

# New study examines parent hesitancy toward COVID-19 vaccines for children

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A study published last month in *Parent Education and Counseling* outlines that the main drivers of parent hesitancy regarding child COVID-19 vaccination include perceived safety and efficacy of the vaccines and lower severity of illness in children. Many vaccine-hesitant parents may be open to vaccination in the future and welcome additional discussion and data, the researchers found.

Samantha Schilling, MD, MSHP, Assistant Professor; Colin Orr, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor; and Martha Perry, MD, Associate Professor, in the Department of Pediatrics Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine worked on the study, titled "COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among [low-income](#), racially and ethnically diverse US parents."

Data for the study were collected from February 2021 through May 2021 from parents living in six geographically diverse locations. The COVID-19 Exposure and Family Impact Survey assessed perceived susceptibility and severity to adverse outcomes from the pandemic. Semi-structured interviews assessed perceptions about benefits and risks of vaccinating [children](#).

Results were based on 50 parents of 106 children, newborn-17 years; half were Spanish-speaking and half English-speaking. Among participants, 62% were hesitant about vaccinating their children against COVID-19. Efficacy and safety were the main themes that emerged as some parents perceived them as benefits while others perceived them as risks to vaccination. Parent hesitancy often relied on [social media](#), and was influenced by narrative accounts of vaccination experiences. Many parents cited the lower risk of negative outcomes from COVID-19 among children, when compared with adults. Some also cited inaccurate and constantly changing information about COVID-19 vaccines.

**More information:** Samantha Schilling et al, COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among low-income, racially and ethnically diverse US parents, *Patient Education and Counseling* (2022). [DOI: 10.1016/j.pec.2022.03.023](#)

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