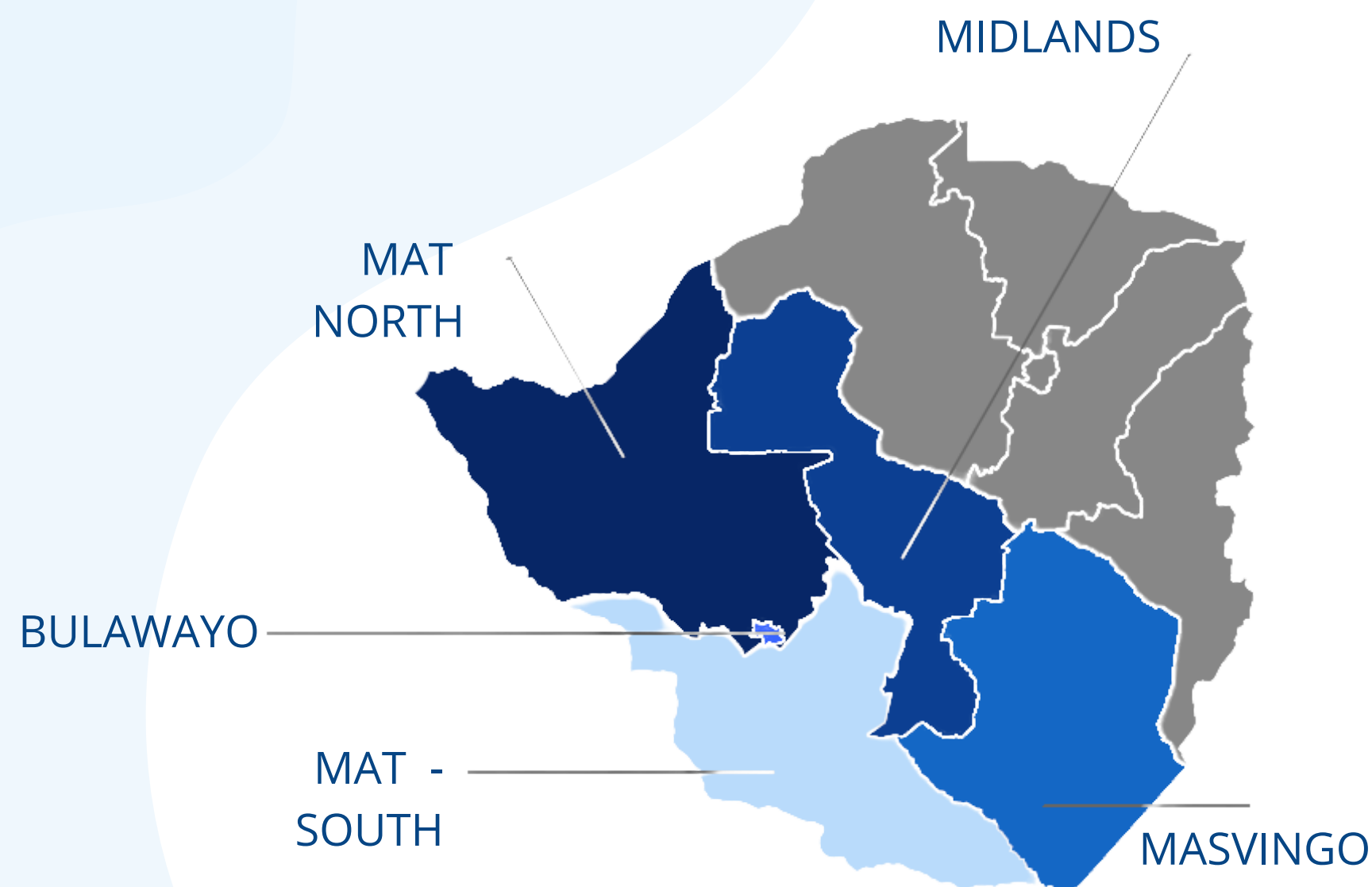




Community Bulletin #6

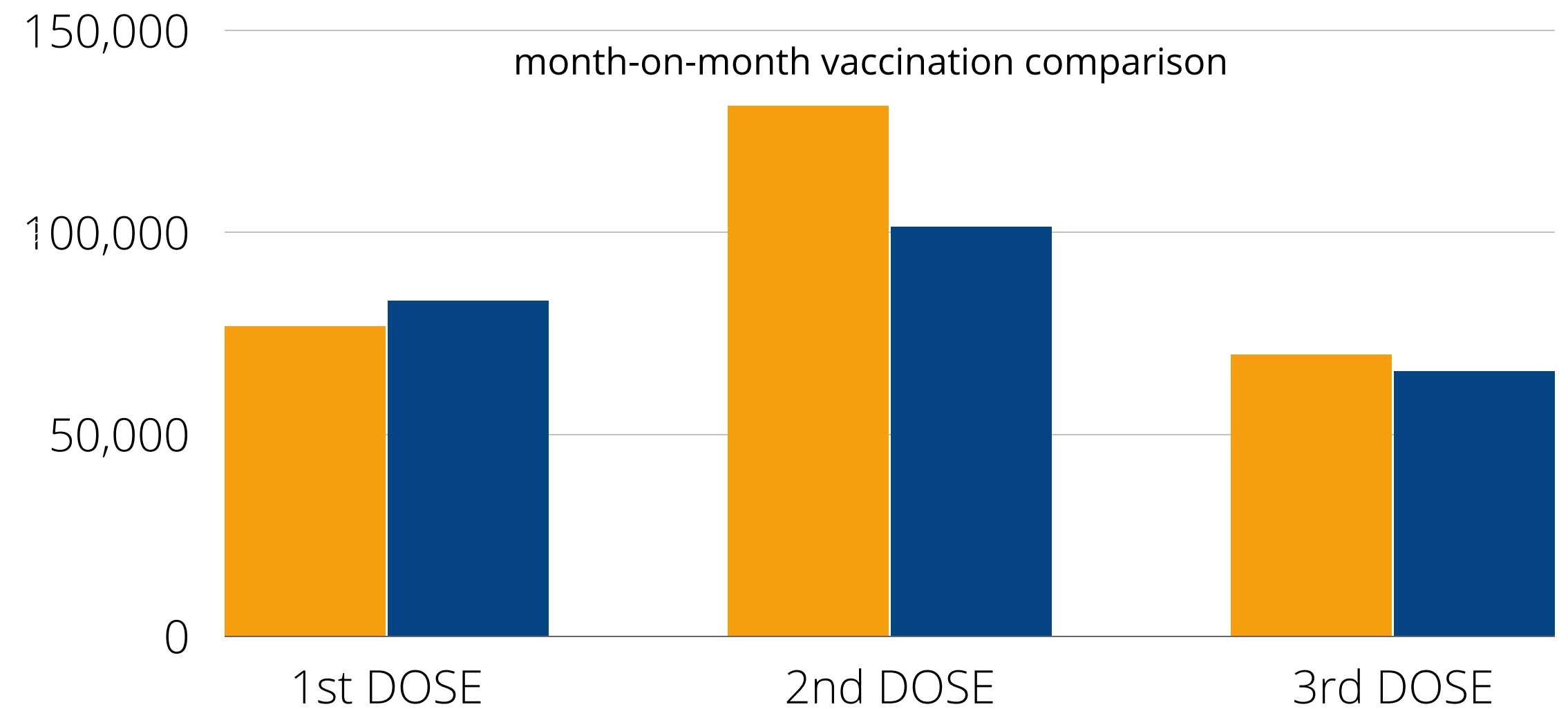
Zimbabwe JULY 2022, | Issue 6

Rooted in Trust 2.0 in Zimbabwe is a global information program funded by USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID-BHA) working with media, community-based organizations, health and humanitarian actors to counter rumors and misinformation about COVID-19 among migrant communities in Southern Zimbabwe particularly in:



Rumor data overview

Trending Rumors



Visualization by RiT 2.0 Data from Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) statistics

Rumors in this bulletin were collected by Internews' social media monitors in Zimbabwe from **June 12, 2022**, to **July 11, 2022**. Overall, Internews identified **266 rumors** from various posts and comments from Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and in- person listening groups with communities.

Zimbabwe recorded an overall vaccine uptake decrease of 10% from 277,130 vaccines to 249,310 vaccines distributed in month ending July 25, 2022. Overall vaccination reduction might be attributed to general reluctance to get vaccinated as people perceive COVID-19 to be over.

82,838 people received 1st vaccine dose in the period ending July 25, 2022, up from 76,524 recorded in period ending June 25, 2022. 2nd vaccine dose uptake dropped by 23% from 131,083 doses administered in June to 101,203 doses administered in July. 3rd vaccine doses administered dropped from 69,523 in June to 65,269 in July, a drop of 6%. Overall, Zimbabwe has vaccinated 4,726,525 people with at least two doses marking a coverage of 47% against government's target of 10 million by end 2022.

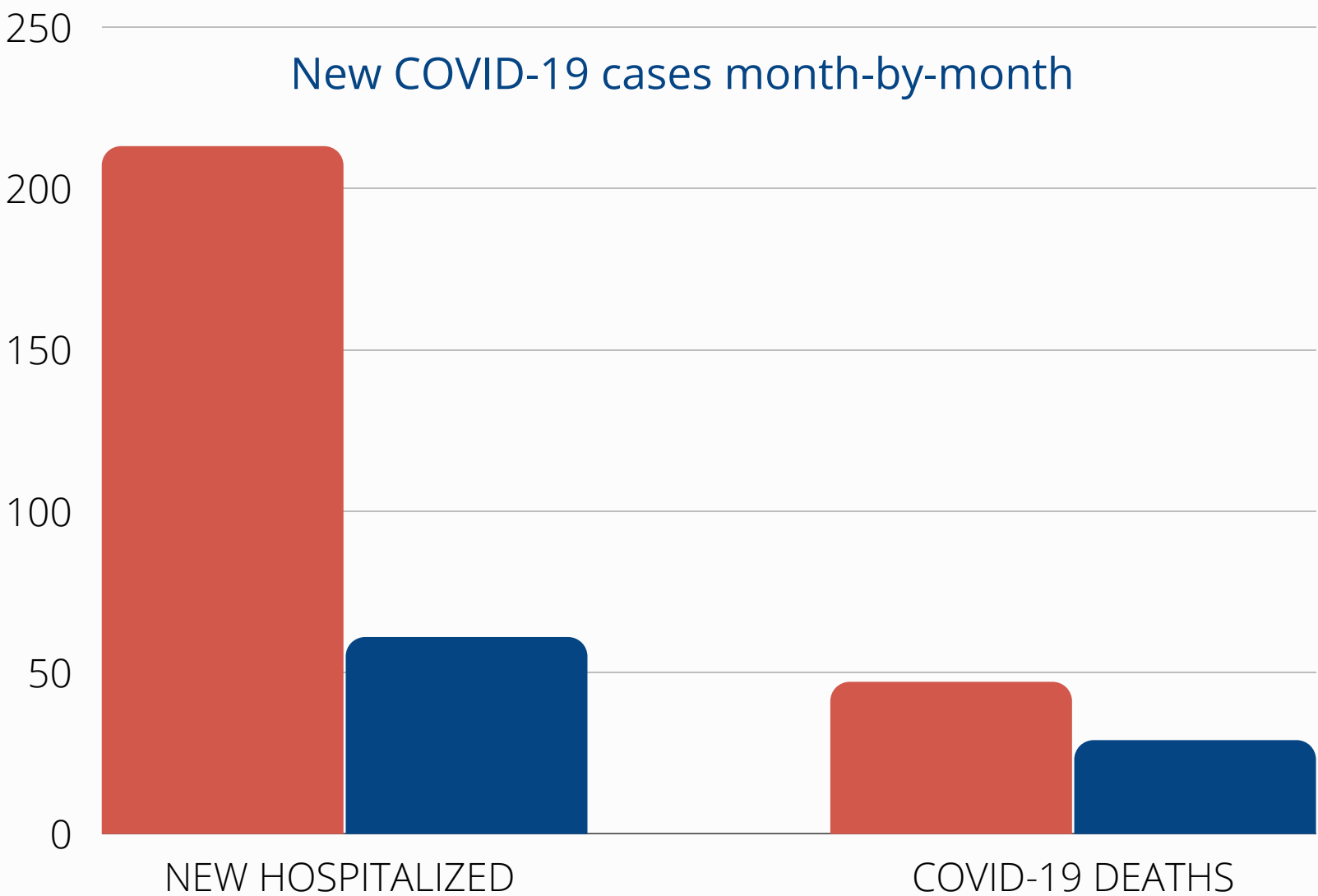


All statistics in the document are from the month starting June 12, 2022, to July 11, 2022.



Rumor data overview

COVID-19 situation overview in the country

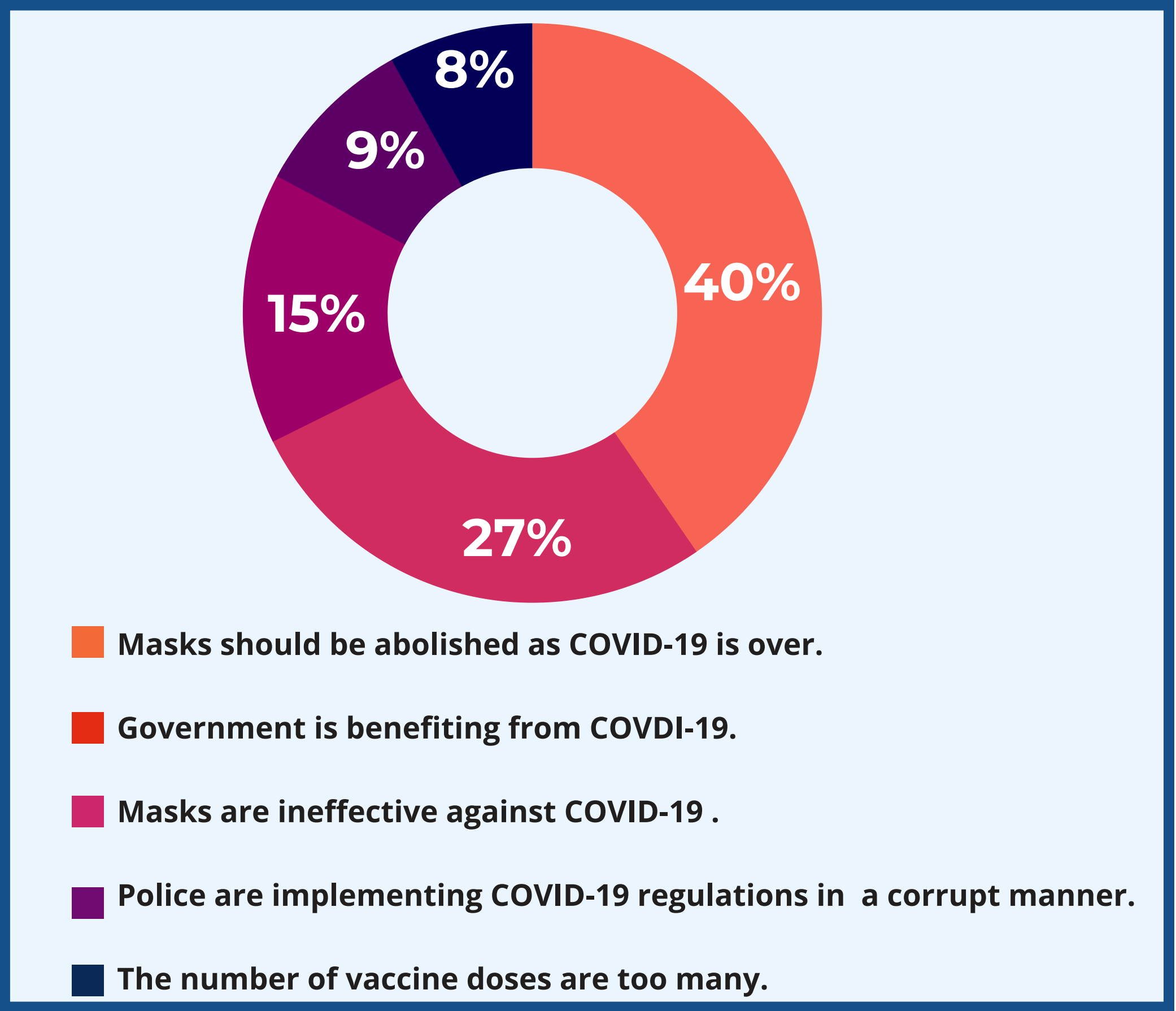


Visualization by RiT 2.0: Data from MoHCC

New COVID-19 related hospitalizations dropped from 213 in month ending June 25, 2022, to 61 in month ending July 25, 2022. COVID-19 related deaths decreased from 47 in June to 29 in July.

As of July 25, 2022, Zimbabwe had 507 active cases with 13 of them hospitalized. 9 of the 13 hospitalised cases are vaccinated and 4 are unvaccinated. Mashonaland West province has the highest number of active cases at 114 followed by Mashonaland Central at 96 and Harare at 66 cases. Overall, the country has been experiencing an upheaval in the health sector with a mass exodus of health workers and a strike by others demanding a pay increase. As of July 25, 2022, Zimbabwe had no cases of Monkey Pox reported, however, the government reported that surveillance, laboratory testing and case management measures have been put in preparation for any potential outbreak.

The MoHCC is conducting Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for Bilharzia and intestinal worms in 40 districts which are endemic targeting children between ages 1 to 15 years.



Internews Zimbabwe collected **266** rumors between **June 24 and July 25, 2022**, with 25% rumors from Facebook, 47% from Twitter and 28% from community platforms using KOBO collect.

Trending rumor themes included that; “Masks should be abolished as COVID-19 is over (40%)”, “Government is benefiting from COVID-19 (27%)”, “Masks are ineffective against COVID-19 (15%)”, “Police are implementing COVID-19 regulations in a corrupt manner (9%)” and that the “Number of vaccine doses are too many (8%)”. Internews in Zimbabwe and partners collected **4** rumors linking Monkeypox to COVID-19 during the reporting period.



Recommendations for outreach workers and communities

- **Community outreach workers can look out for,** respond to misinformation on vaccines, and disseminate accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines in local languages such as Ndebele, Kalanga, Venda, Nambya, Tonga and Sotho, using community radio stations and community meetings (Village Savings and Lending Schemes, food distribution points, mobile outreach programs and political meetings).
- **Village health workers working with women,** youth and migrants can engage them using dramas and role plays, song and dance to demonstrate how vaccines work and their importance in COVID-19 prevention, as part of health education sessions during community meetings.

ORGANISATIONS OFFERING INFORMATION ON COVID-19 IN THE COMMUNITY

ORGANISATION	CONTACT PERSON	NUMBER
OPHID	Norman Dube	0776007811
DOT YOUTH ZIMBABWE	Nesisa Mpofu	0712221431
CITE	Zenzele Ndebele	0773103262
BULAWAYO CITY HEALTH	Mrs Siziba	0772402425

Vese vakamhanyira kubayiwa may God protect ufrom this poison , u can drink Zeolite and charcoal to clean the poison, or risk boosting after every six months , bcz ukarega kubooster u die

Translation: “All those who rushed to get vaccinated may God protect you from this poison, you can drink Zeolite and charcoal to clean the poison, or risk boosting after every six months, because if you don’t boost you will die.”

RUMOR THEME:
Transmission

Facts

COVID-19 vaccines are not poisonous but, as the MoHCC notes, they help boost the body’s immune system and without vaccines, people are at substantial risk of serious illness and disability from diseases like Measles, Meningitis, Pneumonia, Tetanus, Polio which also have their own vaccines. .

It is not possible to flush out COVID-19 vaccines from one’s body using substances such as activated charcoal with Zeolite as these are orally ingested and therefore do not enter the blood stream and interact with the COVID-19 vaccine.
According to medical experts, booster shots stimulate an individual’s immune system to produce additional antibodies to help the body’s immune system to respond faster to the presence of the COVID-19 virus in the body and one adult booster shot is recommended every ten years.



Recommendations for outreach workers and communities

- Community outreach workers can engage health experts to educate communities on different vaccines and their effect when injected in the body at different intervals to fight viruses such as Influenza, COVID-19 and Monkey pox. This can be through working together with Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS)- local community radio initiatives using local languages such as Shona, Ndebele, Tonga, Venda and Nambya.
- Community Health workers can engage migrants and cross border traders at designated and undesignated crossing points, through their community structures such as the Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association (BVTA); Gwanda Vendors and Traders Association to raise awareness on Monkey pox, and accompanying preventative measures.

Facts

- The MoHCC has reported that Zimbabwe is yet to record any cases of Monkeypox but warned members of the public to remain vigilant following an outbreak of the disease in 19 endemic and non-endemic countries within and outside Africa.
- The country has, however, put surveillance, laboratory testing and case management measures in place in preparation for any potential outbreak, and the public urged to emphasise implementation of Public Health and Social Measures that are currently being used for COVID-19 such as regular washing of hands and social distancing, since these measures have been proven to prevent the spread of Monkeypox.

- Monkeypox was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in a 9-month-old boy where Smallpox had been eliminated. Since then, most cases have been reported from rural, rainforest regions particularly in DRC but is occasionally transported to other regions.
- According to the WHO, Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (in this case a virus transmitted to humans from animals such as African rodents and non-primate animals like Monkeys) with symptoms similar to Smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. Symptoms include fever, headache, backpain, rash, and swollen lymph nodes, etcetera.



Referral Contact Information

Outreach workers who need correct and accurate information on COVID-19 latest trends to inform communities can access the following:

Ministry of Health and Child Care Platforms
WhatsApp Hub send HI: +263 714 734 593 Tollfree Hotline: Dial 2019 or 393

Information on MONKEYPOX is currently available from Bulawayo City Council Health Promotions Department:
Number: 0772402425

Contact details

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