

The Impact of Physician Vaccine Recommendation on the Pregnant Chaldean Population

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Introduction

- A variety of factors contribute to modern vaccine hesitancy, including balancing the risks and benefits of vaccination and delayed negative outcomes.
- An important population to consider are pregnant women and their fetus, as the immune compromised state may increase the burden of disease.
- It is the duty of healthcare providers to properly educate mothers on the effectiveness of vaccination on vaccine-treatable and vaccine-preventable diseases.
- A subgroup that has been impacted by this greatly in the metro-Detroit area is the Chaldean community.
- With the Michigan Chaldean population being greater than 160,000, and most of the community members residing in the Detroit area, this research is pertinent in serving a large portion of the Michigan population.¹
- The Chaldean population is seen as a minority in overall research data collection, making this study pertinent to minority health.²
- The lack of health care and social services prevents Chaldean women from obtaining the educational guidance they need from a physician during pregnancy.³

Aims and Objectives

- The objectives of this study are to determine the impact of education on vaccination during pregnancy to outcomes in vaccination rates.
- The goal of this study is to use this data to educate healthcare providers on proper recommendation techniques to increase vaccine adherence in this population.

Methods

- Participants were recruited through Facebook and completed an anonymous online survey.
- Pregnant Chaldean women between the ages of 19-40 years of age were included.
- Only participants in the state of Michigan were included.
- 92 women completed the survey.
- The survey consisted of 32 questions.
- The questionnaire assessed the following:
 - Overall vaccine experience during this pregnancy
 - Vaccine recommendations from the provider during this pregnancy
 - Intent on vaccination during this pregnancy
 - Intent on adhering to newborn vaccination recommendations after birth
 - Attitudes towards vaccination and causes of hesitancy



Results

- When asked which vaccines were recommended during this pregnancy by their physician, the following data was shown
 - 39 (73.6%) had received COVID-19 recommendations
 - 38 (71.1%) received influenza recommendations
 - 37 (69.8%) had received Tdap recommendations
- When asked which vaccines the pregnant women received, the following was shown
 - 21 (39.6%) received Tdap
 - 18 (34%) received COVID-19 vaccination
 - 13 (24.5%) received the influenza vaccine
- 30.2% of women (N=16) do not plan on vaccinating after birth, while 3.8% (N=2) have yet to decide.
- For those planning to vaccinate, only 27 (50.9%) were willing to take physician recommendations on what vaccines to administer.
- Only 26 (50%) women felt as though they received enough information on vaccination during this pregnancy.



Conclusions

- This is the first study to evaluate vaccination attitudes among pregnant Chaldean mothers.
- The results highlight the need for education on the importance of vaccination, for their own protection and the developing fetus.
- The low recommendation rates by physicians have led to even lower vaccination rates by patients.
- Additionally, the fact that only 73.6% of women had vaccine recommendations by their provider highlights the need to educate physicians, who play a critical role in disease prevention.
- Physicians must be diligent in providing adequate care to this minority group, as language and resource barriers already pose a great threat to patient health.
- According to the data, the best way to provide adequate care to this minority group is by properly educating physicians on vaccine recommendation strategies.
- Physicians must also work with patients to identify personal hesitancies and provide care in a patient-centered approach.
- Our goal is to share this data with local offices and enhance the care this population receives.

References

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