

Concerns and Barriers to Vaccination

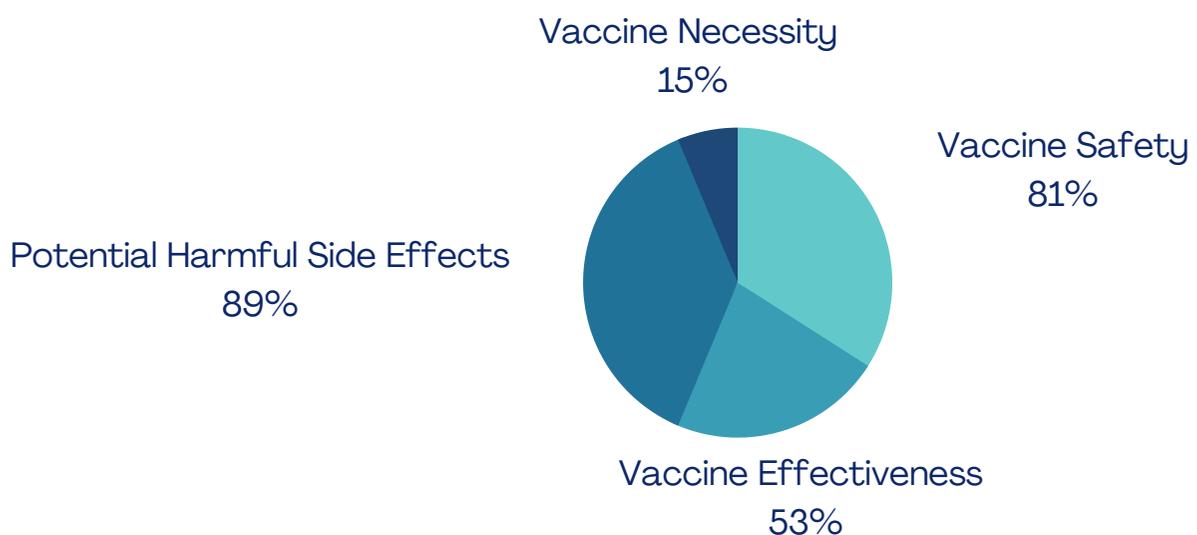
Data from our consultations with family support centres reveal that misinformation, fear of side effects, and access to transportation are among the top reasons why families may be hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

70% OF FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRES FIND MISINFORMATION TO BE THE BIGGEST BARRIER TO VACCINATION

This is followed by limited trust in the government, and difficulties getting appointments



WHAT CONCERNS DO FAMILIES HAVE ABOUT THE VACCINE?



CONCERNS ABOUT VACCINATING CHILDREN

81% responded that parents are concerned about vaccinating their children

VACCINE SAFETY AND POTENTIAL HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS

Are the top two reasons why parents are hesitant to vaccinate their children

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS DISCUSSED DURING CONSULTATIONS

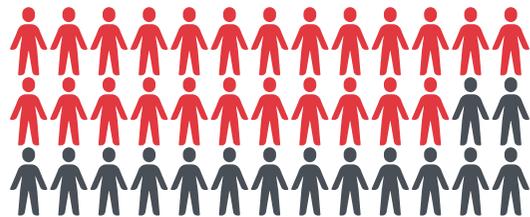
- Pregnant or breastfeeding people and new parents
- Racialized and newcomer populations
- Family support centre staff
- Parents of young children (5-11 years old)

STRATEGIES ADDRESSING CONCERNS AND BARRIERS TO COVID-19 VACCINATION

Based on our consultations with family support centres, many report having tried a variety of strategies to improve rates of vaccination within their communities.

62% OF RESPONDENTS

report that they have tried to address low vaccine confidence rates and barriers among families



23% REPORT THAT

setting up transportation and vaccine appointments for families are very effective strategies in increasing vaccination rates in their communities

55% OF RESPONDENTS

believe that providing informational resources to families would be the best strategy in increasing vaccine confidence



62% REPORT THAT

in person discussions are currently the best format for reaching families



SOME STRATEGIES USED INCLUDE:

- Covering transportation costs
- Providing meals
- Pop up vaccination clinics
- Q&A sessions with health practitioners in various languages

POPULATIONS HIGHLIGHTED DURING LET'S TALK CONSULTATIONS

PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING PEOPLE AND NEW PARENTS

- Low vaccine confidence and concerns being seen in pregnant people/new parents
- Concerns about safety of vaccination on unborn child
- Concerns about the long-term effects on children
- Expectant people would rather wait until after their child is born before getting the vaccine themselves
- Concerns about the health impact of the vaccine on pregnant people and their babies due to limited information

RACIALIZED AND NEWCOMER POPULATIONS

- In some areas racialized or low-income newcomer populations are experiencing low vaccine up-take
- This is not necessarily due to low confidence, rather socioeconomic barriers restricting access to vaccination
- Access to information available in the first language of newcomer individuals
- Newcomer organizations offered zoom meetings where doctors and medical professionals spoke in first languages of individuals, every Friday different language available so that people could ask questions in their native language

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE STAFF

- There are concerns over staff privacy vs the requirement to disclose vaccination status in order to continue working
- Some staff are not comfortable working with unvaccinated families, creating challenges to programming
- Some organizations are seeing low vaccine confidence among staff as well
- Mandatory vaccination for staff to continue working with the organisation
- Staff given training on having sensitive conversations and being respectful

PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

- Adults are more confident getting the vaccine themselves than getting their children vaccinated, due to limited information on the impact of the vaccine on children
- However, parents are increasingly more willing to vaccinate their children so they can participate in school and other in-person activities
- While some families are eager to have 5-12-year-olds vaccinated, there are more concerned about vaccinating those under the age of 5
- Families' vaccine confidence decreases with younger children