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Factors that Influence the Decision to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

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Factors that Influence the Decision to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

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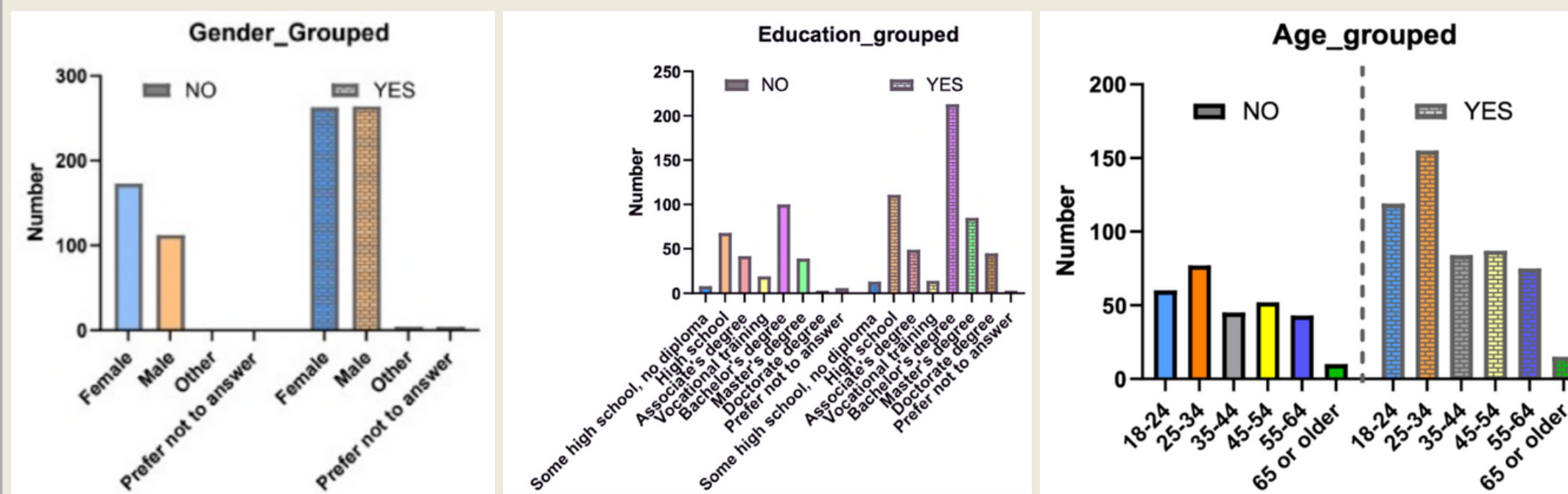
Objective: To identify factors that do and do not influence the decision to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Introduction

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the launch of the vaccine, healthcare workers have been encouraging people to get vaccinated to prevent the spread of the virus. However, there is a significant number of people who are vaccine hesitant, or uncertain about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and its booster. Vaccine hesitancy represents a state of opportunity to make positive change; therefore, it is crucial for healthcare workers to identify those who are in this population. When factors contributing to the vaccine hesitancy, including gender, age, ethnicity, education level, and income were studied, it was found that women, those with less education, and African-Americans were more likely to initially decline the vaccine.

Results

- Gender, education, and ethnicity: significant contributing factors in determining willingness to receive the vaccine
- Income, age, and future verification requirements: not significant contributing factors
- Participants who indicated they desired the vaccine initially were stratified into gender, education, ethnicity, age, income, and future vaccination verification requirements.



65% of Participants Initially Desired the Vaccine:



Conclusion

This study investigated numerous factors that contribute to vaccine hesitancy to try to further understand how people approach the COVID-19 vaccine and potentially guide the medical community in future vaccination efforts. Many factors to vaccine hesitancy were elucidated, warranting further research on a larger scale, particularly in the areas of gender and education. One potential target in future vaccination efforts is promoting accessible, reliable information to all, as misinformation and uncertainty can breed hesitancy towards vaccination efforts.

Methodology

- Analyzed accessibility of initial COVID-19 vaccinations
- Data was collected anonymously from participants at a vaccination clinic using Qualtrics.
- Survey: Multiple-choice and sliding scale questions, covering demographics, risk factors, appointment scheduling, transportation, and attitudes toward vaccination.
- The study was conducted from April- June 2021 with the approval of the IRB.

Discussion

- **Gender:** women were initially less likely to desire vaccination-- possible link between the vaccine and infertility as well as menstruation irregularities.
- **Education:** lower levels of education were more likely to initially decline the vaccine-- lack of information about the vaccine process
- **Ethnicity:** There was a significant difference amongst the initial desire of African American individuals-- Tuskegee trials versus unequal distribution of African American individuals represented in this study
- **Age:** not statistically significant-- most of the elderly population had been vaccinated in an earlier rollout
- **Income:** not statistically significant

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