SARS CoV2 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Young Adults in Arizona: 18-26yo

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Partner Organization

- Arizona Local Health Officers Association (ALHOA)
  - County health departments represented by respective Directors

(Rural Reports, 2017)
The Project

Problem:
- AZ Health Officer concern for potential COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in young Adult Arizonans 18-26 years old

Methods
- Survey designed based on vaccine hesitancy surveys\textsuperscript{2,3,4,5}
- Distributed through social media, email lists, blogs
- Data collected from February 10, 2021 - March 30, 2021
Demographics

- Arizona Resident: 18-26 Years Old
- Overall response rate: 145
- Gender
  - Female: 101 (70%)
  - Male: 38 (26%)
  - Non-Binary: 4 (3%)
  - Prefer not to say: 1 (1%)
- Residential area
  - Urban: 72 (50%)
  - Suburban: 58 (40%)
  - Rural: 15 (10%)
- Ethnic Group
  - White: 85 (59%)
  - Hispanic or Latinx: 41 (29%)
  - Asian: 7 (5%)
  - Other: 5 (4%)
  - Black: 4 (3%)
  - American Indian or Alaska Native: 2 (2%)
COVID-19 Vaccine Intention

- Definitely get it: 76.5%
- Probably get it: 14.5%
- Probably not get it: 4.8%
- Definitely not get it: 4.1%
Major Concerns

87%  Want to wait and see
84%  Possible side effects
74%  Influence of politics on development
48%  Do not trust the government
47%  Do not feel at risk of serious COVID-19 illness
32%  Risks of COVID-19 are being exaggerated
26%  Do not trust healthcare system
20%  Do not trust vaccines in general
3%   Fear getting COVID-19 from the vaccine
Increasing the Likelihood of Vaccination

92% Free vaccination
91% Convenient vaccination locations
88% Easy scheduling of vaccination appointment
86% Low cost vaccination
84% More information from a trusted source

“Other” Responses:
- “No long term effects”
- “Walk-in appts”
- “I want the vaccine no matter what”
- “If I knew that marginalized communities were included in the dissemination of vaccines”
- “Just literally giving any hope that this vaccine is gonna reach young people before winter 2022”
trusted source for covid-19 vaccine information

"other" responses:
- "all of the above"
- "no one at this point"
Challenges

● Recruitment
  ○ Difficulty in recruiting large number of participants

● Sampling bias from convenience sample
  ○ Individuals distributing survey are in the medical field, academia, or public health
    ■ Leading to more participants from those fields
  ○ Lack of representation from individuals who do not have access to internet
    ■ People with lower incomes, less education, living in rural areas or ages 65 and older are underrepresented
  ○ Lower response from Males vs. Females

● “Pandemic fatigue”
Social Determinants of Health Impact

- Vaccination disparities
  - Education, Health literacy
    - “It is not approved by the FDA…”
    - “How can we trust a vaccine that was developed so quickly”
  - Lower adult vaccine coverage among 6,7,8
    - Uninsured, low income, foreign-born persons, non-citizen, undocumented citizens, Hispanics and Black Americans compared to non-Hispanic Caucasians

- COVID-19 Vaccination Disparities
  - Health literacy 10
    - Sources of information
      - Miseducation via social media, word of mouth, etc.
      - Fear of the unknown (phobias)
  - Barriers - historical, mental, social, and physical 9
    - Stay at home orders, lack of access
    - Lack of trust
    - Access to health care and primary care - losing patients to f/u
Overarching Theme(s)

- Develop a survey to identify motivators and barriers to future COVID-19 vaccination in the young adult population
- Identify how the social determinants of health impact COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in young adult populations with emphasis on the impact on vulnerable populations - BIPOC, and those living in rural and urban under resourced areas
- Thoughts on strategy for promoting COVID-19 vaccination acceptance in young adult populations considering social determinants of health.
Recommendations

- **Make free COVID-19 vaccinations easily accessible ASAP**\(^{11}\)
  - Walk-in vaccination at local pharmacies
- **Convenience** - meet young people where they are\(^{11}\)
  - Example: vaccinating at bars, clubs, workplaces, mobile vaccine clinics, etc.
- **Information from a trusted source**
  - Strong HCP recommendation\(^{12,13}\)
  - Partner with **community leaders/influencers**\(^{11,12}\)
- **Inclusivity**
  - Make all peoples feel involved in their health care decision making
References


