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COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Arab Americans

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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