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Jamil Jomaa  
Wayne State University School Of Medicine

Rouba Ali-Fehmi  
Wayne State University

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COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Arab Americans

Mira H Kheil†, Deepti Jain†, Jamil Jomaa†, Brandon Askar†, Yasmeen Alcodray†, Shatha Wahbi†, Salar Brikho†, Ali Kadouh†, Deanna Harajli†, Zain N Jawad†, Ziad Fehmi†, Malaak Elhage†, Tala Tawil†, Omar Fehmi†, Suma Alzouhayli†, Deema Ujayli†, Noor Saleh†, Evi Abada†, Anita Shallal†, Kim Seongho†, Vijaya Arun Kumar†, Marcus Zervos†, Michele Cote†, Rouba Ali-Fehmi†.

1 Department of Pathology, Wayne State University School of Medicine/Detroit Medical Center, 3990 John R. Rd, Detroit, MI 48201, USA
2 Wayne State University School of Medicine, 4201 St Antoine, Detroit, MI 48201, USA
3 The University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, 101 N Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, USA
4 Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 4841 Cass Ave, 2155 Old Main, Detroit, MI 48201, USA.
5 Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, 965 Fee Rd A110, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA.
6 Wayne State University College of Education, 5425 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202
7 Division of Infectious Diseases, Henry Ford Hospital, 2799 W. Grand Blvd, CFP 303, Detroit, MI 48202, USA
8 Biostatistics Core, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Department of Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, 4100 John R. St, Detroit, MI 48201, USA
9 Department of Emergency Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine/Detroit Medical Center, 4201 Saint Antoine, Suite 6F UHC, Detroit, MI 48201, USA
10 Population Sciences and Disparities Research, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Department of Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, 4100 John R. Rd, Detroit, MI 48201, USA

* Correspondence: rali@med.wayne.edu
† Co-first Authors: Each Author contributed equally to the work.

Abstract: (1) Background: Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) vaccines have a significant impact on reducing morbidity and mortality from infection. However, vaccine hesitancy remains an obstacle in combating the pandemic. The Arab American (AA) population is understudied, thus we aimed to explore COVID-19 attitudes within this community. (2) Methods: This was a cross sectional study utilizing an anonymous online survey that was distributed to members of different AA associations and to the community through the snowball method. (3) Results: A total of 1746 survey responses were received. 92% of participants reported having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. 73% reported willingness to receive a booster and 72% plan to give their children the vaccine. On multivariate analysis, respondents were more likely to be vaccine hesitant if they are hesitant towards receiving any vaccine in general. They were less likely to be vaccine hesitant if they were immigrants, over the age of 40, up to date on their general vaccination and if they believed that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing an infection. The belief that all vaccines are effective at preventing diseases was also associated with lower hesitancy. (4) Conclusions: This cohort of AAs were less hesitant towards the COVID-19 vaccine and had a higher vaccination rate when compared to the rest of the population. However, a reemergence of hesitancy might be arising towards the boosters and vaccination of children.

Keywords: COVID-19 Vaccine, Arab Americans, Vaccine Hesitancy, Arab American Health