

Exploring COVID-19 Vaccine Accessibility and Attitudes of Minorities in the Roanoke Community

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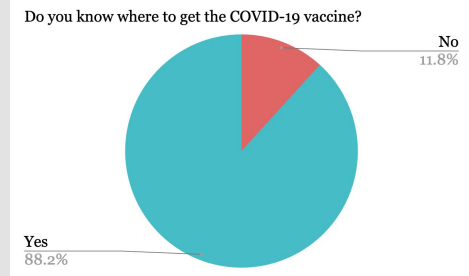
Introduction

- Racial minorities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. After the COVID-19 vaccine release, the devastating effects of COVID-19 have decreased exponentially.
- Recent studies have demonstrated that strong vaccination outreach programs have significantly assisted in narrowing the vaccination gap between minorities and non-minority groups.
- While *general trends* in COVID-19 vaccination among minority populations have been documented, this study explores the trends *locally*.

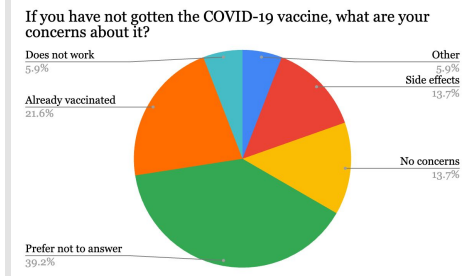
Methodology

- A 14-question anonymous survey was administered to 69 individuals attending community events.
- Information regarding vaccination rates and knowledge as well as de-identified demographics were obtained. The survey was translated into Spanish with the help of native speakers.

Results



- Of the participants, 73.9% identified as members of racial minority groups. 70.8% identified as Latinx and 7.24% identified as Black.
- Among these minorities, 11.8% reported not knowing where to get the COVID-19 vaccine. However, all respondents in this group reported that they would get the vaccine if it was available to them.



- Data regarding COVID-19 vaccine concerns were also collected, and while majority of the respondents prefer not to answer, 13.7% expressed concerns over possible side effects of the vaccine.

Conclusion

- The main minority groups, Latinx and Black communities, were less hesitant to COVID-19 immunization.
- There is still a subset of individuals who do not know where to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Many individuals are still hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine due to concerns over possible side effects.



Discussion

- Overall, these results demonstrate successful minority vaccination outreach, however, there still exists a gap in knowledge and vaccine accessibility in our community.
- Additionally, there may be some hesitations to get the vaccines due to misinformation, language barriers, and concerns over side effects. To that end, partnering with community health workers to educate individuals on proper vaccination knowledge may be beneficial in increasing vaccination rates.
- We hope that this data will enable the formation of language-specific vaccine educational programs and robust partnerships with historically underserved communities to assist in providing COVID-19 vaccine access, to strengthen minority health outcomes, and to further protect our local communities as it continues to combat COVID-19.

Acknowledgements

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