

and effectiveness. Finally, this study shows how such intervention can greatly increase the vaccination coverage of children, which in Italy was, on average 2.4% considering the period 2010-2021.

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Vaccine Hesitancy in Albanian university healthcare students: preliminary results

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Introduction: Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health interventions. Vaccine hesitancy can affect healthcare providers, putting their contribution to vaccination campaigns at risk, since they are also important models for their patients. The following work focuses on vaccine hesitancy among healthcare students in Albania, to identify additional educational needs.

Materials and Methods: In October 2022, an anonymous questionnaire was submitted to a sample of healthcare students (Medicine and Surgery, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry) of the University of Our Lady of Good Counsel (Tirane). Attitudes, confidence, knowledge and hesitancy towards vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccine, were investigated. The protocol was approved by the Ethical Committee of Policlinico Tor Vergata (Rome).

Results: A total of 384 questionnaires have been collected. Main results of the analysis showed a good degree of confidence in vaccines: 73.7% of respondents fully or partially agreed with the statement "I can rely on vaccines to stop serious infectious diseases", but 10.4% of them declared to "have refused a recommended vaccine". When asked about the public health role of vaccines, 24% of the sample answered "no" or "do not know" to the statement "Vaccination benefits the whole community". A positive attitude was observed in 58.6% of the respondents, who "encouraged others to be vaccinated against COVID-19". Despite living in a country where the access to COVID-19 vaccines has been disrupted, 75.3% of the sample declared to be vaccinated, although 53.2% affirmed to not feel protected against the COVID-19 infection even after the vaccination. As concerns sources of information, 44.8% of the sample considered TV and radio to be the most influential ones.

Conclusions: The preliminary results of the study show that the fight against vaccine hesitancy and low confidence is still a priority in medical university courses in Albania, and requires further investigations.

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Baseline survey on the determinants of hesitancy to vaccination against covid-19 in 10 priority provinces in Chad

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Introduction: COVID-19 is a global public health problem today. Vaccination is one of the effective strategies for controlling COVID-19. The objective of this survey was to obtain reliable baseline information on the determinants of hesitancy to vaccinate against COVID-19 in 10 priority provinces of Chad.

Method: This was a cross-sectional, descriptive and analytical study that took place between July 28 and September 28, 2022. The survey was conducted among households in the 10 provinces with the head of the household or his representative as the observation unit. The sample design used for this survey was a stratified, two-stage random sample. The data collected allowed for descriptive and analytical analyses. The analyses were weighted and the complex sampling design was taken into account. Data analysis was performed with R software version 4.2.1.

Results: A total of 3346 households were surveyed. Vaccination hesitancy and refusal were estimated at 16.9% and 23.3% respectively. Vaccine hesitancy was associated with age, religion, education level, history of refusal to vaccinate, and attitude toward the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine refusal was associated with religion, education level, economic well-being quintile, history of vaccine refusal, lack of confidence in vaccines to prevent disease in general, and attitude toward the COVID-19 vaccine.

Conclusion: Following this baseline survey, a risk communication and community engagement plan should be developed and adapted to the realities on the ground so that communities are informed and sensitized about the benefits as well as the

adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccination.

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COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among a sample of students in Tunisia

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Background: Immunization with a safe and effective vaccine appears to be among ways to contain and control the pandemic of COVID-19. However, the overall population response to receiving the new vaccines was less than optimal. The aims of our study were to determine the rate of reluctance to receive COVID-19 vaccines, to assess the factors associated with this behavior and vaccine satisfaction among Tunisian student in Monastir (Tunisia).

Patients and methods

It was a cross-sectional study on the hesitation to vaccinate against COVID-19 among the student population in the city of Monastir, conducted during the month of October 2021.

Results: Among the 217 students interviewed, 180 agreed to participate in our survey with a response rate of 82.9%. The total vaccination rate was 77.7%; 61.1% were fully vaccinated. The main motivating factor was simple confidence in the vaccine, reported by 43% of participants. The rate of vaccine hesitancy was 19.5%, (CI95%=13.7-25.2). The main reason for hesitancy was the insufficient number and duration of studies (50%). Comparing the two groups (vaccinated and hesitant), the results of the univariate analysis showed that vaccine hesitancy in the study population was related to belief in the reliability of vaccine information and confidence in the likely efficacy and safety of the vaccine.

Conclusion: Despite an abundance of scientific evidence of vaccine safety and efficacy, vaccine hesitancy continues to emerge in different populations. There is a need to rapidly strengthen communication and planning with communities to increase vaccine coverage, especially among youth.

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Using the card (comfort ask relax distract) system to deliver influenza vaccinations in university pop-up clinics

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Background: CARD (Comfort Ask Relax Distract) is an evidence-based vaccination delivery framework that promotes person-centred care. No studies have evaluated its implementation in mass influenza vaccination clinics. The objective was to integrate CARD in university-based influenza vaccination pop-up clinics and evaluate client and staff experiences.

Methods: Mixed methods before-and-after quality improvement study. A baseline (control – usual care) phase preceded CARD implementation in one popup clinic. Then CARD was implemented incrementally in two subsequent clinics. Changes to the environment (delineating waiting and aftercare areas, providing privacy, obscuring needles from view), education (clients given CARD coping checklist at check-in), and interactions (defining discrete clinic roles and processes, using coping-promoting behaviours, removing alcohol skin antiseptics prior to vaccine injection) were made. Clients provided feedback using standardized surveys. Staff, including pharmacy student vaccinators, participated in clinic debriefs. Feedback informed real-time process changes during and between clinics.

Results: Clinics were held Nov 17 (control), Nov 22 and Nov 24 (both CARD). Feedback from 298 adult vaccine clients, including university students and staff (representing >98% of all vaccinated individuals) demonstrated an incremental increase in the percent of clients with an improved experience compared to the last vaccination (34% baseline, vs. 49% and 57% in CARD clinics, respectively; p=0.003). Ten percent reported CARD influenced their decision to attend by a moderate amount to a lot. Staff liked the changes. Sample quotes after the final clinic included: "very organized" and "best clinic ever."

Conclusion: This study demonstrated improvement in vaccination delivery after CARD implementation as reported by vaccine clients and staff.

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Actions for counteracting vaccine hesitancy: a deep dive into three multicentre projects conducted in Europe



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ABSTRACT BOOK



Abstract book by:



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The three organising partners of the 17th World Congress on Public Health established a Congress Management Committee (CMC) consisting of representatives of WFPHA, SItI, ASPHER and the PCO. The CMC has the full managerial and financial management responsibility for the Congress.

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The International Congress Council (ICC) consisted of the Congress Management Committee and international public health experts representing various regions of the WFPHA, international health organisations, European health non-governmental organisations and Italian universities and institutes. The ICC in particular develops, in consultation with the CMC, the scientific programme including subthemes and plenary programme of the WCPH and identify speakers/panellists/moderators of the plenary sessions.

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The International Scientific Committee (ISC) consists of experienced public health experts from around the world nominated by WFPHA, SItI and Aspher. It mainly advises the ICC on scientific matters of the conference and contributes to the scientific evaluation of the conference. We would like to thank the ISC for their support.

Aim & Scope

Population Medicine is an open-access double-blind peer-reviewed scientific journal that encompasses all aspects of population, preventive, and public health research including health care systems and health care delivery. Its broader goal is to address major and diverse health issues, to provide evidence-based information to professionals at all levels of the health care system, and to inform policymakers who are responsible for the formation of health policies that can lead to evidence-based actions.

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