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Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Part 2

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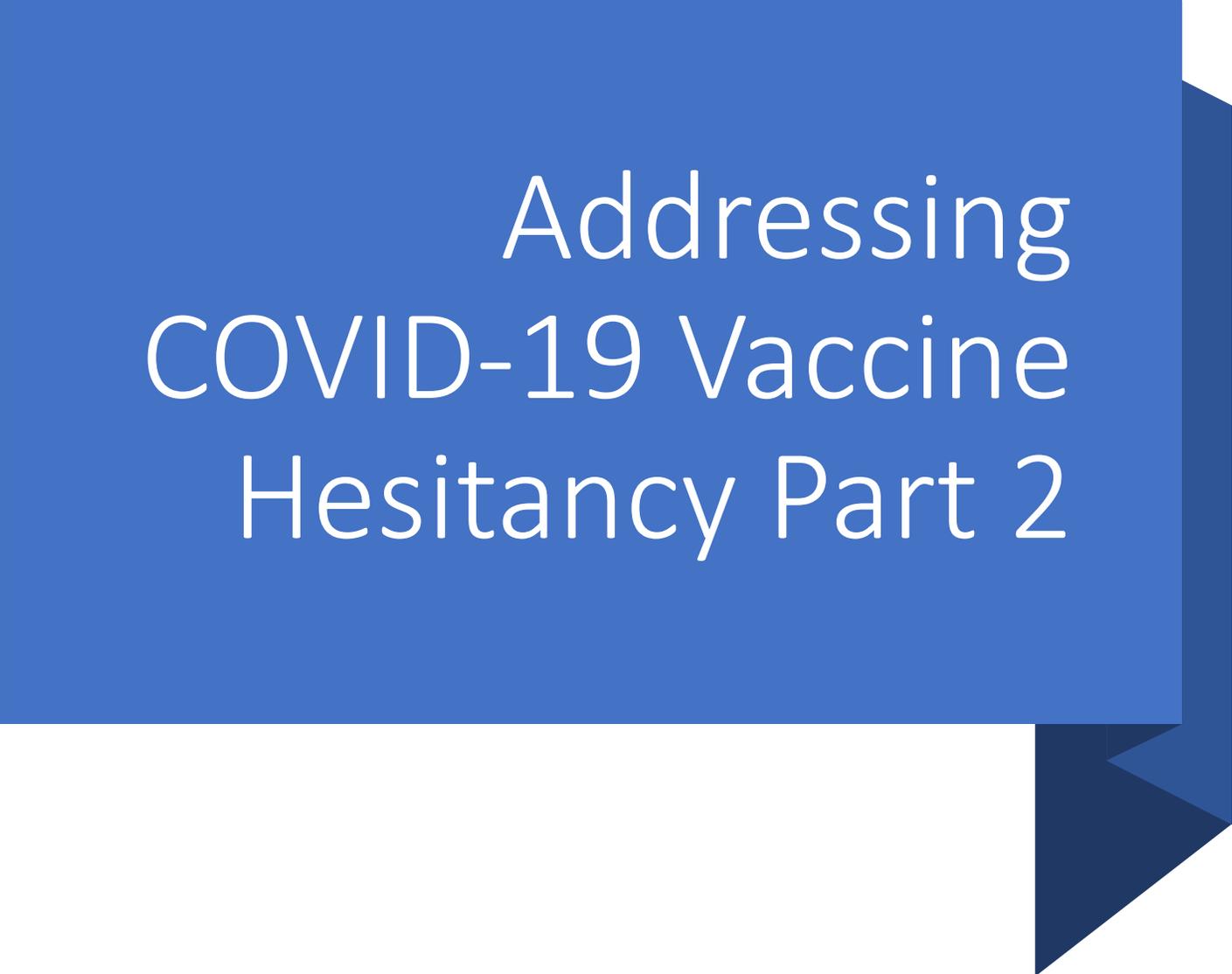
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Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Part 2

Brookfield Family Practice
Brookfield, CT

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May 2021

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COVID Vaccine Hesitancy

- According to the latest KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor, since December 2020: ^{1,6}
 - Increase of individuals receiving COVID-19 vaccine or planning to (estimated 61%)
 - Decrease of individuals using the “wait and see” approach (now 17%),
 - Same number of individuals who are not going to get vaccinated (13%)
 - Largest increase of Black adults (55% are vaccinated or going to get the vaccination)
 - one-quarter of them are using the “wait and see” approach
 - One in five adults living in rural areas will not get vaccinated
- The KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor stated they will be testing “if potential incentives, messages, and pieces of information” may influence more individuals to get vaccinated^{1,6}
 - Vaccination sites occurring in medical settings and clinics
 - Requirements to get vaccinated in order to travel freely and not wear a masks
 - Employers providing incentives like cash bonuses and on-site vaccination
- These statistics show there is an increase of individuals getting vaccinated, and a decrease of individuals who are waiting to see before making a decision to get vaccinated . The data also shows that those individuals who are using the “wait and see” approach would benefit from incentives from their employers as well as the convenience of getting vaccinated at their medical provider’s office.
- We need to continue engaging in conversations about the vaccine along with providing incentives for those uncertain about vaccinations.

Public Health Costs of Covid Vaccine

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a statement stating they would provide funds that support communities to increase vaccination by:³
 - Increasing COVID-19 vaccine programs and providing more access to the vaccines
 - Funding \$250 million to community-based organizations that serve minority or underserved communities to support their COVID-19 outreach efforts, including connecting members of the community with health services and vaccinations.
 - HHS Office of Minority Health is also investing \$250 million to encourage COVID-19 safety and vaccination among underserved populations in minority communities.
- According to CDC, they may invest \$2.25 billion to “address COVID-19-related health disparities” and may invest \$300 million to “jurisdictions for community health worker services to support COVID-19 prevention and control and address disparities in access to COVID-19 related services.”³

Community Perspective

- This project is a continuation from the original project titled, “Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy” that was conducted in January 2021
- Two interviews were conducted with healthcare providers about patients’ opinions about receiving the COVID-19 vaccines
 - Healthcare professionals noticed that more patients are getting vaccinated, but many are still unsure if they want to get vaccinated and worry about the side effects.
 - Health care professionals provide education about COVID-19. They provide their knowledge, expertise, and guidance about the COVID-19 vaccines. They address the concerns of their patients and encourage them to receive the vaccine, but also respect their decision if they decline.
 - More importantly healthcare professionals provide an open space for individuals to express their belief and hesitancy.
- Concerns from the patients:
 - Some patients still seem wary of the development of the vaccine
 - Recent Johnson & Johnson recall concerned patients
 - Patients are unsure to finish their vaccine dosage, if they get adverse reaction from their first dosage
 - Patients are scheduling appointments to converse about their COVID-19 symptoms if they contracted it.
 - Patients want to know if they can get other vaccines once they receive at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccines

Intervention and Methodology

Methodology:

- Provide an educational handout explaining what is the disease COVID-19, how does it work, efficacy, safety
- Provide doctor's perspective and knowledge about COVID-19 and development of the vaccine
- Ask patients if they have or plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine
- Provide a safe and open space to allow the patient to ask questions or concerns as well explain the importance of getting the vaccine.

Intervention:

- The goal is to engage in conversations to understand people's views and reasons to receive or not receive the vaccine in the community
- **This intervention is categorized under the AHEC Scholars Core Topic: Current and Emerging Health Issues**

Results/Responses

Total Survey Responses: 21

Demographics:

- Age – 48% were 55+, 33% were 45-54, 19% 25-34
- Race – 95% White
- Education – 33% Graduate/Professional, 24% high school, 29% college, 14% some college, 6% college

COVID- 19 related questions:

- 71% have not contracted COVID-19
- 52% of patients strongly agree that if a vaccine is recommended for them, they will get it.
- Top three sources that patients receive information about COVID-19:
 - Television, healthcare professionals, health officials
- 71% have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine

Handout related results:

- 81% of people answered *yes* to “after reading the handout, do you feel that you have a better understanding on how a vaccine works?”
- 81% of people answered *yes* to “after reading the handout, do you believe the vaccine is effective?”
- 53% of people answered *yes* to “after reading the handout, do you feel safer to the take the vaccine after receiving the handout?”

Effectiveness/Limitations

- Evaluation:
 - Provided surveys to assess whether a patient's hesitancy to get vaccinated has changed or whether they are more willing to receive a vaccine
- Effectiveness:
 - For those who took the survey, they felt comfortable to ask about side effects, effectiveness, and when they should take other vaccines
 - For those who did not take the quiz, some engaged in conversations about the vaccine and asked for advice and guidance.
- Limitations:
 - Sample size
 - Survey was only provided in English which prevented some individuals of taking the survey

Recommendations for Future Projects

Observations:

- Although there are resources about COVID-19 and the vaccines, patients want to engage in conversation about the virus and vaccine with their health providers.
- Patients, especially those who received the vaccine, are uncertain about the side effects and why individuals react differently to the vaccine.
- Patients are curious about the development of the vaccine.
- Patients with long lasting effects due to contracting COVID-19 do not know that their programs and treatment to help them with their symptoms.

Recommendations for future interventions/projects:

- To assess if people understand what a vaccine does to our body and why we get an immune reaction
- Determine which patients may benefit from the COVID Recovery Vaccine Program and create a handout to educate them about these services
- Determine which patients may be eligible to receive the COVID-19 monoclonal antibody infusion

References

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Consent Form

- Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. This project is a requirement for the Family Medicine clerkship. It will be stored on the Dana Library ScholarWorks website. Your name will be attached to your interview and you may be cited directly or indirectly in subsequent unpublished or published work. The interviewer affirms that he/she has explained the nature and purpose of this project. The interviewee affirms that he/she has consented to this interview.