

Program Evaluation: Identifying Factors that Impact COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy among Minorities in Chattanooga



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Introduction

The COVID-19 vaccine has been available in the U.S. for over two years. However, studies show ethnic and racial minorities are disproportionately hesitant about it. COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy in the general American population was 26.3%. However, it was 41.6% for African American and 30.2% for Hispanics (Khubchandany & Macias, 2021).

In most states, vaccine uptake rates were substantially higher among White compared with Hispanic and Black adults (Reitsma, Goldhaber-Fiebert, & Salomon, 2021).

The COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be a safe and effective method to prevent serious illness, hospitalizations, and death due to COVID-19. Vaccination can prevent COVID-19 infection and is a safer and more reliable way to build protection against the virus (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).

Higher rates of COVID-19 infections lead to worse health outcomes and increased risk of transmission in the community. A scoping review by Shanbehzadeh et al. (2021) found several physical and mental health complications three months post COVID-19. Among the most common were fatigue, pain, anxiety, and depression.

Problem

- Vaccine hesitancy leading to lower rates of COVID-19 vaccinations among minority populations

Team

- Program Director, Program Advisor, Community Health Navigators, Data Analyst, Doctoral Student, Executive sponsor

Aim

- To evaluate COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among minority population in Chattanooga, TN

Objectives

- Determine two clinical sites to hold weekly vaccine events by Dec 1st
- Create survey regarding COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy to be distributed at the clinical sites by Jan 1st
- Visit Library clinical site to distribute COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy survey on Feb 6th
- Visit Chris Reid clinical site to distribute COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy survey on Feb 7th
- Determine need for more data and return to clinical sites by Feb 28th
- Report data on vaccine hesitancy for each site by March 15th

Methods

Setting and Population

- Two Clinical Sites in Chattanooga, Tennessee
 - Library Site
 - Chris Reid Site
- Adults (≥18 years old), Unvaccinated against COVID-19

PDSA Cycle

- Plan: Determine COVID-19 Clinical Sites to visit, Collect Data, Prepare Survey
 - Prediction: Determine factors affecting COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among minority population in Chattanooga,
- Do: Visit two COVID-19 Clinical Sites, Distribute Survey, Collect Data
- Study: Plan Descriptive statistics using population sample, Identify factors impacting COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy
- Act: Plan to change, implement, or abandon the change

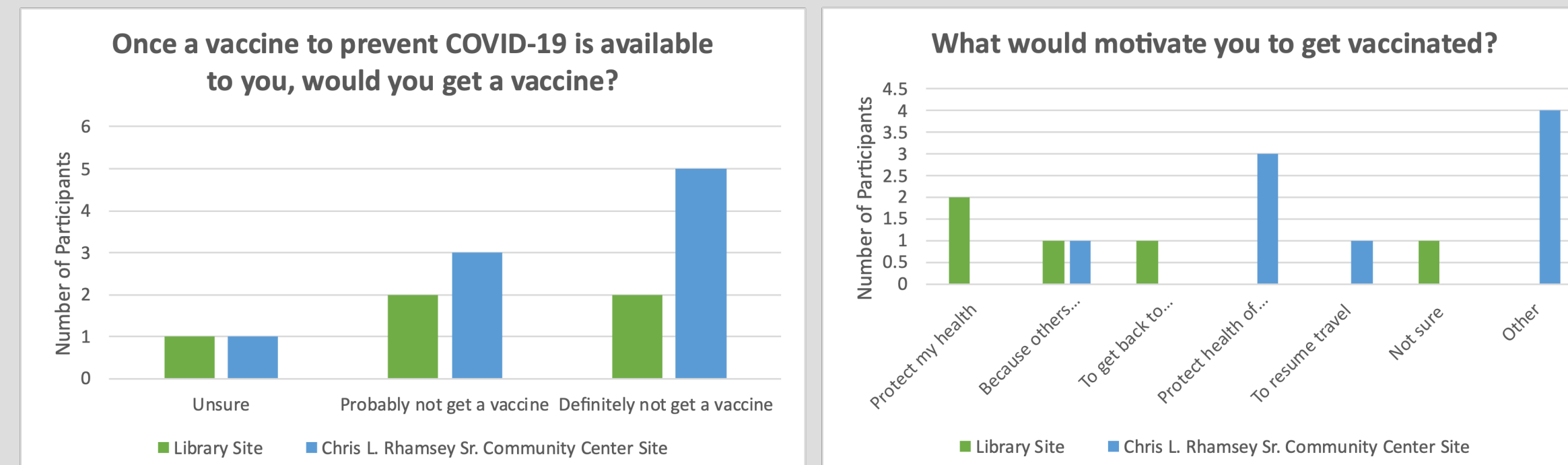


Figure 1: Willingness to get vaccine

Figure 2: Motivation to get vaccine

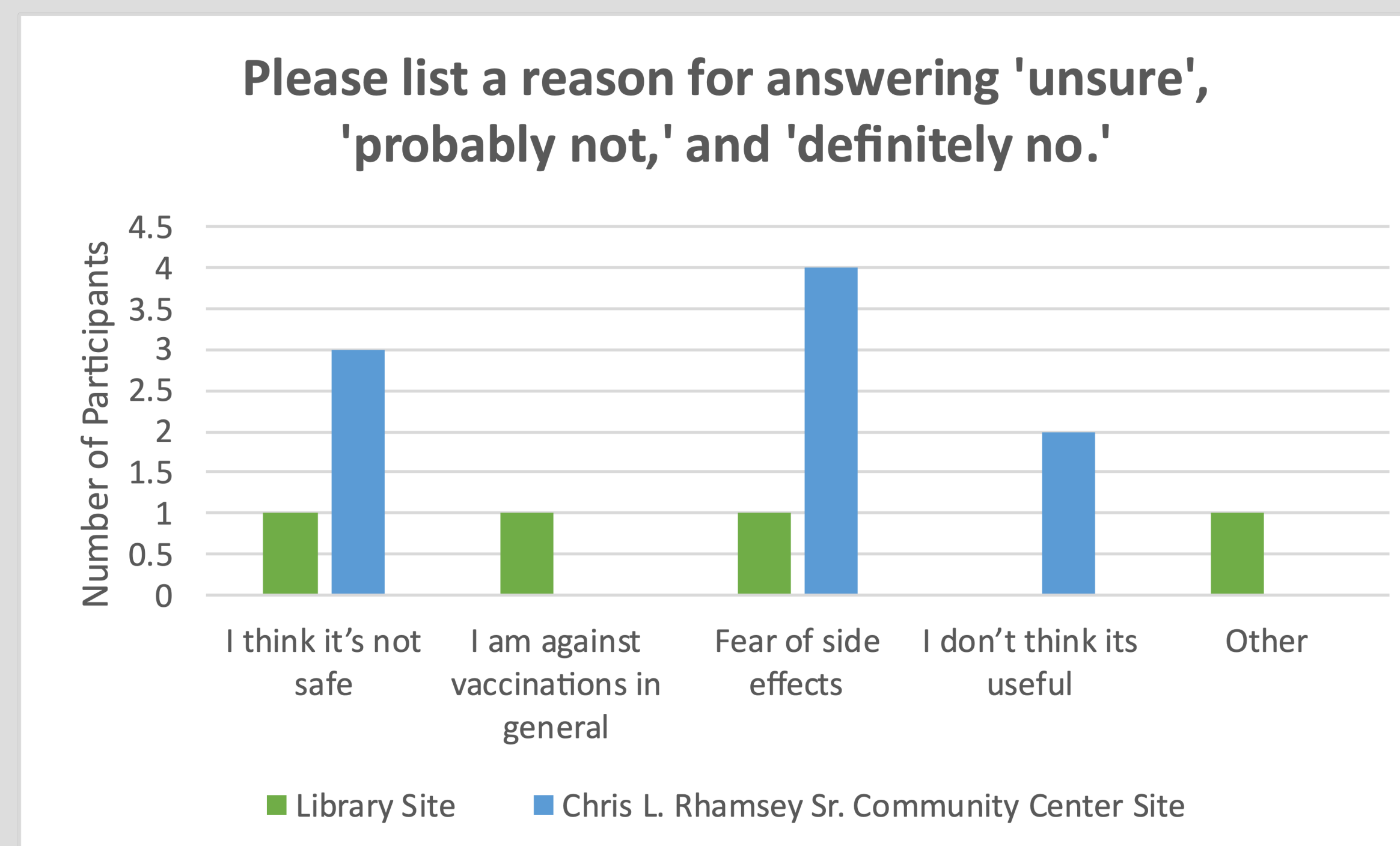


Figure 3: Reason for refusing vaccine

Results

A total of 14 participants responded to the Redcap survey distributed at the COVID-19 vaccine events in Chattanooga on Feb 6, 2023 and Feb 7, 2023

- 13 out of 14 participants in the survey were minorities
- 13 out of 14 participants responded being “unsure,” “probably not getting a vaccine,” and “definitely not getting a vaccine.”
- 5 out of 14 participants responded “fear of side effects” as the reason for not wanting the COVID-19 vaccine, and 4 out of 14 adults responded “I think it’s not safe” as the reason.
- 3 out of 14 participants responded “protect health of family and friends” as motivation to get vaccinated
- 11 out of 14 participants responded “I am getting enough information” or I am getting too much information” regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.

Implications for Practice

Conclusion

- Small scale program evaluation at two clinical sites in Chattanooga identifying factors that impact vaccine hesitancy and recommendation for further analysis to help decrease hesitancy.

Future Implications

- Distribute survey at all locations to gather more data
- Most participants report getting enough or too much information regarding COVID-19 vaccine. There could be benefit to focus on motivating factors to improve COVID-19 vaccination rates among ethnic and racial minorities in Chattanooga

Limitations

- Small Sample Size

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