

COVID-19 Vaccine Equity: Knowledge, Safety & Efficacy Concerns; Perceived Benefits

Between January and March 2021, UCSF researchers and Community Partners collaborating on the STOP COVID-19 CA program conducted focus groups and interviews with more than 75 Black/African American, LatinX, and Chinese/Chinese American community members in the San Francisco area to explore their perspectives about COVID-19 vaccination.

COMMUNITY FINDINGS

Vaccine Information

- Knowledge is shaped by widely circulating vaccine misinformation from diverse sources across racial and ethnic groups



"I've also heard that besides the ingredients...to fight the COVID, they're also putting in there some sort of chip so that all of us will be able to be controlled or something like that"

Safety and Efficacy Concerns

- Safety concerns often rooted in lack of trust in health and government institutions
- Concerns include worry that the vaccine changes DNA, causes infertility, and production was rushed



"I don't trust the government... there are many Americans, Latinos, tribes, who don't trust the government. I think we have to be more alert and ask questions about how this virus took over the world."

Perceived Benefits

- In addition to protecting one's own health, vaccination perceived as having value for:
 - Getting back to a sense of normalcy
 - Protecting loved ones and community



"There's a lot of cons as opposed to pros in this...If I have to get [the vaccine] to keep my job, then that's what I'll have to do, because that's my livelihood and that's what I need to do to keep a roof over my head, in order to protect my family."

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recognize Historical Underpinnings of Mistrust

Recognize historical underpinnings of mistrust of public health efforts and actively work to dismantle systemic racism in health care and research practices.

Center Trusted Messengers

Center in outreach campaigns the voices and perspectives of trusted messengers with deep roots and visibility within the community (e.g., local celebrities, community figures, health care and faith leaders, athletes), with safe spaces and forums for ongoing dialogue and education.

Emphasize Positive Messaging

Promote positive vaccination messaging about protecting family and community, reconnecting with friends and family, and safely getting back to work.