

Survey of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Emergency Department Patients and Caregivers in New York City, USA

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Objective: This study aims to identify the socioeconomic, demographic, and other various factors that contribute to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and uptake, as well as to investigate the main reasons for refusal or willingness to vaccinate within our patient population. We would also like to assess patient attitudes surrounding offering COVID-19 vaccinations in the Emergency Department.

BACKGROUND

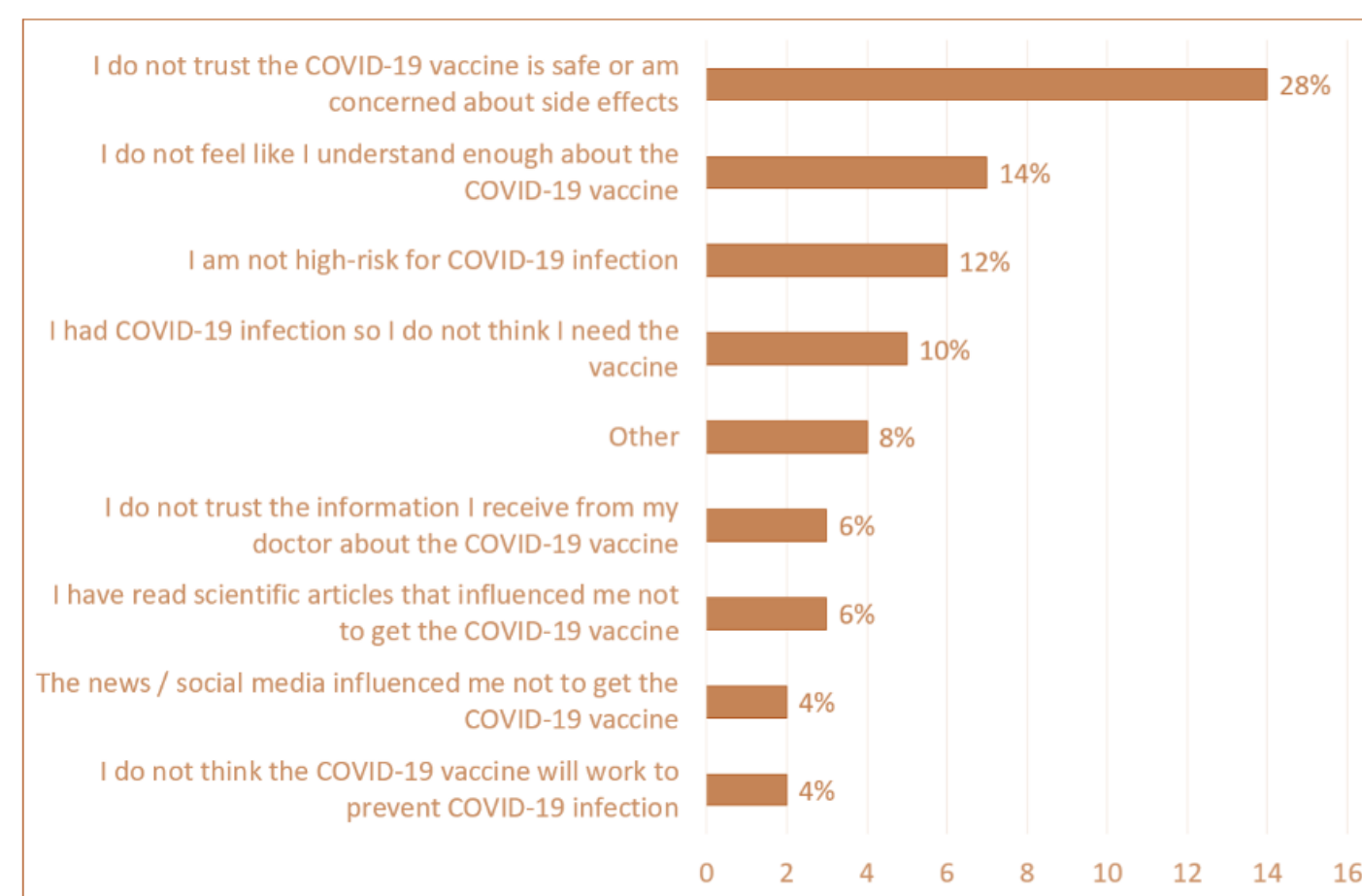
Several studies have assessed reasons for COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, exploring factors such as personal experience with COVID-19, general attitude towards vaccines, and trust in different sources of information, including trust in healthcare professionals. Disparities in vaccine uptake amongst different demographic groups have also been identified. Younger age, female sex, Black race, Hispanic ethnicity, lack of influenza vaccination in the past 5 years, and lack of a regular source of medical care have been associated with greater vaccine hesitancy.¹ Offering COVID-19 vaccines in the ED may allow for an opportunity to address these disparities, as EDs play a critical role in healthcare delivery to underserved and vulnerable populations.

METHODS

We conducted a survey of 515 patients and caregivers from March through August 2021 in the Morgan Stanley Adult Emergency Department, Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York (CHONY) Emergency Department, and New York Presbyterian Allen Hospital Emergency Department of Columbia University Medical Center. Adult patients and caregivers of children 0-17 years of age voluntarily accessed the survey through a QR code or link provided by physicians, medical students, or flyers posted in the adult emergency department waiting rooms.

FIGURES

You answered 'no' or 'unsure' to getting the COVID-19 vaccine if it was offered. Please explain your reasons. (Select all that apply) (n=50)



You answered 'yes' to the idea of offering a COVID-19 vaccine to patients in the emergency department. Please explain your response.

Access.
Gives people access
I strongly feel patients should take the COVID 19 vaccine it's safety for our people and communities.
If people come to the Er because they were exposed to covid and they test negative in the ER, it will be easier for them to get access to the vaccine because they are already there. Also it would be another vaccination site and we need more of those to get more people in the community vaccinated.
If it more available the better it is for the community. My parent got covid because they had non available in Manhattan
If they hear from a doctor the details and the doctors can answer any questions they have will show positive results
Offering the vaccine can be very helpful not only to the people and doctors in the hospital but for that person and every other person they may interact with. An offer also means a patient can decline the vaccine, and I'm pretty sure if I was offered the vaccine right now and don't have to wait until my appointment, I would definitely take it right now.
Easy access and reliable information.
I just think everyone should receive the vaccine.
No

RESULTS

Currently, 515 patients and caregivers have completed the survey (406 adults and 109 caregivers). Our preliminary analysis, however, consists of the first 66 patients (34 adults and 32 caregivers). 64% of adult patients and 81% of caregivers believed the COVID-19 vaccine would be beneficial to their community, however, 56% of adult patients and 59% of caregivers were hesitant to receive the vaccine for themselves and 48% of caregivers were hesitant to give the vaccine to their children. The most common reasons for being hesitant to receive a vaccine were concern about safety of the vaccine and its side effects and poor understanding of the vaccine.

90% of the adult patients and 83% of caregivers stated they would take the vaccine for themselves in the Emergency Department if offered, and 85% of caregivers would consider giving it to their children.

DISCUSSION

EDs play a critical role in healthcare delivery to underserved and vulnerable populations. Vaccine uptake disparities may be addressed by making COVID-19 vaccines available in the Emergency Department.

REFERENCES

¹ Rodriguez RM, Torres JR, Chang AM, Haggins AN, Eucker SA, O’Laughlin KN, Anderson E, Miller DG, Wilkerson RG, Caldwell M, Lim SC, Raja AS, Baumann BM, Graterol J, Eswaran V, Chinnock B; REVVED UP Investigators. The Rapid Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccination in Emergency Departments for Underserved Patients Study. Ann Emerg Med. 2021 May 31:S0196-0644(21)00436-4. doi: 10.1016/j.annemergmed.2021.05.026.