



## INTRODUCTION

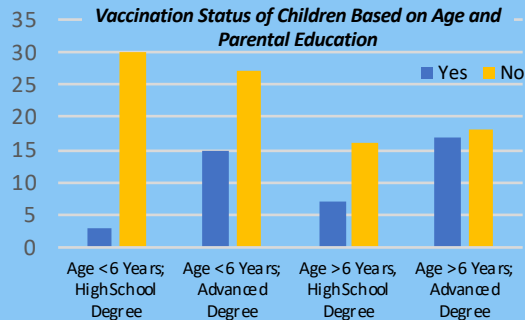
Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 9 million children under 12 years old were infected with COVID-19, with more than 1,200 deaths. Although the disease is less severe in healthy children, it may still cause serious pathology, especially for those with special health care needs or underlying conditions. With the FDA's vaccine approval and the CDC's updated recommendations, within the past two years parents have started to vaccinate and boost children against COVID-19 as young as 6 months. While this vaccination can prevent severe consequences, there has been dispute regarding the safety, efficacy, and need for immunization of children. The purpose of this study was to evaluate parental acceptance of pediatric COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months to 12 years old, and assess the impact of reading current CDC recommendations on parental acceptance of the vaccine.

## METHODS

A 23-question survey on the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine was presented to parents of children 6 months - 12 years old, who were patients in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Information regarding demographic factors, vaccination status, and history of COVID-19 was collected. The parent's acceptance and understanding of the vaccine was compiled after their reading of the COVID-19 pamphlet. 133 surveys were completed by parents (67% mothers), with a majority 26-35 years old (44%). There was an even division of children (56% <6 years, 44% > 6 years).

## RESULTS

- While 94% of parents vaccinated their child for the standard childhood vaccines, only 32% of parents vaccinated their child for COVID-19.
- 36% of children tested positive for COVID-19 at least once, with 66% being "moderately ill".
- Only 35% of parents with a high school education or less vaccinated their child for COVID-19 compared to 65% of parents with an advanced degree.
- 76% of Medicaid children did not receive the vaccine, and were the largest unvaccinated group of all the insurances.
- 96% of parents who did not get a COVID-19 vaccine also did not accept the vaccine for their child; 49% of parents that did get the vaccine did not vaccinate their child.
- 76% of children under 6 years old, and 57% of children over six years old did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

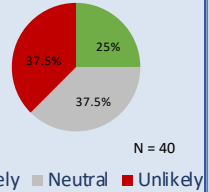


### Parent Views on the Vaccine & CDC Recommendations:

- 86% believed that they understood how the vaccine works.
- 67% agreed that the CDC pamphlet provided good & relevant information.
- 69% cited safety and efficacy as the reason they did not vaccinate their child.

### Parents Who Did Not Vaccinate their Child for COVID-19:

How likely are you to vaccinate after reading the CDC pamphlet?



## CONCLUSIONS

❖ Most parents vaccinated their children for the standard childhood vaccines but not for COVID-19.

❖ Safety and efficacy of the vaccine were the biggest factors preventing parents from accepting the vaccine.

❖ Parents are less likely to vaccinate their child if they did not get vaccinated themselves, had a high school education or less, or if their child was under six.

❖ After reviewing CDC guidelines & recommendations, 25% of parents were more likely to vaccinate their child against COVID-19.