

Government Cash Transfers and COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake and Intentions: Evidence from Ecuador and South Africa

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Agenda

1. Background

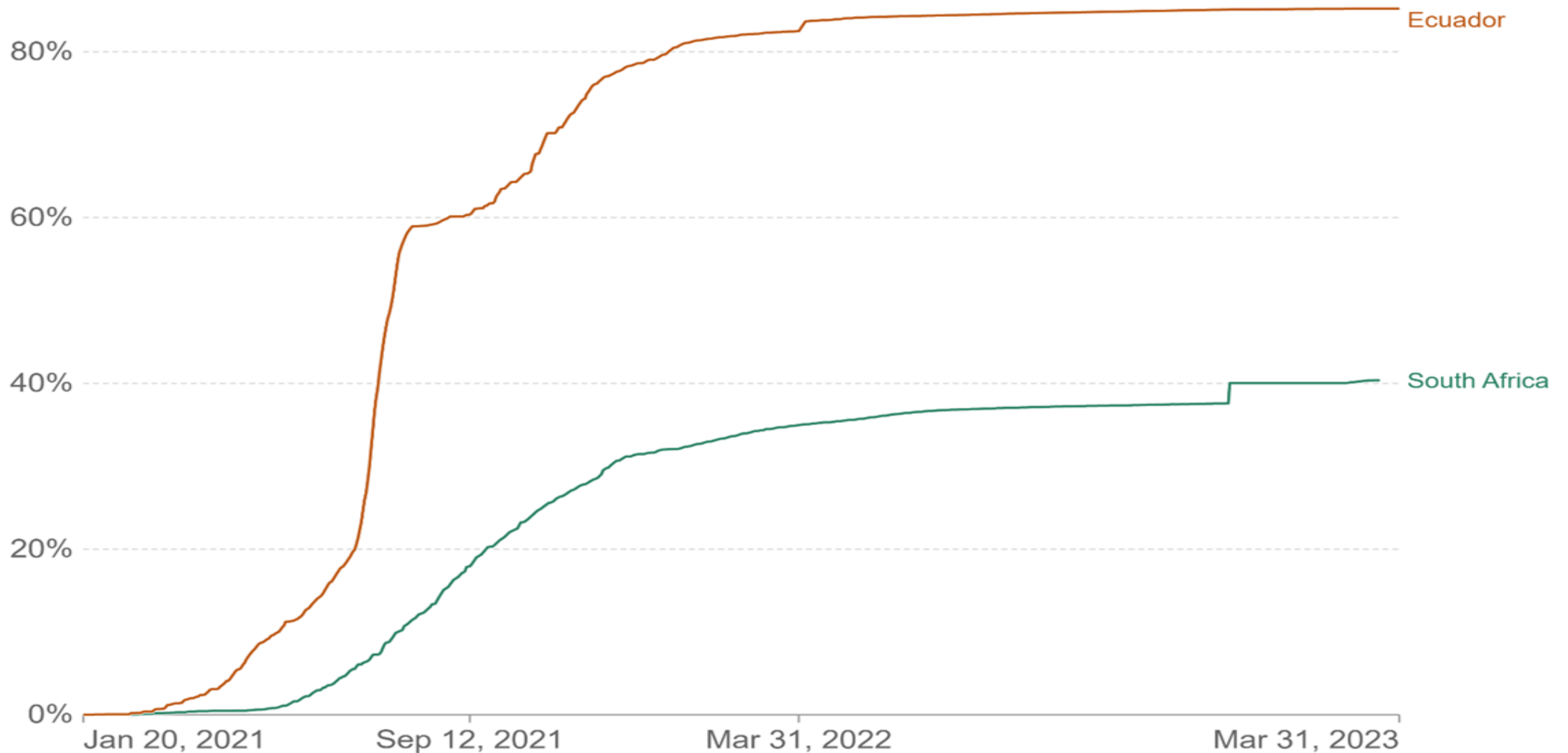
2. Methods

3. Results

1. Background

Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Total number of people who received at least one vaccine dose, divided by the total population of the country.





Ecuador's CCT: Bono de Desarrollo Humano

- Bono de Desarrollo Humano (BDH): cash transfer program since 2004
- Created by integrating:
 - Bono Solidario, a cash transfer designed to compensate for the removal of electricity and gas subsidies, and
 - Beca Escolar, a CCT program that provided modest transfers to families whose school-age children enrolled and regularly attended school

South Africa's Grants

- Several longstanding grants administered by South African Social Security Agency including:
 - old-age pension: started in 1994 after Apartheid; large program representing about 1.4 percent of total gross domestic product
 - disability grant
 - child support grant

Objective

- To investigate the extent to which receipt of already-existing government cash transfers is predictive of COVID-19 vaccine uptake and intentions using data from Ecuador and South Africa

2. Methods

Data Source: Ecuador

- Nationally-representative survey with specific COVID-19 vaccination questions
- Conducted during the last quarter of 2021 by National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC)
- Representative of the urban and rural strata
- Sample size: 27,048 households
- Data publicly available at:

<https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/vacunacion-covid-19/>

Data Source: South Africa

- COVID-19 Vaccine Survey (CVACS): national data to inform development of campaigns and programs to improve COVID-19 vaccination
- includes intentions to vaccinate among the unvaccinated population, as well as trust in the information provided by gov't on COVID-19 and vaccine
- phone-based survey to understand public opinion & demand for COVID-19 vaccination
- We used the CVACS Survey 2 cross-sectional data (N= 3,608), collected during March 2022 and publicly available at:
<https://www.saldru.uct.ac.za/project/cvacs/>

Variables: Ecuador

Dependent Variable:

- “*Have you been vaccinated against COVID-19?*” [Yes=1/No=0].

Independent Variable:

- “*Do you receive Bono de Desarrollo Humano?* [cash transfer program in Ecuador]?” [Yes=1/No=0].

Covariates:

- gender, educational level, age group, race/ethnicity, area (rural vs. urban).

Variables: South Africa

Dependent Variable: “*Do you think you will have had a Coronavirus vaccine by May 1st?*” [Yes=1/No=0].

Independent Variable: “*Is anyone in your household currently receiving a government grant?*” [Yes=1/No=0].

Mechanism: “How much do you trust the information that the government has provided about COVID-19 and the vaccine?”

Covariates: Gender, educational level, age group, race/ethnicity, province of residence, previous COVID-19 infection, chronic condition (HIV, TB, diabetes, etc.), and household size above the median (i.e., more than four people).

Analysis: Ecuador & South Africa

Ecuador: multivariable logistic regression to analyze:

- association of COVID-19 vaccination uptake and receipt of cash transfers
- survey regression used to account for the complex structure of the survey data

South Africa: multivariable logistic regression to analyze receipt of cash transfers and

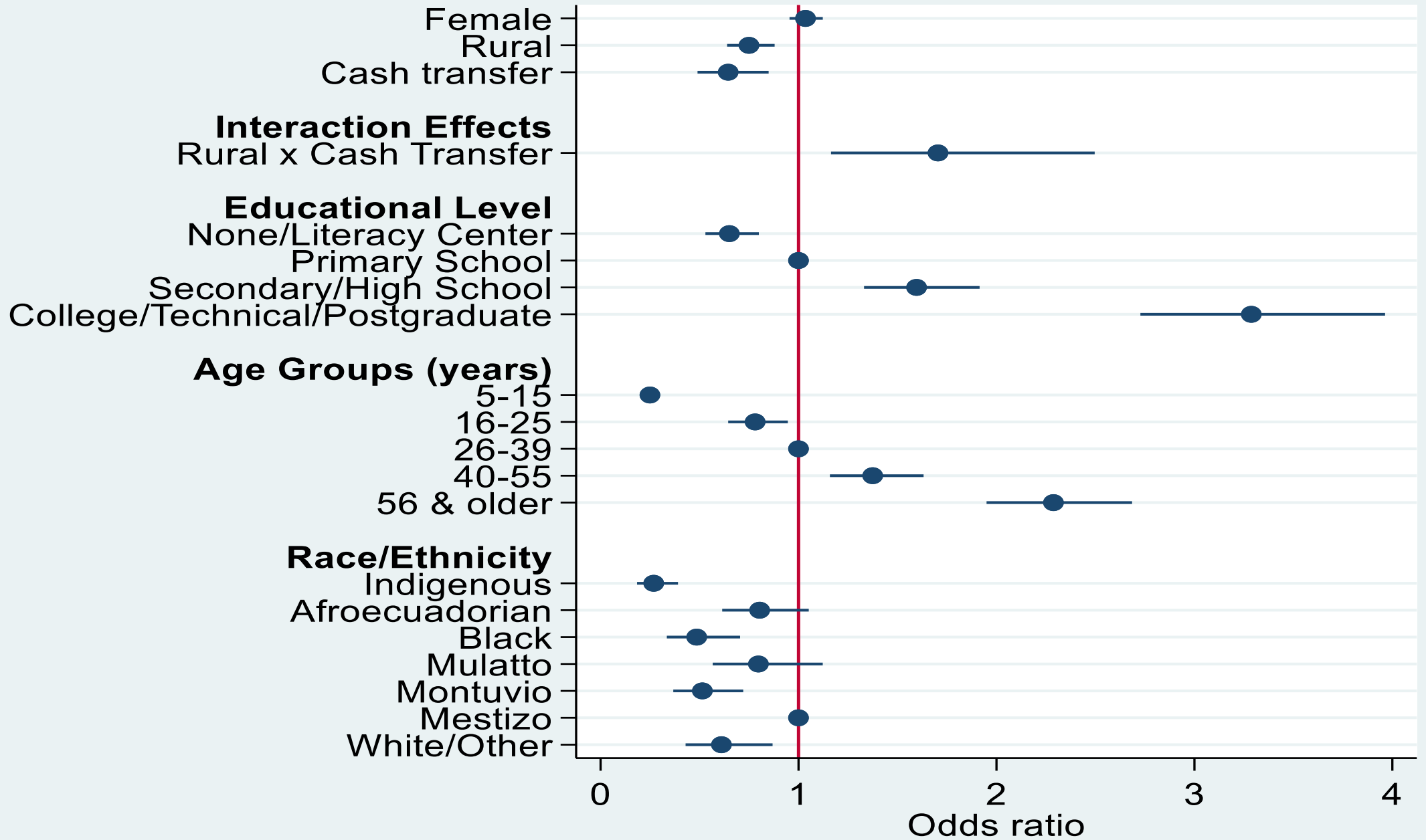
- 1) COVID-19 vaccination intentions
- 2) mechanism: trust in government information about COVID-19 and further assessed the association between trust and COVID-19 intentions

3. Results

Descriptive Statistics COVID-19 Vaccination Survey: Ecuador, September-December 2021

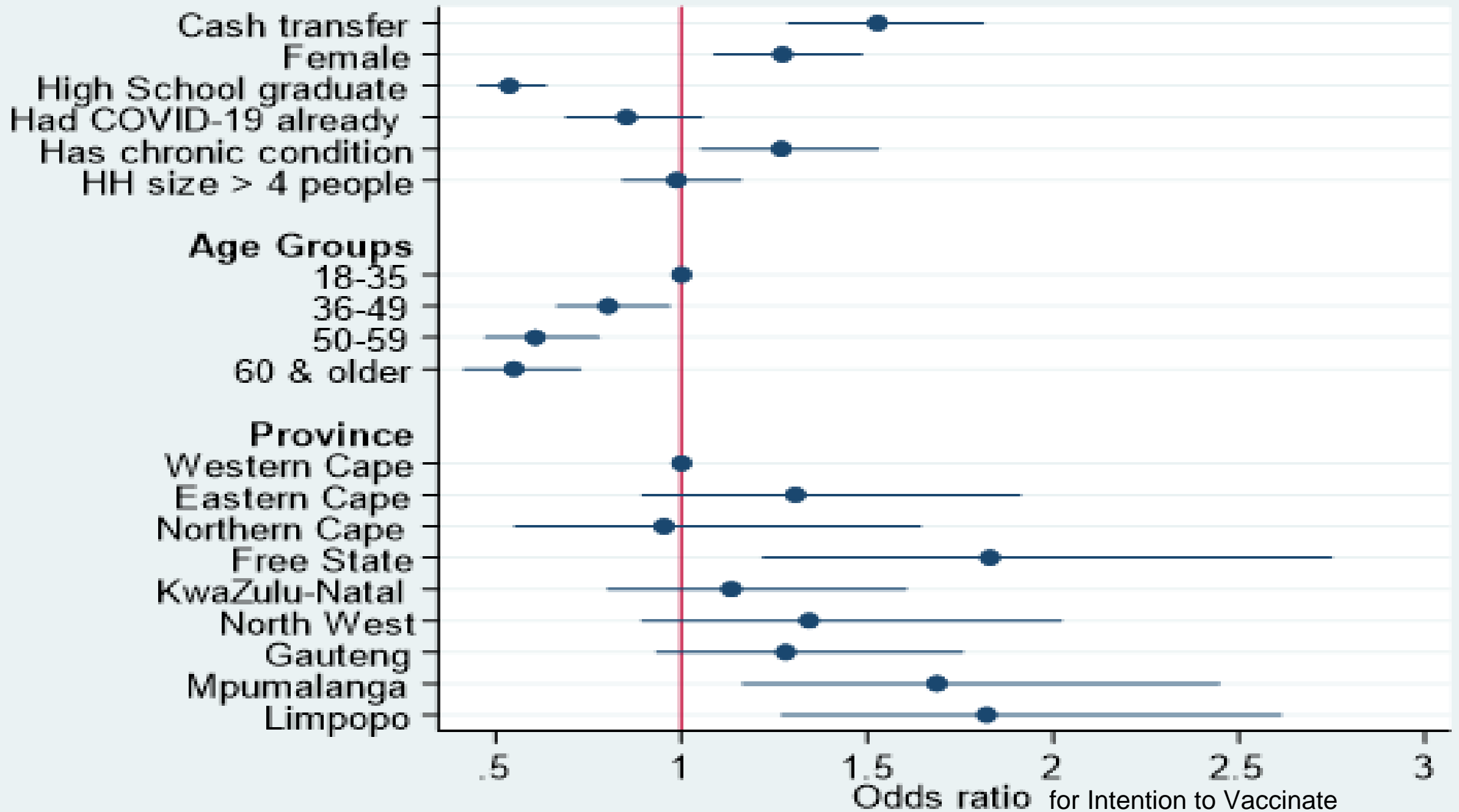
OUTCOME AND EXPOSURE	Mean	Standard error	[95% confidence interval]
Vaccinated for COVID-19 (at least one dose)	79.0	1.02	77.0 81.0
Cash Transfer Receipt	9.1	0.28	8.5 9.6

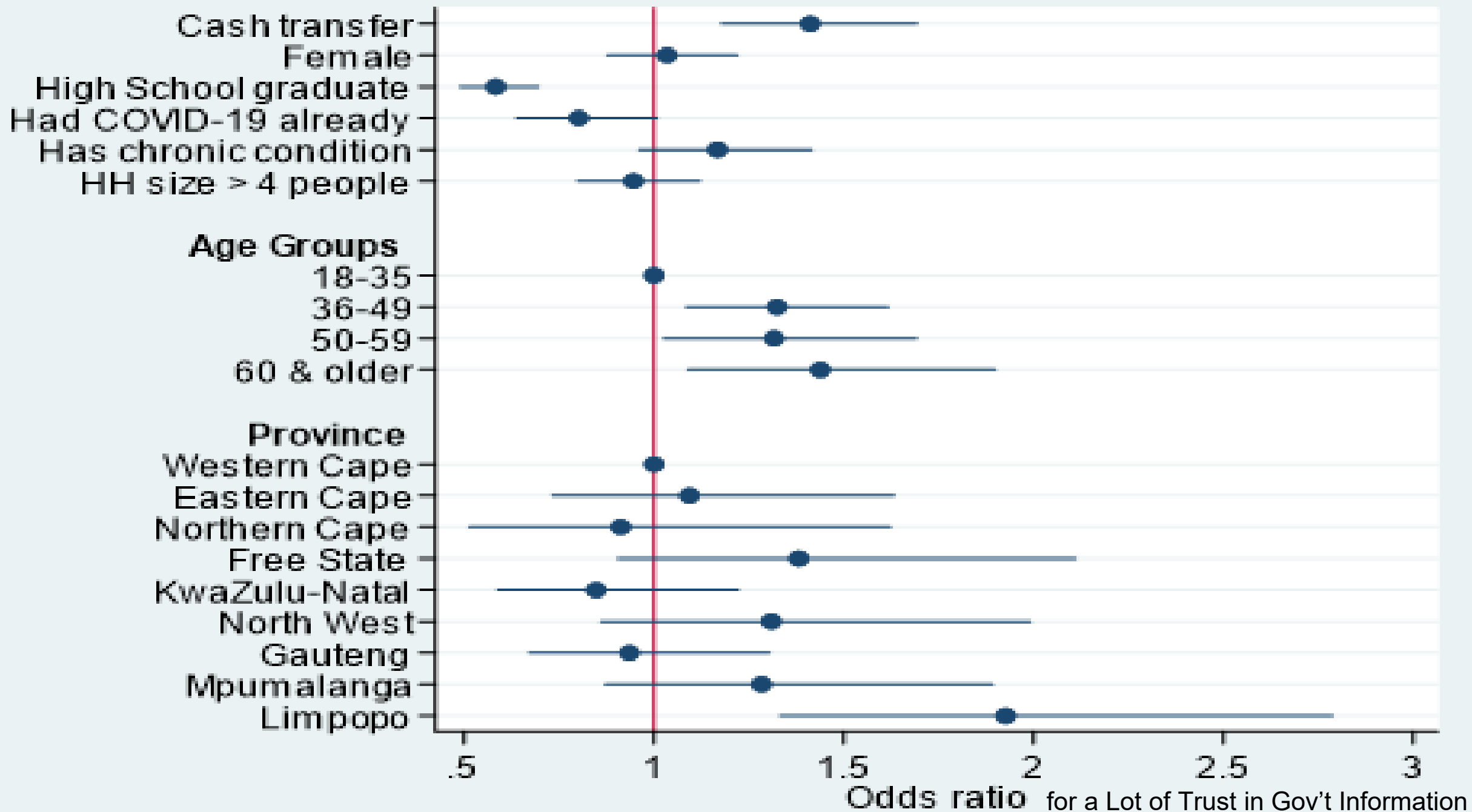
Adjusted Odds of COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ecuador, Sept.-Dec.2021

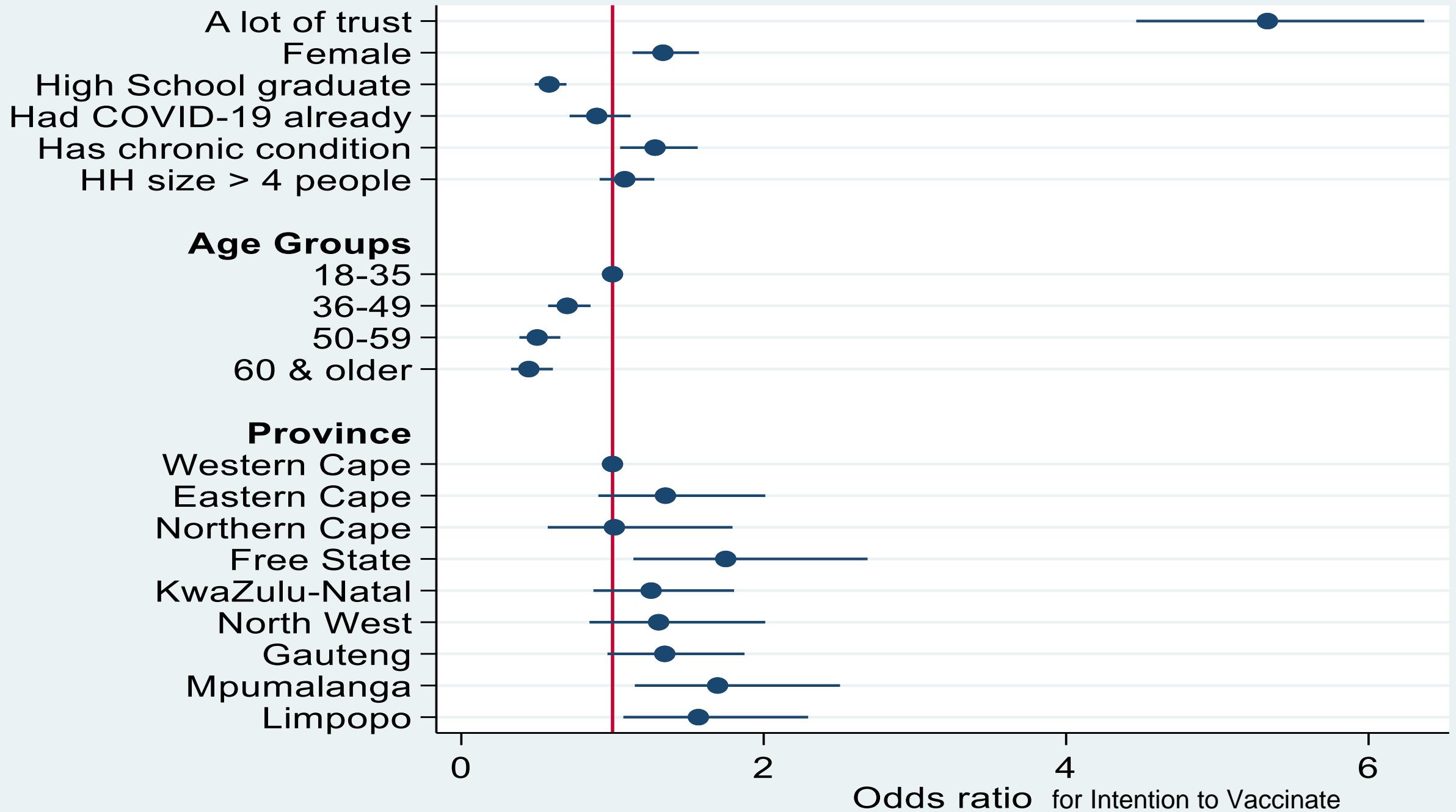


Descriptive Statistics for COVID Vaccine Survey: South Africa, March 2022

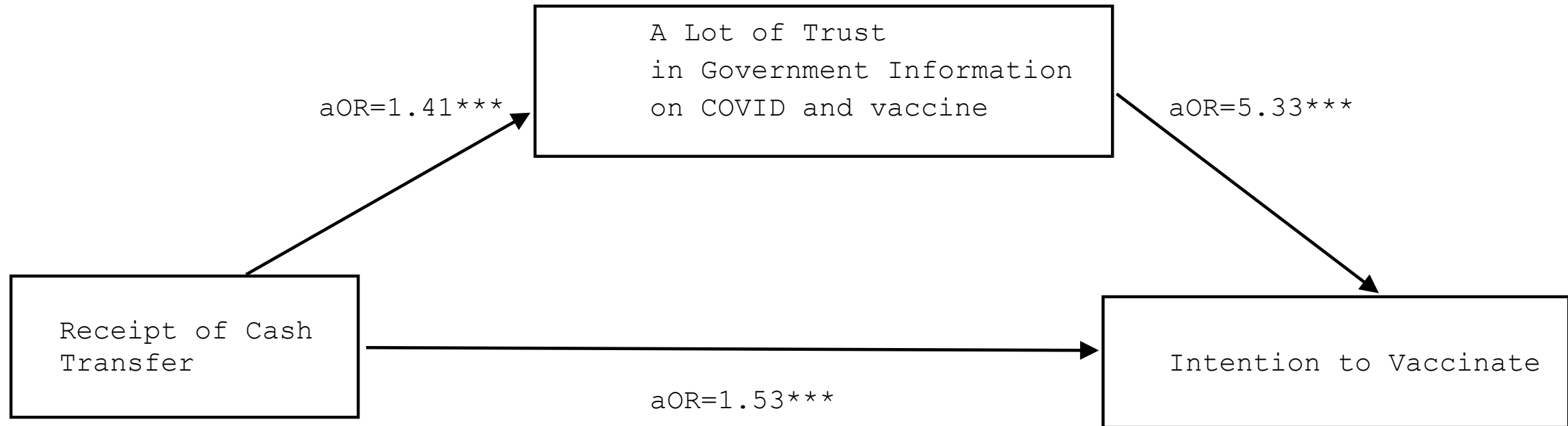
OUTCOMES AND EXPOSURE	Mean	Standard error	[95% confidence interval]
Intention to vaccinate by specific date	28.4	0.75	26.9 - 29.9
A lot of trust in information government provided about COVID-19 and the vaccine	23.4	0.71	22.1 - 24.8
Cash Transfer Receipt	55.0	0.83	53.4 - 56.6







Summary of Direct Relationship from Cash Transfers to Vaccination Intentions & Indirect Relationship between Trust and Intentions: South Africa, March 2022



Conclusions

- prior receipt of government cash transfers predicts higher intention to uptake COVID-19 vaccination in South Africa; and trust in government information regarding COVID-19 and the vaccine is a potential mechanism
- In Ecuador, people in the rural areas receiving cash transfers are more likely to uptake vaccination for COVID-19 (vs. those not receiving cash transfers in the rural areas)
- Gov't grants exhibit externalities: Policy makers should keep these programs in place not only because of the direct benefits they provide but also for their potential protective additional impact

Comments Questions?

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