

The Perspectives of Child Healthcare Professionals on Vaccination Equity

Key Findings from a Survey on Vaccination Equity in Primary Care and Private Practices



The survey results highlight that low vaccination rates are not solely confined to traditionally marginalized communities. A significant problem lies within communities of mixed socio-economic backgrounds, where specific individuals or subgroups do not follow recommended vaccination schedules.

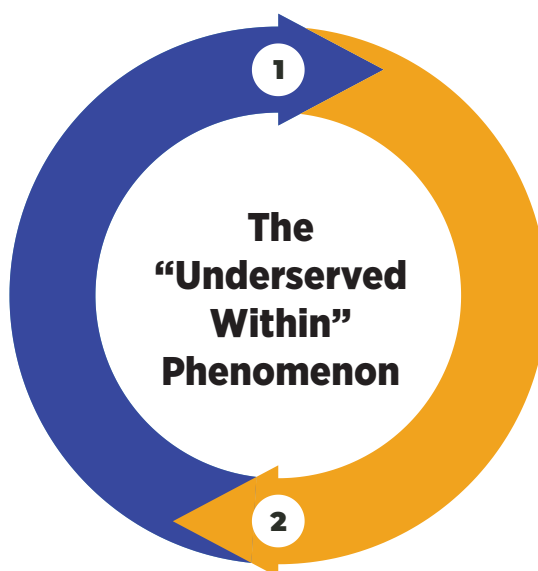


It is oversimplified to assume all unvaccinated individuals refuse vaccination by conviction. This often leads us to overlook the fact that a significant portion of the unvaccinated population faces circumstantial barriers rather than ideological opposition.

Vaccine Refusal: A matter of convictions

1

Driven primarily by deeply rooted sociocultural beliefs, including traditional community influence and misinformation, and authority/medical recommendations mistrust.



Adherence Issues: A matter of circumstances

2

Driven by structural barriers such as economic constraints, unclear information, lack of awareness of free vaccination programs, as well as logistical challenges such as inflexible scheduling, transportation difficulties, and work conflicts.

Primary Care and Private Practice Challenges

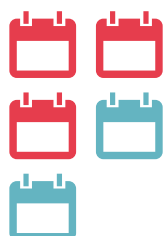
More than 3 out of 4 healthcare providers (HCPs)

do not frequently offer after-hours or extended vaccination hours.



More than 3 out of 5 healthcare providers (HCPs)

do not frequently offer walk-in or same-day appointments.



59.9% of HCPs do not consistently send appointment reminders for vaccination.

83.33% of HCPs reported that parents frequently express concerns about vaccine safety, side effects, and necessity.

73.33% of HCPs reported that parents often seek information from non-medical sources.

60.67% of HCPs reported spending time debunking misinformation and vaccine myths.

How Healthcare Practices Can Help

Improve Communication with Parents



- ✓ Use clear, simple language when discussing vaccines.
- ✓ Provide culturally and linguistically tailored materials to address diverse concerns.
- ✓ Train staff to recognize and address vaccine hesitancy effectively.
- ✓ Discuss vaccination proactively during all pediatric visits (not just vaccine appointments). Engage parents in open, non-judgmental conversations to understand concerns.
- ✓ Identify and debunk common vaccine myths with facts and empathy.
- ✓ Use trusted community leaders and influencers to help spread accurate vaccine information.
- ✓ Offer prenatal vaccine education to start conversations early with expectant parents.

Make Vaccination More Convenient



- ✓ Offer extended hours or weekend appointments for working parents.
- ✓ Allow walk-in or same-day vaccination appointments whenever possible.
- ✓ Send automated reminders via SMS, email, or phone calls for upcoming and missed vaccine appointments.
- ✓ Provide on-site vaccination during routine check-ups to reduce additional visits.
- ✓ Inform parents about free vaccine programs and insurance coverage options.
- ✓ Offer flexible payment plans for vaccines not covered by public programs.
- ✓ Advocate for workplace policies that allow parents to take time off for vaccinations.
- ✓ Advocate for investment in community-based transportation services and mobile vaccination units to reduce logistical hurdles, especially in suburban or rural areas/locations.

This report presents findings from a November 2024 survey and a mapping questionnaire (198 responses) on childhood vaccination equity and healthcare professional experiences. Conducted by the Excellence in Pediatrics Institute (EiPI) in collaboration with Pfizer, it explores child healthcare professionals' perspectives on low uptake in mixed socioeconomic communities.

