

COVID-19 Vaccine Intention and Influences in Vulnerable Populations

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Background

COVID-19 accentuated existing racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities. Our free clinic partnered with public health and local government to provide free COVID-19 testing to vulnerable populations. Study objectives: 1) Determine proportion of patients who intend to vaccinate; 2) Identify reasons.

Methods

Eligibility criteria: adults with working phone numbers who tested negative for COVID-19 through our free clinic (6/1/20-7/9/20). Data collection: telephone survey. Outcome measures: COVID-19 vaccine intentions (yes, no, maybe); patients responding “yes” selected reasons why they would, and those who responded “no” or “maybe” expressed concerns.

Results

Intention to vaccinate: 66% “yes,” 15% “maybe,” 19% “no.” Top reasons for vaccination: personal and community health followed by feeling comfortable working or socializing. Emergent themes on vaccine concerns: safety, effectiveness, side effects, rumors.

Conclusions/Future Goals

Majority of sample intended to get vaccinated, but 34% unsure or did not intend to vaccinate. Concerns need to be addressed to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake, especially in vulnerable populations. Messaging, including motivators from those who intend to vaccinate, may be helpful.

Personal and community health motivate COVID-19 vaccination in majority, but concerns of vaccine hesitant need to be addressed to end pandemic.

Telephone Survey

55 adults (of 358 eligible) completed the survey

Intention to Accept COVID-19 Vaccination

“If a safe and effective FDA-approved vaccine for COVID-19 becomes easily available to you at low or no cost in the next 1-2 years, would you get vaccinated?”

66% of adults said “Yes”

Emergent Themes of Concerns

Safety: “I’d ask my doctor”

“How effective will it be? What if there is a minor error in making it and it causes symptoms?”

Effectiveness: “If they can’t prevent the flu, what makes people think they can prevent COVID-19”

Side Effects: “Depends on the side effects”
Wants to see the long-term effect of vaccines

Rumors: “Lots of rumors go around” –skeptical

Top Reasons Cited for Vaccination

REASON CITED	N (%)
Vaccines are important for my health	33 (100)
Vaccines are important for the health of others in my community	33 (100)
Vaccination ↑ comfortability going to work or looking for work	30 (91)
Vaccination ↑ comfortability going out into the community	28 (85)
Family members at high-risk of complications / to protect them	26 (79)

For additional information see *handout*

