



Voices of Child Health in Chicago REPORT

Volume 2 Number 10
November 2020

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Nearly 7 in 10 parents said they were very likely or somewhat likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children if one became available.

Parents in communities in Chicago with the highest burden of COVID-19 were substantially less likely to plan to vaccinate their children and themselves against COVID-19.

Non-Latinx Black parents were least likely to say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children.

Chicago Parents' Intentions to Vaccinate their Children Against COVID-19

Chicago has experienced high case rates of COVID-19, and parents in Chicago have high levels of concern about COVID-19 affecting their families' health.¹ In this report, we explore parents' intentions to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children if a vaccine becomes available. At the time that parents were surveyed for this report (May–July 2020), COVID-19 vaccines were in testing phases but none were yet approved for use.

For this report, we asked over 1,600 Chicago parents from all 77 community areas in the city, "How likely would you be to get you and/or your child(ren) vaccinated against coronavirus/COVID-19, if a vaccine were available?" We also asked about their family and their family's health.

Parent intentions to vaccinate against COVID-19

Overall, 49% of parents said they were very likely to vaccinate their children, 19% said somewhat likely, 16% said not likely and 16% said they were not sure (Figure 1). Similarly, 49% of parents said they were very likely to vaccinate themselves, 19% were somewhat likely, 16% were not likely and 16% were unsure. These rates are similar to rates of intent among adults to get a COVID-19 vaccine for themselves in other studies at the national level.^{2,3} Parents' likelihood of getting a COVID-19 vaccine for themselves was strongly associated with their likelihood of getting a COVID-19 vaccine for their children.

Figure 1. Chicago parents' likelihood of vaccinating their children against COVID-19

Nearly **7 in 10 parents** said they were very likely or somewhat likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children if one became available.



Intent to vaccinate against COVID-19 differed by parent race/ethnicity

Non-Latinx Black parents were the least likely to say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children: 28% said they were "very likely" to get a vaccine, compared with 45% percent of Latinx parents, 64% of non-Latinx White parents and 66% of parents who were multi-race or other races (e.g., Asian, biracial) (Figure 2). The same pattern emerged for parents' likelihood to get a COVID-19 vaccine for themselves. In Chicago, there has been a disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on non-Latinx Black and Latinx Chicagoans, with higher mortality and infection rates among non-Latinx Black individuals and Latinx individuals than in other groups.⁴ In our previously released findings, non-Latinx Black parents were also the most concerned about COVID-19 affecting their family's health.¹ Our data indicate that the communities where we see the greatest burden of illness, in terms of COVID-19 infections and COVID-19-related stress, are also the communities reporting the lowest likelihood of parent and child vaccination against COVID-19.

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Figure 2. Parents' likelihood of vaccinating their children against COVID-19, by parent race/ethnicity



How were parents' vaccination intentions connected to other demographic factors?

We also explored parents' likelihood to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children with other factors such as parent education and parent age. Sixty-six percent of parents with a college degree said they were very likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child, compared with 36% of parents with some college or technical school and 40% of parents with high school education or below.

Parents' likelihood of getting a COVID-19 vaccine for their children increased with parent age. Only 23% of parents 18–25 years old were very likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children, compared with 48% of parents 26–45 years old and 55% of parents 46 years old and older. This is similar to findings in our previous report on flu vaccination rates which found younger parents were less likely to vaccinate their children against the flu than older parents.⁵

Parents' intent to vaccinate against COVID-19 and their confidence in COVID-19 information sources

Parents' likelihood of vaccinating their child against COVID-19 was also connected to their confidence in COVID-19 information from various sources. Parents who were very likely to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 were also more likely to have lots of confidence in COVID-19 information from their child's doctor (73%). In contrast, among parents who were somewhat likely or not likely/not sure about getting a COVID-19 vaccine for their children, only 49% and 48% had lots of confidence in COVID-19 information from their child's doctor, respectively.

Similarly, among parents who were very likely to vaccinate their child for COVID-19, 59% also had lots of confidence in COVID-19 information from public health websites; but among parents who were somewhat likely or not likely/not sure about vaccinating their child against COVID-19, a smaller proportion had lots of confidence in public health websites (41% and 35%, respectively). Taken together, these findings suggest that parents who are less likely to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 may have less trust in healthcare sources including vaccinations, doctors and public health information. Parents who were unsure about or unlikely to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 had lower confidence in other COVID-19 information sources as well, such as news on television and online. These findings may help shape plans to encourage vaccination against COVID-19, especially in communities that have been very adversely affected, as vaccines become available in the coming months.

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HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED

This report is based on data from the Voices of Child Health in Chicago Parent Panel Survey. The survey is administered to a sample of Chicago parents by Lurie Children's and NORC at the University of Chicago via internet and telephone. The survey is administered to the same panel of parents three times each year. The data in this report was collected from May through July 2020. The sample consisted of 1,642 Chicago parents, step-parents, or guardians who had at least one child under 18 years of age in the household (referred to as "parents" in this report). Parents were from all 77 community areas in Chicago. The cumulative survey response rate was 2.24%. All analyses were conducted with statistical weighting so that the results are representative of the parent population in the City of Chicago during the time period of data collection. For more information about the VOCHIC Parent Panel Survey, visit luriechildrens.org/ParentPanel and our page on Open Science Framework at <https://osf.io/cjz82/>.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Davis MM, Heffernan ME, Smith TL, Bendelow A, Bhatti PK, Casale M. Chicago Parents' Intentions to Vaccinate their Children Against COVID-19, *Voices of Child Health in Chicago Report*. Vol 2, Number 10. November 2020. Available at luriechildrens.org/voices.

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This project is supported in part by an anonymous foundation and the Founders' Board of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.