

TITLE: Covid-19 vaccination hesitancy in individuals experiencing houselessness

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Policy makers, program developers, and researchers

ABSTRACT: Background Vaccine-preventable illness is common among persons experiencing houselessness (PEH), but data describing vaccination hesitancy in Oregon for this group is lacking. Purpose To better understand motivations and barriers to COVID-19 vaccination for PEH in Linn County, Oregon. Methods PEH in Linn County, Oregon were given an in-person, anonymous survey in April 2022 (HRSA-21-142 Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence grant). The survey asked about factors that contributed to vaccine hesitancy and motivators to vaccination, including how individuals obtained information about vaccines. Results Of 69 PEH surveyed, 23% had received a COVID-19 vaccine. Patients were motivated to get vaccinated by fear of serious illness, vaccination requirements, and to help their community. Physicians and family members were influential information sources for vaccinated PEH. Unvaccinated PEH cited a lack of trust in the government and medical staff, belief that they wouldn't get seriously ill, and side effects as barriers. 42% of unvaccinated PEH said that they could be persuaded to get vaccinated. Implications We observed a lower vaccination rate in PEH vs the general public. Some unvaccinated PEH reported that they could be persuaded to get vaccinated. Our study identifies information and individuals who could help decrease vaccine hesitancy for PEH.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe factors influencing vaccine hesitancy of persons experiencing houselessness in Linn County, Oregon. Describe motivators for COVID-19 vaccination of persons experiencing houselessness in Linn County, Oregon. Identify influential information or persons who could help decrease vaccine hesitancy for persons experiencing houselessness in Linn County, Oregon.
