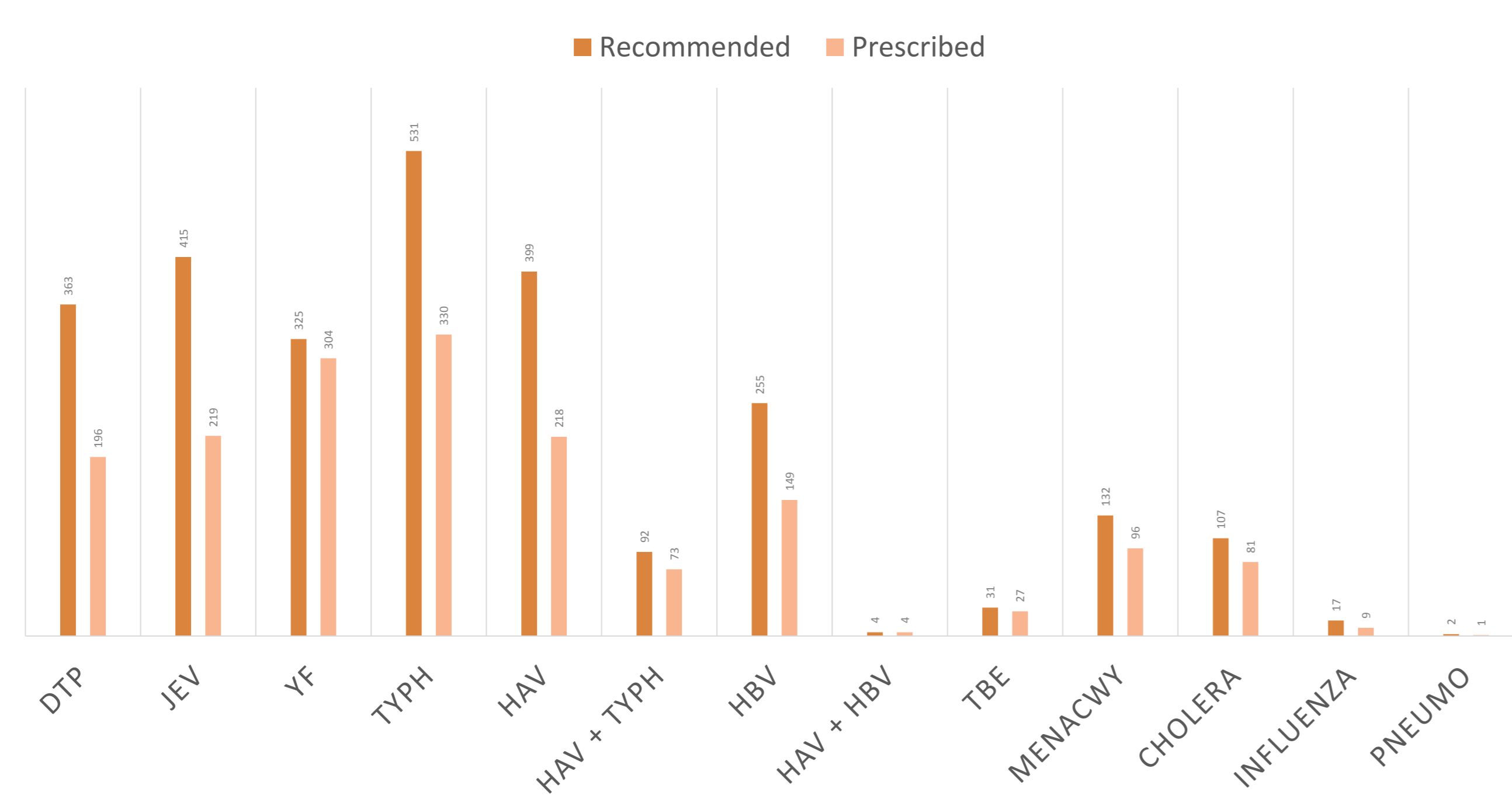
REASON FOR TRAVEL



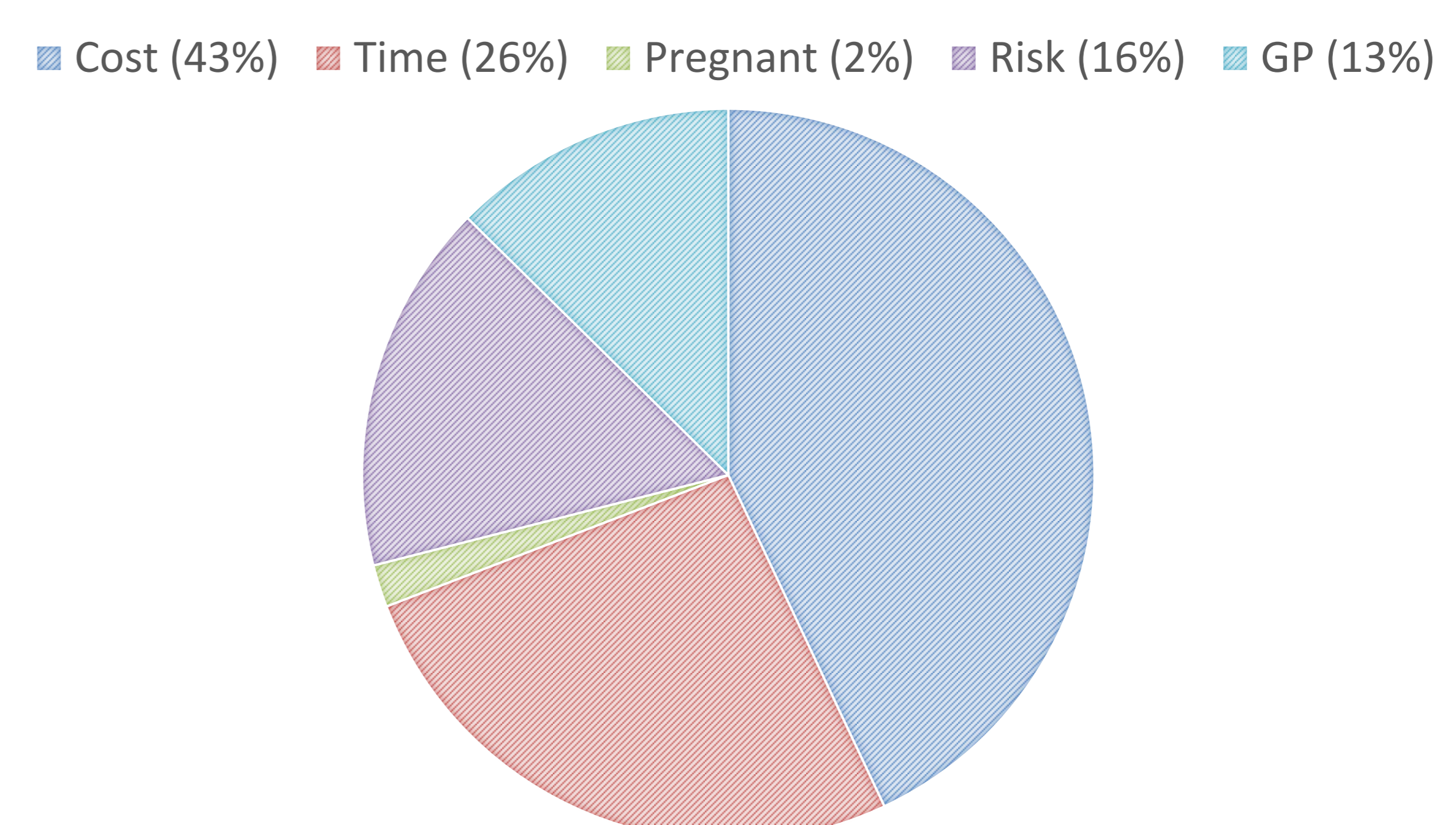
AGE



VACCINE UPTAKE



REASON FOR VACCINE DECLINE



CONCLUSIONS

- Reassuringly high rate of vaccine uptake in many cases
- Most common reasons for vaccine decline:
 - Available without cost within NHS (DTP, hepatitis A, typhoid)
 - Relatively more expensive and less of a concern to travellers (Japanese Encephalitis (JEV), Tick Borne Encephalitis (TBE))
- Further work is required to:
 - Investigate how many patients do go on to receive vaccine from other sources e.g. GP
 - Optimise consultations where discussion of more esoteric and unquantified infections (TBE, JEV) is required to enable accurate discussion of the risk/benefit of vaccine uptake in these cases