

AUTHORS

Abu Rogers; Brianna Wells; Sarah Griffiths; Lavette King, MPH; Noha Aboelata, MD; Orlando Harris, PhD, DNP, MPH; Tem Woldeyesus, MD

TITLE

Understanding COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy among the Black Community in East Oakland: A Qualitative Study at Roots Community Health Center

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Black communities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic compared to non-Black communities in the United States. In an effort to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates among the Black community in East Oakland, Roots Clinic conducted a qualitative study to understand the underlying motivators and barriers around the COVID-19 vaccines in the Black community.

Partner: Roots Clinic <https://rootsclinic.org/>

Methodology: We conducted a qualitative study (Oct 2021) to understand the underlying motivators and barriers around the COVID-19 vaccines in the Black community, which included two focus groups of five participants and three semi-structured interviews that were conducted in English. The study participants were randomly selected by Roots Clinic's staff. The interviews were conducted on zoom, recorded, transcribed, and analyzed via thematic analysis by the Roots Research and Evaluation team.

Results: Poor dissemination of information, mistrust of the medical system and COVID-19 vaccine, coping strategies, and access to care emerged as the four major themes influencing COVID-19 vaccine uptake in the Black community in East Oakland. Most of our participants expressed concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines, including those who had taken the COVID-19 vaccine. Some of the vaccinated participants reported that they were vaccinated against their will, whereas some reported that witnessing a loved one get - or die from - COVID-19 was a major motivator to get the vaccine.

Recommendations: Roots should provide more community-centered COVID-19 educational resources to its clients to address knowledge gaps, and also center trusted community members and partners in its outreach efforts.

Preliminary results: Poor dissemination of information, mistrust of the medical system and COVID-19 vaccine, coping strategies, and access to care emerged as the four major themes influencing COVID-19 vaccine uptake in the Black community in East Oakland. Most of our participants expressed concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines, including those who had taken the COVID-19 vaccine. Some of the vaccinated participants reported that they were vaccinated against their will, whereas some reported that witnessing a loved one get - or die from - COVID-19 was a major motivator to get the vaccine.

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COMMUNITY PARTNER

[Roots Community Health Center](#)

CATEGORY

Improving Health Equity, Healthcare Access, Service, and Quality