

Barriers to acceptance of the COVID-19 Vaccine: A Literature Review

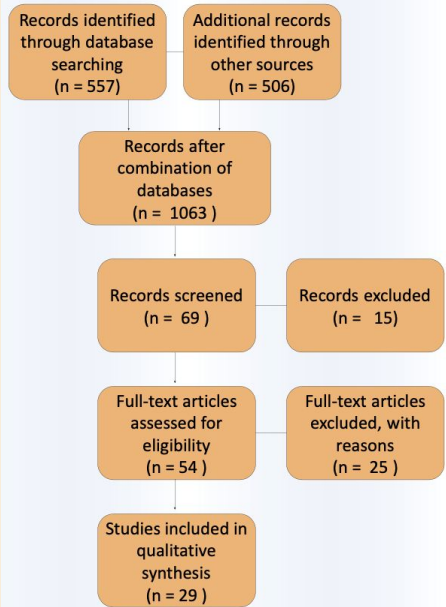
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BACKGROUND

- In March of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a new respiratory virus, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), a pandemic.¹
- As of February 2021, 26.7 million cases had been confirmed and 2.29 million people had died of COVID-19 world-wide, with the United States being the most affected.¹
- In the United States, two mRNA vaccines were available to patients beginning in November 2020, following ramped up progression of trials.^{1,2}
- Vaccine hesitancy is at a rise given the modern “infodemic,” where truth becomes lost in a sea of opinions, and people are unwilling to take recommended vaccinations despite medical benefit.^{1,3}
- Public health experts state that the 1st step to improve outbreak preparedness and response is improved public health literacy and communication.⁴
- Gaining the public’s confidence and informing them early in the vaccine process may decrease misinformation and hesitancy.⁴

METHODS

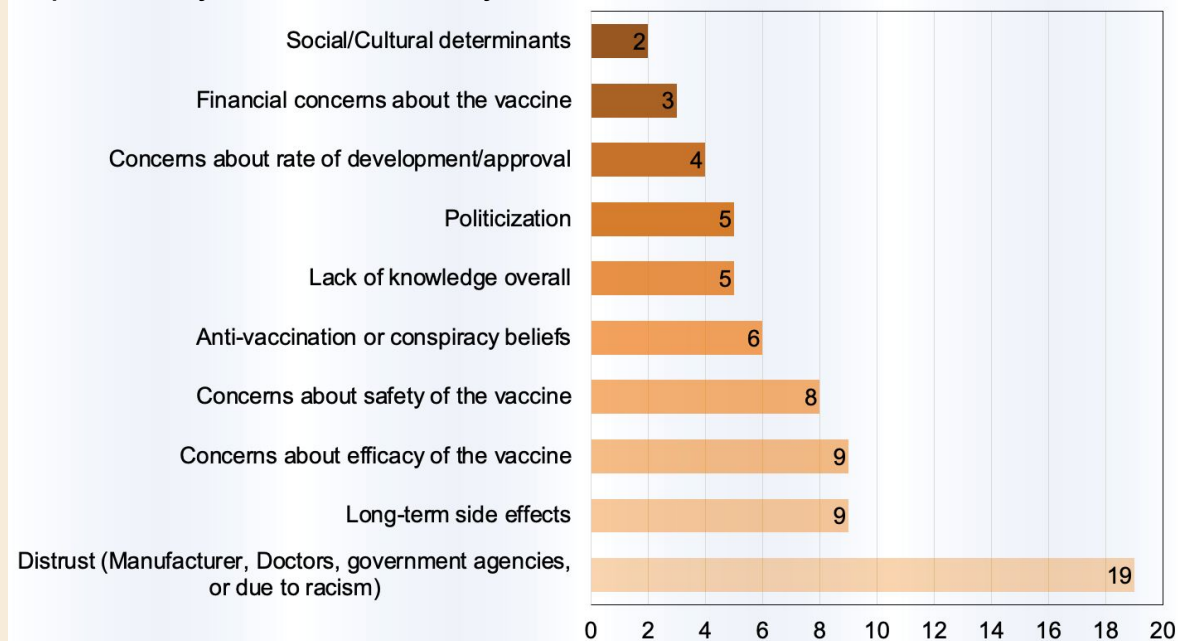
PubMed and Google Scholar databases were used to perform this literature review. All results were gathered from February to March, 2021. Initial search terms included: “COVID-19 AND vaccine AND misinformation OR misconception OR disinformation OR myth”



RESULTS

Based on the 27 included articles, the most commonly reported reasons for hesitancy to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine include distrust, fears of long-term side effects from the vaccine, or concerns about safety and efficacy of the vaccine,

Graphic Summary of Reasons for Hesitancy



OBJECTIVES

- Identify and address the most common misconceptions and hesitations against vaccines for COVID-19
- Increase acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines

LIMITATIONS

Small sample size

Filtered by title

Continuity of included studies

CONCLUSION

Based on discovered statements of hesitancy, further research should be performed. Such research should find factual evidence to increase patient awareness and reception of the COVID-19 vaccine. Future studies can be performed to assess how the public conception of the vaccine has changed increased following continued vaccine administration and long-term evaluation from various vaccine manufacturers.

REFERENCES

