

Brooklyn's COVID-19 Vaccine Survey Report

DATE: April 8, 2021
TO: Mobile Health Project Leadership Team
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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has struck Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in greater percentages than other populations. Both Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center have high concentrations of BIPOC peoples, e.g. 85% of residents in Brooklyn Center are members of these communities. Additionally, access to health care, transportation costs, language barriers and trust in government all impact BIPOC communities to a higher degree than white communities. The project goal is to prevent, slow, and mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 among black and brown people and advance health equity by bringing much needed public health services to families in Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park.

The purpose of the COVID-19 Vaccine Survey was to collect data from our community to better understand how many residents are hesitant about receiving vaccinations, what are those concerns, and what might them feel more comfortable to get a vaccine.

METHODS

The Mobile Public Health Leadership Team collaborated to design the questions for the survey, which was then created online on the SurveyMonkey platform. The survey could be taken in either English or Spanish, and was open from February 11, 2021 until March 21, 2021. City, county, and non-profit partners shared a link to their networks to invite residents of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park to respond.

RESULTS

Demographics

There was a total of 1,635 respondents to the online survey.

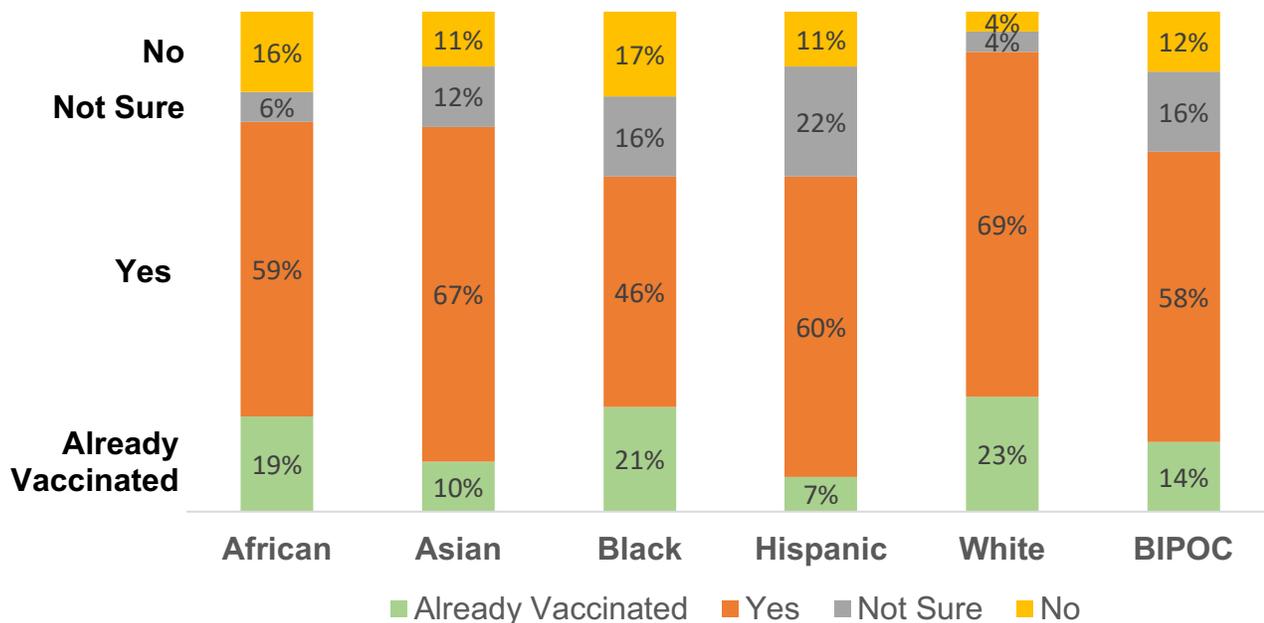
The data is broken down by race/ethnicity because combined data sometimes masks patterns that point to root issues. Many of our systems benefit certain groups over others. The point of separating out this data is not to point out deficits in any particular group, but to better understand the challenges different communities face as related to COVID-19 and vaccines, and to come up with better targeted solutions.

There were fewer than 100 respondents for each of the major communities of color in the Brooklyns (African, Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latinx). And because of the low response rates of these groups, caution should be taken in extrapolating the results to entire those communities. The BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) category includes all of the previous categories and is a larger data set.

	Number	Percentage
Overall	1635	100%
Race/Ethnicity		
African	37	2%
Asian	81	5%
Black	93	6%
Hispanic/Latinx	98	6%
White	1233	75%
BIPOC	313	19%
Language		
English	1579	97%
Spanish	49	3%
City of Residence		
Brooklyn Center	268	16%
Brooklyn Park	1275	78%
Other City	70	4%

Question 1: Do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine when one comes out?

Seventy-two percent (72%) of BIPOC residents had already been vaccinated or were planning to get it. Twenty-eight percent (28%) were not sure or were not planning to get vaccinated. Comparatively, white residents reported that 92% had already been vaccinated or were planning to get it, and 8% were not sure or not planning to get vaccinated.



Question 2: What concerns do you have about the COVID-19 vaccine?

	African	Asian	Black	Hispanic / Latinx	White	BIPOC
The COVID-19 vaccine may be harmful or have side effects	35%	51%	45%	48%	19%	46%
Knowing which of the multiple vaccines is best for me	30%	36%	21%	37%	19%	31%
I don't trust the government.	8%	11%	23%	7%	5%	13%
There may be a cost associated with receiving the COVID-19 vaccine	8%	10%	3%	13%	2%	8%
The location of the COVID-19 vaccine will be difficult to travel to	3%	4%	5%	2%	8%	3%
I have already had COVID-19 so I don't believe a vaccine is necessary	5%	4%	4%	2%	1%	3%
I don't have any concerns about getting the COVID-19 vaccine	41%	35%	33%	32%	60%	34%
Other (please specify)	14%	11%	12%	7%	9%	11%

“Other (please specify)” answers provided:

- *Distrust of the vaccine with concerns regarding unknown side effects, lack of research, and the short development process.*
- *Trouble accessing appointments due to problems navigating public systems or not knowing when they will be able to get a vaccine*

Question 3: Is there anything else you would like us to know about your concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Concerns about the availability, priority, and the process of receiving the vaccine (197)
- Concern about side effects (33)
- Distrust of the vaccine and its development (33)

The highest number of concerns from respondents (197) in this question were, by far, people who had concerns about when they would be able to access the vaccine, with such concerns as feeling misguided or unsure about when their turn would be and difficulty with online registration systems. There were also a fair number of people who were worried about side effects (33), as well as who generally distrusted the vaccine or its development (33).

Question 4: If you are concerned, what do you need to feel comfortable to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

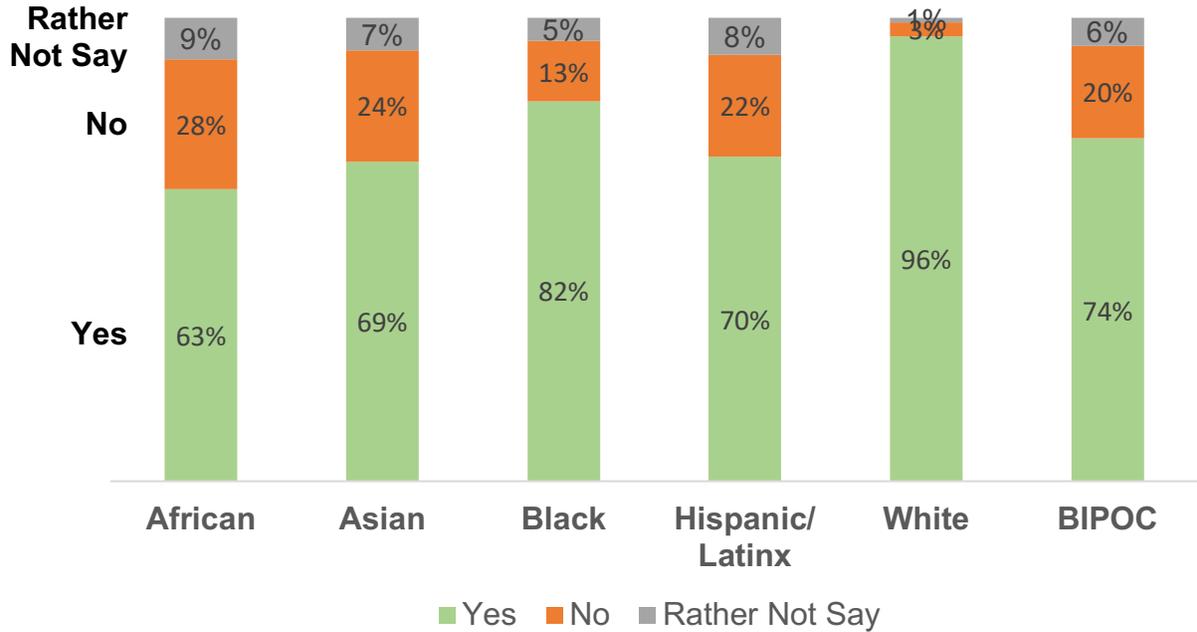
	African	Asian	Black	Hispanic / Latinx	White	BIPOC
I need to talk with a health care provider	29%	42%	56%	43%	43%	49%
I need to talk to someone I trust or who has been vaccinated	50%	63%	38%	37%	27%	47%
I need to talk to a community health worker	21%	13%	13%	10%	10%	13%
Other (please specify)	36%	21%	29%	30%	35%	22%

“Other (please specify)” answers provided:

- *More research on the effectiveness of the vaccine and on the long-term effects*
- *Time (for research or for the full approval process)*
- *Nothing will make me feel comfortable*
- *More communication and information from the CDC, state, and/or city*
- *The ability to choose the vaccine I get*

Overall, survey respondents who reported concerns said that they would like to talk to a health care provider in order to feel comfortable the get the COVID-19 vaccine. BIPOC residents felt it was just as important to talk to someone they trusted.

Question 5: Are you and your family vaccinated for other diseases?



Seventy-four percent (74%) of BIPOC residents reported that they or their families vaccinated for other diseases versus 97% of BIPOC residents.

Question 6: Where would you be the most comfortable going to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

	African	Asian	Black	Hispanic / Latinx	White	BIPOC
Hospital or doctor’s office	49%	80%	72%	81%	85%	75%
Pharmacy	30%	47%	29%	24%	63%	34%
Community organization or community activity center	27%	40%	33%	22%	52%	31%
School	8%	16%	22%	15%	32%	17%
Place of worship	8%	5%	20%	7%	26%	12%
Library	3%	16%	14%	6%	29%	11%
Food distribution center	5%	5%	9%	6%	17%	6%
Nowhere	16%	12%	23%	8%	9%	13%
Other (please specify)	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	7%

Overall, residents surveyed were most comfortable going to a hospital or doctor’s office to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. The majority of white respondents also selected the pharmacy or community organization / community activity center.

Question 7: What other concerns, if any, do you have that are related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

	African	Asian	Black	Hispanic / Latinx	White	BIPOC
Job loss, furlough, or reduced hours	30%	41%	34%	47%	20%	39%
Working in an unsafe environment without enough preventative measures & PPE	22%	38%	33%	29%	19%	31%
Mental health struggles or loneliness	24%	27%	28%	22%	29%	26%
Ability to pay rent or mortgage	30%	28%	26%	26%	9%	26%
Not having enough food for your household	14%	22%	24%	19%	4%	20%
Accessing medical care	16%	17%	14%	32%	12%	19%
I do not have any concerns	35%	19%	30%	22%	44%	26%
Other (please specify)	8%	9%	7%	5%	11%	7%

“Other (please specify)” answers provided:

- Wanting to socialize with other people again, see family, attend activities
- Being near people who are not wearing masks or social distancing
- Government overreach and loss of freedoms
- Getting sick (or family members getting sick) from COVID-19

The top concerns related to the pandemic were job loss, unsafe work conditions, mental health, and the ability to pay rent or mortgage. And when the data was separated by race, BIPOC residents had greater concerns than white residents about these issues.

KEY FINDINGS

- The response rate from BIPOC residents in the community was much lower than from white residents. Approximately 4 times as many white residents responded to the survey than BIPOC residents. (Census data shows that there should be more BIPOC residents than white residents.) It is unclear whether BIPOC residents were less likely to respond to the survey because of the topic (COVID-19 vaccine), because they are less likely to respond to online surveys, or because current outreach efforts are not effective.

- *BIPOC residents (72%) are less likely to have been vaccinated already or to be planning to get vaccinated than white residents (92%).* In addition, Asian and Hispanic residents were almost half as likely to have been vaccinated than others in the community.
- *BIPOC residents were more concerned about potential harmful side effects of the vaccine, and confusion about which of the vaccines than white residents.* Additionally, almost a quarter of Black residents (23%) answered that their concern regarding the vaccine was that they did not trust the government.
- *For those who wanted the COVID-19 vaccine, there was concern about the availability, priority, and process of getting vaccinated.* Respondents shared that they had difficulty navigating the system to find an appointment and were concerned that they would not be able to get vaccinated even though they were eligible.
- *For those who had concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, they would prefer to talk to a healthcare provider or someone they trusted.* Almost half of all concerned residents wanted to talk to a healthcare provider, and almost half of concerned BIPOC residents wanted to talk to someone they trusted or someone who had taken the vaccine already (vs. about a quarter of white residents).
- *BIPOC families surveyed (74%) are less likely than white families surveyed (96%) to be vaccinated for other diseases.* African and Asian families especially shared they had lower vaccination rates.
- *Overall, residents surveyed were most comfortable going to a hospital or doctor's office to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.* Additionally, residents also selected the pharmacy, community organization, or community activity center as alternative vaccine sites.
- *BIPOC residents were more likely to have other concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic than white residents.* These concerns included job loss, unsafe work environment, mental health, ability to pay rent or mortgage, and not having enough food.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve outreach efforts to BIPOC communities, specifically around public health and COVID-19.
- Create a messaging campaign using trusted community health workers or health care providers from each community of color to speak to residents' concerns about potential side effects of the vaccines and information about the multiple options.
- Work with healthcare providers on increasing vaccination use in general in BIPOC communities.
- Provide assistance to residents locating and signing up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments.
- Work with partners to increase support around other concerns raised by residents.