

ABSTRACT

- With African Americans in Louisiana already facing the lowest life expectancy as well as the lowest median income out of any other race/ethnicity, according to a report by the Louisiana Illuminator (Canicosa, 2020).
- Specifically in the largely poverty-stricken African American community. According to the CDC database, only 44 percent of residents have received at least 1 dose.
- Ouachita Parish, located in northeast LA where the remnants of Jim Crow and segregation foster the foundation for a massive wealth inequity gap.
- Data Acquisition was collected via a questionnaire, with the intent to assess both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in the community. The surveys were written with Logic reasoning flow, an inherent feature that allowed more specific and pertinent questions for the participant based off their previous answer and autonomously categorized these very participants into vaccinated and unvaccinated groups.
- The questionnaire assesses how strongly participants agree or disagree elements such as social stigmatization, negative and positive encounters with healthcare providers, religious beliefs, and employment income or safety played a role in their vaccination status.

BACKGROUND

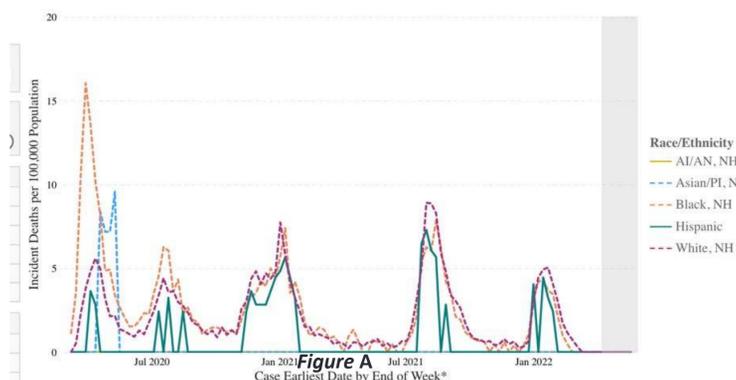
- Ouachita Parish, Louisiana has one of the highest Infection rates in Louisiana at 91 percent (CDC Covid Data tracker 2022). Additionally, the state of Louisiana is one of the leaders in total cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 individuals. (CDC, 2020).
- It is important to recognize that these statistics are exacerbated even more so in African American communities in Ouachita Parish, a historically medically underserved area to begin with. According to the CDC database, only 44 percent of residents have received at least 1 dose (CDC Covid Data tracker 2022).
- Characteristics of health services delivery include a near 47 percent of the population on public health insurance which includes Medicare and Medicaid and close to 14 percent of the population in Ouachita parish without insurance at all (United States Census Bureau, Monroe Louisiana Healthcare Data 2022).

OBJECTIVES

- Objective I :** The projected outcome of this project is to gain a more thorough understanding of the disproportionately low vaccination rates among African Americans residing in our community site. Through survey data assessing a myriad of factors regarding vaccinated or unvaccinated status, a more descriptive and empirical assessment of the truly impactful societal and personal components that go into either choice is hoped to be garnered.
- Objective II :** To serve as a foundation for a larger study of the same nature. With the hopes that with the addition of more resources a broader and increasingly more detailed research project can be conducted throughout the many underserved communities specifically in the south, where the remnants of systematic racism still are overtly apparent and the stark wealth inequities stemming from them still perpetuate massive access to healthcare disparities

METHODS

- Data Acquisition was collected via a questionnaire, with the intent to assess both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in the community. The surveys were written with Logic reasoning flow, an inherent feature which allowed more specific and pertinent questions for the participant based off their previous answer.
- Regarding the methodology of how data was collected from participants, 2 approaches were utilized. Flyers with a generated QR code, that could be scanned with a mobile camera and subsequently sent to the survey form, were dispersed among communal areas such as barbershops, grocery stores, churches, recreational centers, and beauty salons. The other method entailed manually getting participants to fill out the survey in the same communal places via tablets.



- One of the most shocking statistics reveal when looking at Covid-19 weekly deaths per 100,000 peoples and stratifying those deaths by race/ethnicity, there exists a period during the beginning of the pandemic, where African Americans died at a massively disproportionate rate.
- From March 1st to June 2020, close to 16 African Americans died per 100,000 people, as compared to the 4 deaths per 100,000 people seen in those who classified as White (Figure A).

RESULTS

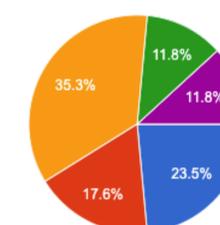
- Among the factors influencing their decision to remain unvaccinated, community religious beliefs were cited as having the greatest impact more than any other encompassing 35.3% of individuals (Figure 1).
- Another significant finding was that 37.5% of survey participants who chose to become vaccinated strongly agreed on socioeconomic factors such as employment, income, and safety influencing their decision (Figure 2).

RESULTS

Figure 1

Which of the following factors was the most influential in your decision to remain unvaccinated?

[Copy](#)

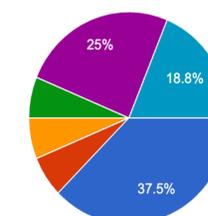


- Socioeconomic Factors such as employment, income, social support a...
- Personal religious beliefs
- Community religious beliefs including those shared at places of worship
- A previous negative encounter with a health care provider
- Social Stigmatization in my community towards receiving the Covid -19 Vaccine
- A previous positive encounter with a h...

Figure 2

Which of the following factors was the most influential in your decision to become vaccinated?

[Copy](#)



- Socioeconomic Factors such as employment, income, social support a...
- Personal religious beliefs
- Community religious beliefs including those shared at places of worship
- A previous negative encounter with a health care provider
- Social Stigmatization in my community towards receiving the Covid -19 Vaccine
- A previous positive encounter with a h...

CONCLUSIONS

- The goal of this study was to accurately gauge if the previously established widespread inequities in the area, which range from housing to lack of access to healthcare; influenced the crucial decision of vaccination status
- .For example, this is indirectly exhibited by the fact that most individuals strongly disagreed with the notion that positive encounters from their doctor played a significant role to become vaccinated. I believe this speaks volumes and is an attestation to the level of patient-provider satisfaction in the area. The consensus for most people is that healthy lifestyle changes or cessation of harmful habits in patients