## Identifying COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Influencing Factors Among Liberty University Undergraduate Students

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# INTRODUCTION

## Background

- Vaccination is regarded as a public health breakthrough, but several factors and incidents have led to public mistrust/fear of this type of preventative care<sup>1</sup>
- History of vaccine hesitancy
  - Vaccine hesitancy has a long history, dating to the opposition to the smallpox vaccine in the 19th century<sup>2</sup>
- Improvement regarding vaccine safety is critical<sup>3</sup>

#### **Research Question**

How do external and internal factors influence COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among college students?

## Study Aim

To identify influencing factors for COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Liberty University undergraduate students

## Study Objectives

• Evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of college students on vaccination

• Identify the association between various factors and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy

METHODS

## Methods

- A cross-sectional study will be conducted to achieve the aim of the research
- Data collection will be done through a survey and distributed via the Qualtrics platform
- Inclusion criteria Liberty University undergraduate students

#### Methods cont'd

- Variables for the data analysis include demographic factors, perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccine, and factors influencing its uptake
- Data will be analyzed using NVIVO and SPSS

CONCLUSION

#### **Future Recommendations**

- Public health interventions should consider people's fears regarding vaccination, especially when it is something new
- Identify more in-depth influencing factors regarding vaccine hesitancy among college students to improve the overall vaccine coverage

## **Biblical Reference**

- A Biblical worldview approach through listening and modeling God's understanding and compassion for all people through their hesitancy to the vaccine or lack there of
- Psalm 86:15
  - But you, Lord, are compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

#### References

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- 2. Offit PA, Hackett CJ. Addressing parents' concerns: do vaccines cause allergic or autoimmune diseases?. Pediatrics. 2003;111(3):653-659. doi:10.1542/peds.111.3.653
- 3. Salmon DA, Dudley MZ, Glanz JM, Omer SB. Vaccine Hesitancy: Causes, Consequences, and a Call to Action. Am J Prev Med. 2015;49(6 Suppl 4):S391-S398. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2015.06.009