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Covid-19 Outreach to Refugee and Immigrant Communities in the Southern Tier

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Covid-19 Outreach to Marginalized Communities on the Southern Tier

Source Project ENVI-205: People, Politics and Place

By: Rachael Ali



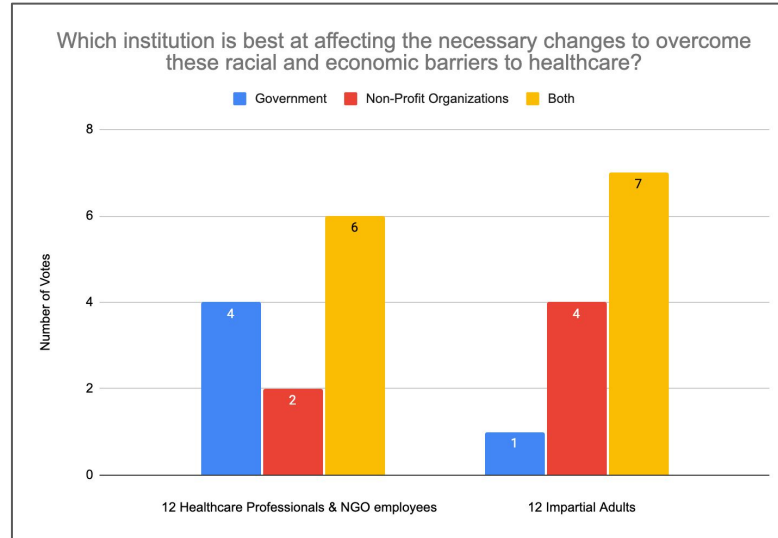
Background: Immigrant communities are more vulnerable to Covid-19 due to limited access to affordable healthcare, higher poverty rates, and exposure to pre-existing conditions which worsen the effects of the virus.

Why, then, are these populations more hesitant to receive the Covid-19 vaccine?

Methods: Participant observation conducted through my internship at the American Civic Association. Also conducted 5 interviews with employees at the ACA + healthcare professionals throughout New York State.

Results: Lack of access to technological resources causes misinformation to run rampant, historical high levels of distrust between racial minorities & the gov't, lack of healthcare results in fear over potential side effects of the vaccine.

Immigrant Communities and Racial Minorities are Less Likely to Receive the Covid-19 Vaccine



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American Civic Association:

Non-profit organizations like the American Civic Association (ACA) in Binghamton have been fighting for immigrant and refugee rights since 1939. Naturally, the ACA has shifted their focus from citizenship classes and English language classes courses to more health care programs, such as Covid-19 vaccination outreach and educational workshops. The goal of this outreach is to educate the misinformed about the Covid-19 vaccine and make it available to as many members of these vulnerable communities as possible.

References: Artiga, S., Ndugga, N., & Pham, O. (2021, January 13). Immigrant Access to Covid-19 Vaccines: Key Issues to Consider. Mora, M. J. (2021). By the Numbers. Clark, E., Fredricks, K., Woc-Colburn, L., Bottazzi, M., & Weatherhead, J. (2020, July 13). Disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on immigrant communities in the United States. Zhang, M., Gurung, A., Anglewicz, P., & Yun, K. (2021). COVID-19 and Immigrant Essential Workers: Bhutanese and Burmese Refugees in the United States.