

SARS-CoV-2: Vaccine Hesitancy among Racial and Ethnic Minorities with HIV in the Southern US

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BACKGROUND

- As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to unfold, drastic changes in daily life pose significant challenges on mental and clinical health.
- SARS-CoV-2 and HIV disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities in the US.
- Medical mistrust and vaccine hesitancy will likely impact acceptability of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine among ethnic minorities living with HIV.

AIM

To examine the COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among racial and ethnic minorities with HIV and to identify factors that may reduce vaccine uptake

METHODS

- All participants >18 years with a diagnosis of HIV living in Miami, FL were recruited from April 01 to November 30, 2020.
- Participants were recruited from an existing HIV registry, community flyers, and word of mouth.
- We conducted a survey eliciting sociodemographic information and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy.
- The COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy survey was adapted from the Strategic Advisory Group Experts survey dealing with vaccine hesitancy
- Comparisons by race and ethnicity were performed using the Freedman-Haltmann extension of Fisher's exact test.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- This study was supported by the Miami CFAR P30AI073961, CHARM P30MH116867, and the Ford Foundation Fellowship grants.
- We also thank all the participants that made this study possible.

RESULTS

Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics of 94 individuals with HIV Participating in the Study

	Non-Black Latinx N (%)	Black-non-Latinx N (%)	Overall N (%)
Total	38 (100)	56 (100)	94 (100)
Age			
Mean (Sd)	51(11.4)	56 (10.8)	54 (11.3)
Sex at birth			
Female	15 (40)	34 (61)	49 (52)
Monthly Income			
\$1000 or less	18 (47)	39 (70)	57 (61)
\$1001 or more	20 (53)	17 (30)	37 (39)
Employed			
No	21 (55)	47 (84)	68 (72)
Living Situation			
Own Place	32 (84)	45 (80)	77 (82)
Someone else's	6 (16)	11 (20)	17 (18)

ANALYSIS

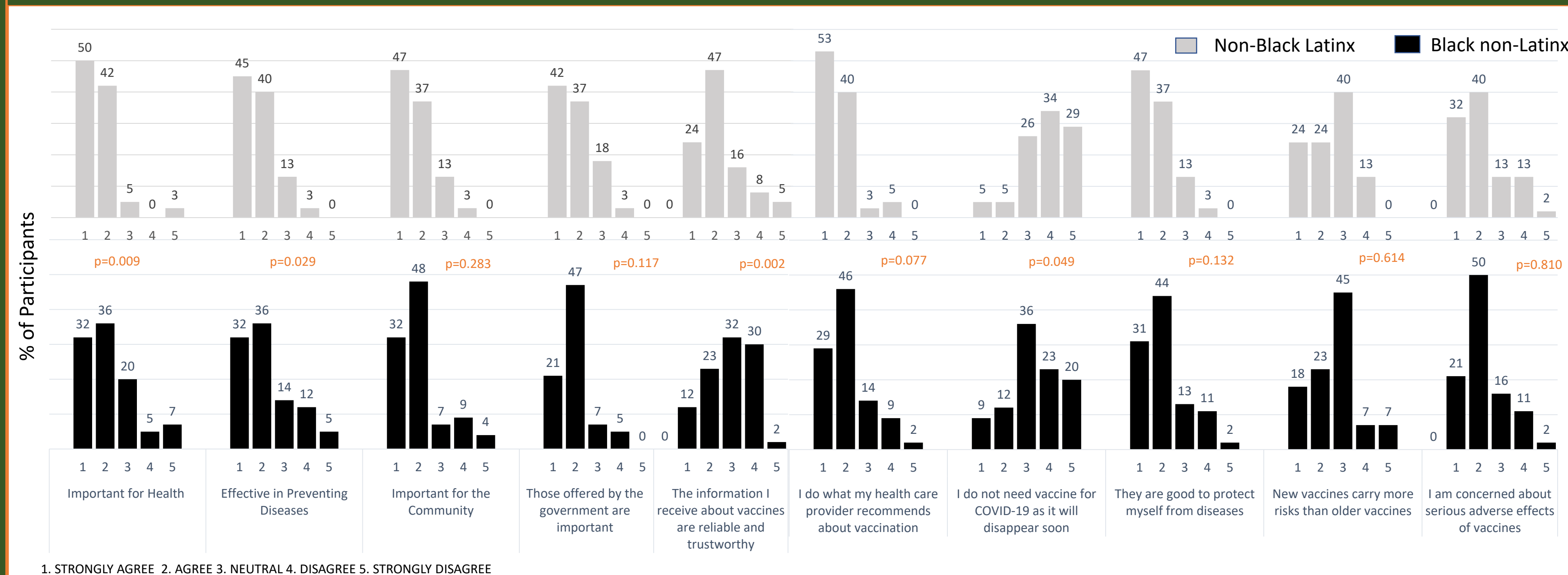
- A total of 94 participants were included, where 56/94 (60%) were Black non-Latinx and 38/94 (40%) were non-Black Latinx (Table 1).
- Black non-Latinx participants were less likely to agree that vaccinations are important for health when compared to non-Black Latinx (67.8% vs 92.1%, $p=0.009$) (Figure 1),
- Black non-Latinx were less likely to agree that vaccines are effective in preventing disease (67.8% vs 84.2%, $p=0.029$) and less likely to believe that vaccine information is reliable and trustworthy (35.7% vs 71.1%, $p=0.002$).
- Black non-Latinx were less likely to believe vaccines were unnecessary because COVID-19 would disappear (5% vs 9%, $p=0.049$).

CONCLUSIONS

- Medical mistrust, vaccine hesitancy and negative sentiments about a COVID-19 vaccine are prevalent among ethnic minorities with HIV.
- Targeted strategies to increase vaccine uptake among this population are warranted.

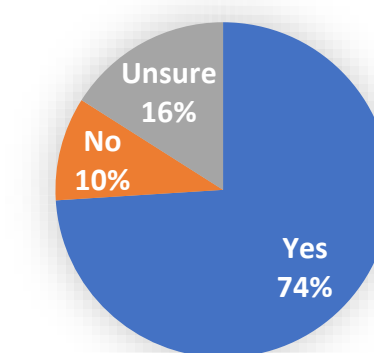
RESULTS

Figure 1. Comparison of Vaccine Hesitancy between Ethnoracial Minority Groups



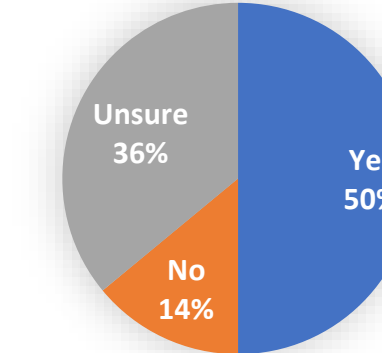
Non-Black Latinx

Do you believe a vaccine could be an effective way to prevent a COVID-19 infection?



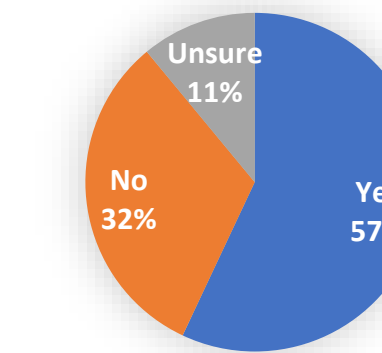
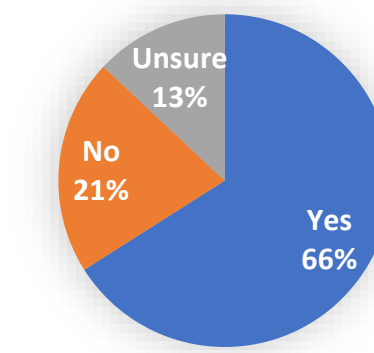
Black-Non Latinx

Do you believe a vaccine could be an effective way to prevent a COVID-19 infection?



$p=0.067$

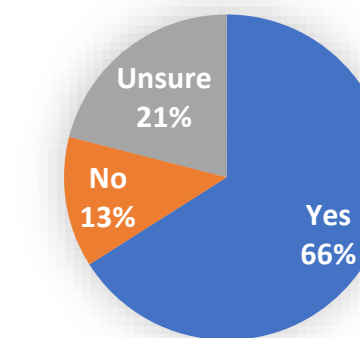
Do you feel that your current health status or other health conditions make it important for your to get a COVID-19 Vaccine?



$p=0.288$

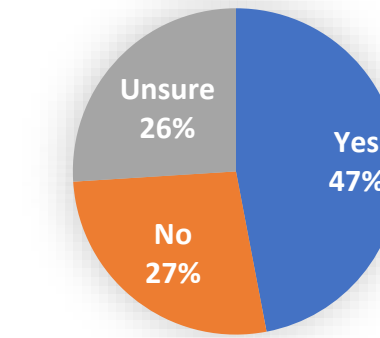
Non-Black Latinx

If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection was available would you get vaccinated?



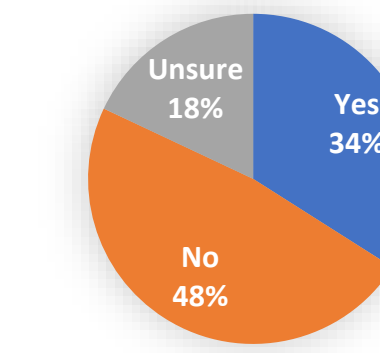
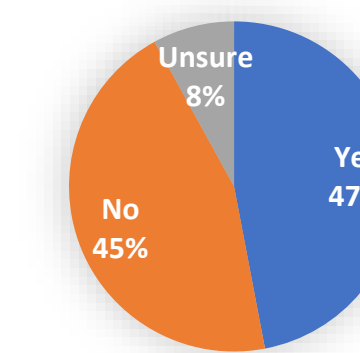
Black-Non Latinx

If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection was available would you get vaccinated?



$p=0.057$

Do you feel that healthcare professionals, government, local authorities or leaders may force you into getting vaccinated?



$p=0.387$