

SARS-COV-2 VACCINE HESITANCY IN CAREGIVERS OF HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

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Background: Little is known about caregiver SARS-CoV-2 vaccine acceptance for children. We aim to identify associations with SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy (VH) in caregivers of hospitalized children.

Materials/Methods: This is a serial, cross-sectional survey in English and Spanish assessing COVID-19 knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and associated VH among caregivers of hospitalized children 6 months through 18 years. Enrollment took place 12/8/2020-4/5/2021 and 11/30/21-ongoing. VH was assessed using the Parent Attitudes about Childhood Vaccines (PACV) survey; PACV score ≥ 50 denotes VH. Descriptive statistics and multivariable logistic regression were used.

Results: During '20-21, 295/307 (96%) of approached caregivers enrolled; 79% were ≥ 30 years, 68% were married/ living with a partner, and 57% had at least some college. 36% identified as White, 19% Black, and 46% Hispanic/ Latino. 53% of caregiver children had public insurance. 91% of caregivers self-reported their children were up to date with routine vaccines. Overall, after categorizing results, 67% were scared of their child getting COVID-19. However, 49% were scared of their child getting the vaccine, 28% did not want to vaccinate their child and 27% were neutral in the intention to vaccinate their child. Caregivers who intended to vaccinate their child were more likely to be Asian (4.5% vs. 1.2%, $p=0.02$) and Hispanic/ Latino (33% vs. 49%, $p=0.04$). VH was identified in 17% of caregivers (Figure 1). 50% of caregivers were willing to receive COVID-19 vaccine themselves and 46% planned to vaccinate their children. Preliminary results for '21-22 show that 39/52 (75%) of parents have received the COVID-19 vaccine, only 3 were vaccinated because it was mandated by their employer. After categorizing results, 67% were scared of their child getting COVID-19, 37% were scared of their child getting the vaccine, and 54% of parents had given or intended to give their child the COVID-19 vaccine.

Conclusions: Less than half of caregivers planned to vaccinate their children in '20-21. Although thus far more caregivers gave or intend to give the vaccine in '21-22, it is still only 54% which leaves many children unprotected and schools without herd immunity. COVID-19 VH is different from VH towards routine vaccines. More research is needed to address COVID-19 specific VH and concerns.

Images / Graph / Table

