

# UVM ScholarWorks

## Perceptions on Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination

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# Perceptions on Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination

Grant Schumaker

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Charlotte Family Health

Shelburne, VT

# Purpose

- Assess patients' perceptions on COVID-19 vaccination for children between 5-11 years old via survey
- Parents and non-parents may have differing opinions on the COVID vaccine and vaccines in general.
- Understanding our patients' perceptions on why or why not vaccinate may guide how we approach discussing COVID-19 vaccination for children.

# Public Health Cost

- The COVID-19 pandemic has been described as “the greatest threat to prosperity since the Great Depression”<sup>1</sup>
- Congressional Budget Office estimates a \$7.6 trillion loss in output during the next decade
- 60 million claims filed for unemployment
- Total of 801,000 deaths as of November 2021

# Community Perspectives

- Community Member (Anonymous)
  - “We have a long history of giving pediatric vaccines, I’m not fearful, given the seriousness of the situation, I think it’s a good thing. My children are older, so I’m not looking at this as a parent of young kids. However, I would have them vaccinated if they were still young.”

# Intervention and Methodology

## COVID-19 Childhood Vaccination Survey

The purpose of this survey is to assess our patients' perceptions on COVID-19 vaccination for children. Answers are completely confidential and will not be identified with you. Thank you for your participation.

Recently, the CDC has expanded their recommendations to include COVID immunization with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to children between 5-11 years.

Your Age: [            ] Your Sex: [                            ]

Do you or someone in your family have any children that fall in this age range (5-11)?  Yes  No

If you answered "Yes", please check off one:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Already vaccinated                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Haven't decided   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled/plan to receive vaccination | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not plan to vaccinate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to disclose                   | - If you do not plan to vaccinate, have you vaccinated your child for other routine immunizations? |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   |

If you answered "No" to having any children in the household, given whatever information you have now, would you support children in the 5–11-year age range being vaccinated for COVID?

- Yes, I would support     No, I would not support     Haven't decided

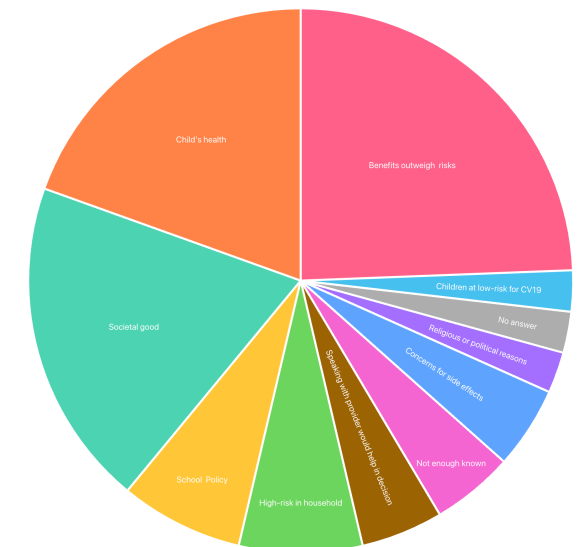
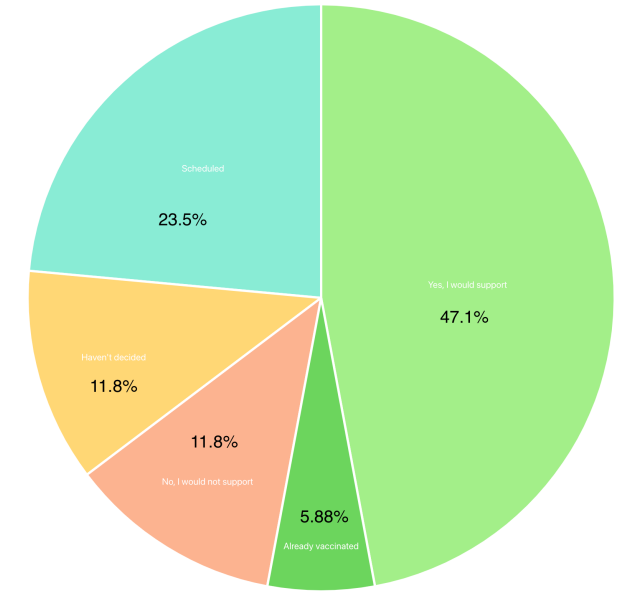
This survey was given to any adult patient seen at Charlotte Family Health, no other demographic data other than age and sex of the respondent was collected.

<p>If you answered, "Yes, I would support", "Already vaccinated", or "Scheduled", what are some of your reasons for doing so?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> School policy</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> There is a high-risk person in my household</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> My child's health</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Societal good</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> The benefits of vaccination outweigh risks</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li></ul>	<p>If you answered, "Do not plan to vaccinate", or "No I would not support", what are some of your reasons for not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Children are at low-risk for COVID-19</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough is known about the vaccine</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I have concerns about side effects</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> I limit vaccinations for my child in general</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Religious or political reasons</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li></ul>
<p>If "Haven't decided", would speaking to your provider help you in making a decision?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>What other information would you like to know to help in making a decision?</p>	

Responses were recorded and tabulated.

# Results/Response Data

- Total of 17 responses were collected
- 11.8% 18-40 age range, 41.2% 40-60 age range, 47.1% 60+ age range
- >3/4 of patients were in support, already vaccinated, or had a vaccine scheduled for their child
  - Most popular reasons were “benefits outweigh risks”, “child’s health”, and “societal good”
- Remaining 11.8% who did not support the vaccine mostly cited “Not enough known” and “concerns for side effects”



# Evaluation of Effectiveness and Limitations

- Simple, quick way to take initial perceptions from the community
- Limited by number of respondents who currently have eligible children
- Patients with grandchildren whose parents may have different views on vaccination may complicate data
  - Ex: one 73 year-old male mentioned how half the family had a child who was scheduled to have vaccination and the other side of the family had a child who they are undecided about
- Responses may have been influenced by being in the primary care office as opposed to being at home
- This data gives insight into why people may or may not support administering the COVID-19 vaccine to children and how we can start educating the public as well as how to guide the conversation when it comes to vaccines

# Future Projects

- Would wide the scope to include multiple locations in Vermont
- Include both private practices and UVM-affiliated
- Consider distributing the survey in other settings outside the primary care office
- Create an up-to-date brochure on COVID-19 vaccine side effects that cites the latest studies to address concerns parents may have.

# References

1. Cutler DM, Summers LH. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the \$16 Trillion Virus. JAMA. 2020;324(15):1495–1496. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.19759
2. CDC. COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens [Internet]. Center for Disease Control..