

Minority Groups and Vaccinations



Minority populations frequently are the most under-vaccinated populations. These minority populations include: African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinx, and Native Americans/Alaskan Indians. Consider the following tips when educating members of minority groups about vaccinations.

Cultural Implications:

- Persons of Asian, eastern European, Mediterranean, and Arabic ethnicity may express a greater tendency to follow the cultural norms of their ethnic group, while western cultures may express more individualism. Persons who follow cultural norms may be more likely to abide by their culture's view on vaccinations versus making an individual decision to get vaccinated.
- African Americans are less likely to get vaccinated due to health care disparities. These disparities mean that this minority group may have less knowledge about the flu vaccine and less trust of the flu vaccine, which can equate to greater hesitancy to receive the vaccine. African Americans are more likely to receive a vaccine if they feel higher racial fairness within their healthcare setting.

Communication Implications:


- In many cultures, such as the African-American culture, lack of discussion about vaccination contributes to a prevailing general lack of knowledge and acceptance of vaccination, along with the potential assumption that vaccination is not needed.
- Indicating that vaccination will protect one's extended family can be a key point to communicate with persons from minority groups. According to the CDC, 82% of minorities would receive a flu shot if they knew it would not only protect themselves but, more importantly, their family members.
- Language can be a barrier to receiving the flu vaccine, especially in older adults 65 years and older. This is particularly true in the Hispanics/Latinx population where Spanish is preferred over English. When translating medical information, relying on translation by family members can hinder the effectiveness and seriousness of what is being said.

Religious Implications:

- There are different religious views concerning vaccinations. For example, vaccines that are produced from haram (pig products) are not permissible for those who are Muslim. In addition, Buddhists often will not accept vaccines that are made from anything living, including animals. Hinduism, Judaism, and Scientology are other religions with a prohibition against vaccines.

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