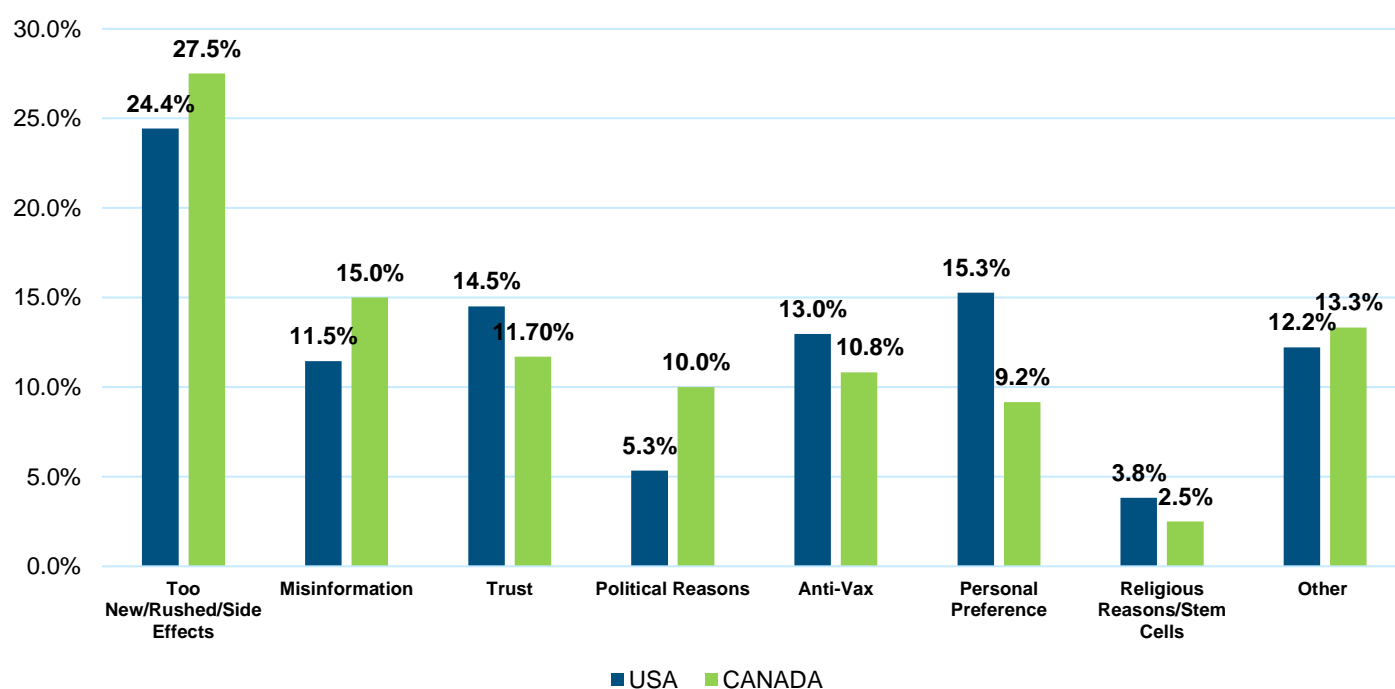


COVID Impacts

INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES WITH VACCINATIONS

COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the USA



N=251

WHAT WE KNOW

Indigenous Peoples in Canada are more likely to be vaccinated against COVID-19 than their relatives in the United States (51% vs. 39%). However, in the United States, Indigenous Peoples are more likely to be on the fence about vaccination as 34% responded they were unsure if they were going to be vaccinated versus 28% of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Indigenous Peoples in the United States who live on a reserve are much more likely to get vaccinated than Indigenous Peoples living in on a reserve in Canada (68% versus 41% of respondents said they would receive the vaccine). However, when Indigenous people respondents living off reserve in Canada are more likely to get vaccinated than Indigenous Peoples living off reserve in the United States (52% of respondents in Canada responded yes they would be vaccinated versus 33% of respondents living in the United States).

HISTORICAL MISTREATMENT

Hesitation and suspicion about the COVID-19 vaccines is common among Indigenous Peoples because of Canada's long history of medical testing on Indigenous Peoples without their consent and forced sterilization of Indigenous women. The Federal Government has designated Indigenous Peoples as priority to receive the vaccines, heightening suspicion.

In 1933/1934 the government experimented with the BCG vaccine on Indigenous children.¹

Children-based nutritional experiments occurred at residential schools between 1942-1952 in Canada focusing on malnutrition with little to no informed consent from parents.¹

To try to overcome vaccine hesitation in Manitoba, the Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Co-ordination Team have held weekly Facebook Live meetings with Grand Chief Arlen Dumas and Indigenous medical experts to discuss COVID-19 concerns and have shifted into vaccine education and myth-dispelling and provide toolkits and resources on their website to assist communities with vaccine education.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is to be kept at 2°C to 8°C for 6 months making it a better candidate for First Nations communities who are harder to access. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine can also be stored at 2°C to 8°C for 3 months and only requires a single shot (instead of the two required with the other 3 vaccines).

VACCINE PUBLIC EDUCATION

To reduce vaccination hesitancy amongst Indigenous Peoples, education's needs include:

- Confidence in vaccines
- Address complacency
 - Highlight actual dangers of COVID-19 at the individual and community level
- Accessibility and convenience
 - Remove (physical) barriers to access
- Culturally safe
 - Trauma informed
 - Cultural safety guidance for clinicians
 - Partner with Indigenous People

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The researchers: A cross-national team of over 30 researchers led by Dr. Lori Wilkinson, Dr. Kiera Ladner and Dr. Jack Jedwab, received funding from CIHR for this study *COVID-19's differential impact on the mental and emotional health of Indigenous Peoples and Newcomers: A socioeconomic analysis of Canada, US and Mexico*.

The study: The team has been collecting data in Canada since March 9 and the United States since March 27, 2020. Ongoing survey waves now include Mexico. Our goal is to measure and follow the changes in attitudes, behaviours, health and socioeconomic outcomes among persons living in all three countries using a mixed methodology of surveys and unstructured interviews.

Fact sheet prepared by Avery Hallberg (University of Manitoba)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

COVIDIMPACTS.CA

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

There are currently four approved vaccines available in Canada, though storage creates challenges for remote First Nations Communities. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require vials to be stored at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) for two weeks.

¹ CMAJ 2018 May 22;190:E616-21. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.171538