

Qualtrics Report: Covid and Community Adherence

Group 9

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Management of Public Health Disasters

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Report on Covid and Community Adherence

Objective

The main aim of this study was to evaluate the vaccination status, behaviors and attitudes regarding COVID 19 among a sample of adults in November 2023. We focused on assessing COVID 19 vaccination status, prior infections, protective measures used, adherence to health guidelines and overall perceptions of pandemic preparedness.

Methods

This study utilized a cross sectional survey design (**Appendix A**). We collected data through a Qualtrics survey starting from October 2, 2023 through November 6, 2023. The sample comprised 45 adults aged 18 and above residing both in the United States and abroad. We analyzed the data using descriptive statistics such as frequencies, means and standard deviations.

Results

Participant characteristics: The majority of participants were from the New York area (67%, n=30). 66% (n=29) of participants identified as female and 34% (n=15) as male. More than half of 62% (n=28), were between the ages of 25-34. 30% (n=13) of participants identified as White, 16% (n=7) as Black, 36% (n=16) as Asian, and 18% (n=8) preferred not to identify their race, with only 23% (n=10) identifying as Hispanic. The majority reported having a bachelor's or master's degree 41% (n=18) and 36% (n=16), respectively. The prevalence rate of covid-19 was 58% (n=26) and only 7% (n=3) were concerned about getting infected in the present. Knowing someone who died of covid-19 did not affect participants' concern about getting Covid.

Public health measures adherence: Public health measures included social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, and avoidance of crowds. 91% (n=41) reported distancing from others, 93% (n=42) reported using hand washing/hand sanitizers, and face masks, 89% (n=40) reported avoidance of crowds. 40% (n=18) rated their rate of adherence to these measures as excellent, 49% (n=22) as above average. All participants reported receiving one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, but only 82% (n=37) were willing to receive annual vaccination (**Table 1**). But there was a strong association between having had Covid-19 and willingness to receive an annual Covid-19 vaccine (Chi-square test 6.760635 and p-value 0.009319).

Trust in the public health system preparedness: Participants were asked about their confidence on the U.S. government preparedness for another pandemic, 47% (n=21) responded not confident at all, 38% (n=17) somewhat confident, 5% (n=2) very confident, 9% (n=4) were confident. 58% (n=26) of participants in the U.S. had confidence in the public's ability to take another pandemic seriously. More than half of the participants (72%, n=31) chose the CDC as the most trusted source of information, followed by their healthcare provider (16%, n=7). Climate change was seen as the biggest threat to health by 40% (n=18) of participants, 24% (n=11) serious pandemics, 24% (n=11) active shooters, and 7% (n=3) did not feel threatened by any of the disasters listed.

TABLE 1 -Description

Surveyed participants prevalence of covid-19 infection and proportions of those who received at least one dose of the covid-19 vaccine and are willing to receive annual Covid-19 vaccination. Data is further stratified by gender and educational attainment (**See below**).

Table 1. Participants Adherence to Covid-19 Vaccine Measures				
Gender	Number	+Covid-19	Had Covid Vaccine	Annual Booster
Female	29	51%	100%	83%
Male	15	66%	100%	87%
Education				
HS or GED	4	100%	100%	75%
Associate's Degree	4	75%	100%	100%
Bachelor's Degree	18	56%	100%	72%
Master's Degree	16	50%	100%	88%
Doctor's Degree	2	0%	100%	100%

Discussion

The participant demographics varied in age, ethnicity, and race, and the majority possessed educational qualifications exceeding a high school diploma or GED. All respondents in the survey confirmed having received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and 93% had also received the booster shot. However, when asked about their willingness to receive annual Covid-19 vaccines, the data indicated less people are willing. Moreover, when asked about their level of concern regarding Covid-19 infection most expressed they are somewhat concerned with only 7% concerned. Regarding compliance, despite all participants reporting at least an average level of compliance and sourcing their information from the CDC, when questioned about their confidence in the U.S. government's readiness to address another pandemic, 47% expressed not confident at all and only 9% felt confident. These responses suggest a considerable degree of uncertainty regarding the government's ability to manage another pandemic effectively. It is important to note certain limitations in this survey. Despite our efforts to ensure anonymity, there may be concerns about response transparency, as most participants are friends and family members. Additionally, 40 respondents had pursued higher education, making them more likely to comprehend the information being disseminated and higher rates of compliance. It is also concerning that 7% of participants reported feeling unthreatened by any of the mentioned disasters in the survey, highlighting the need for follow-up questions to understand the basis for their lack of concern. Lastly, this is a one-time snapshot (study) of the studied population. Therefore, it cannot assess Covid adherence trends overtime.

Conclusion

The data indicates that a significant portion of the individuals who took this survey experienced the effects of COVID-19 firsthand, knowing someone who was either hospitalized or lost their

life due to complications. Their direct experience had a notable impact on their compliance with public health recommendations to limit the spread of COVID-19. Despite some challenges, most individuals followed the guidelines to protect themselves from infection and remain willing to receive an annual COVID-19 vaccine. It is important to note the widespread lack of confidence in the government's ability to manage another potential pandemic. This pandemic was marred by extensive misinformation, miscommunication, and political polarization, making it important to address this issue. In preparation for future pandemics and other disasters, there must be a prioritized effort to establish uniform preparedness across various sectors. Furthermore, it is essential to reevaluate the way public concerns are communicated with and addressed to ensure a more effective response in the future.