Vaccine Hesitancy in College Students

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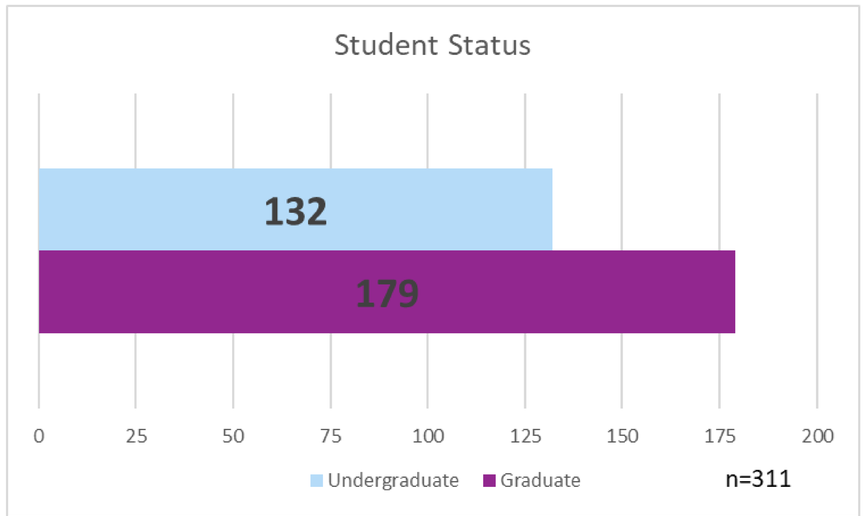
Introduction

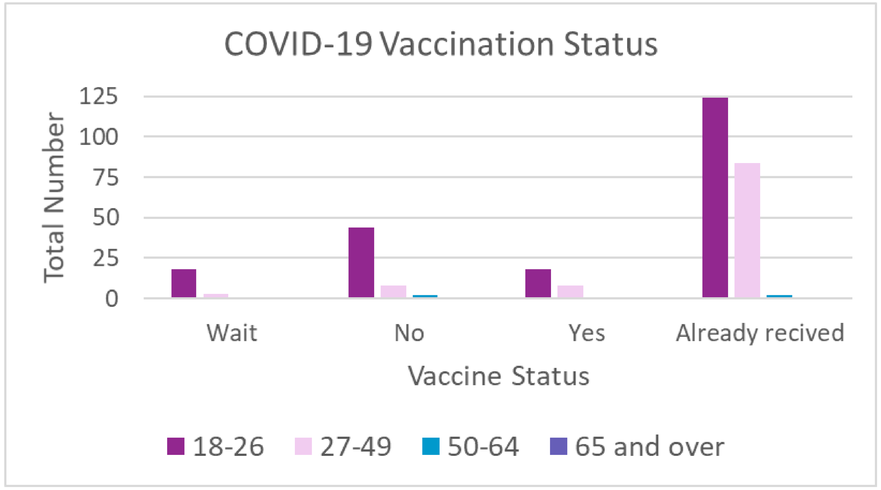
Vaccine hesitancy is a growing global public health concern, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization defines vaccine hesitancy as "a delay in acceptance or refusal of safe vaccines despite availability of vaccination services". Many factors may play into vaccine hesitancy such as socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity, and age (1). Studies have shown that young adults are less likely to get vaccinated (2). The purpose of this study was to investigate vaccine hesitancy among college students on K-State campus.

Methods

- A Qualtrics survey was created to address COVID-19 vaccination behaviors and opinions.
- K-State undergraduate and graduate students were asked to participate via an anonymous email link. The link was also published in K-State Today.
- Results from the survey were collected and tabulated.
- A total of 345 responses were obtained. Of those, 7 did not complete the survey, 1 student status was unknown, and 26 were not students. These responses were not used in analysis, leaving a final n of 311 for analysis.
- Descriptive analysis was performed.
- Inferential analysis is currently being completed on the results.

Results





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Discussion

Of the 311 total responses recorded, graduate students made up 58% (n=179) and undergraduates made up 42% (n=132). In the 18-26 years old age group, 8.8% indicated they will receive the COVID-19 vaccine, 61% have already received it, 8.8% will wait to receive it, and 22% will not receive it. In the 27-49 years old age group, 7.8% will receive it, 82% have already received it, 3% will wait to receive it, and 7.8% will not receive it. In the 50-64 years old age group, 50% have already received it and 50% will not receive it. No responses were recorded for the 65 and older age group. From this data, we can conclude that a majority of survey respondents have already been vaccinated. We can also conclude that the age group less likely to be vaccinated is the 18-26 age group, based on the higher number of "no" and "wait" responses. We are currently analyzing the results further to determine statistical difference between the categories.

References

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