Perceptions of Vaccines in Chelsea, MA

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Research Question:

Is COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy a problem in Chelsea?

If so, who is more likely to refuse the COVID vaccine?
Methods

- Survey design and testing:
  - Landscape of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy surveys
  - Support from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
  - Testing carried out in Bellingham Sq in May to refine survey

- Data collection:
  - May-June 2021
  - Food and diaper lines at La Colaborativa
  - Bellingham Sq and door knocking
  - Collected by Health Promoters from La Colaborativa using google forms

- Data quality control:
  - Data reviewed, cleaned and analyzed by P.I. (Cristina Alonso)
Results

- 434 respondents
- 88% residents of Chelsea
- 65% female
- 98% Latinx
- 35% had COVID-19
Who do you trust for information about vaccines?
COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance

Have you received the COVID-19 Vaccine

- Yes, one dose: 16.1%
- Yes, 2 doses: 51.8%
- No, intending to: 13.4%
- No, has appointment: 6.5%
- No, no intention: 12.2%
Reasons for avoiding the vaccine:

Why won´t you get the vaccine?

- I’m young
- Had COVID
- Afraid of side effects
- Vaccine is new
- Other
- No time
- Don’t believe in COVID
- Fear of needles
- Religion
- Didn’t know I could
Age distribution of those who are not vaccinated:

- 18-29: 41.5%
- 30-49: 47.2%
- 50-64: 11.3%
Recommendations:

- Target vaccine information on young cohorts
- Focus on the reality of risk of long term effects
- The use of physicians, public health experts and researchers as information ambassadors is effective
- Focus on the balance between choices, do not minimize the risks

“How do you know that something horrible won’t happen to all of us in three years?”