

Impact of Bilingual COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign on Patients Living with HIV

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ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

Background and Methods

- Hesitancy towards COVID-19 vaccine has significant personal and public health implications
- Vaccine hesitancy disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities
- Focused outreach to hesitant communities might be able to improve vaccine uptake

Patient Selection

- Identified 520 HIV patients at our outpatient clinic
- Screened each patient for prior COVID-19 vaccination by chart review

Intervention

- Called unvaccinated patients and recommended COVID-19 vaccine using their preferred language
- Instructions to obtain the vaccine were provided

Follow-Up

- Repeat call one month later to determine success of the intervention
- Success was defined as interceding vaccine or scheduled vaccine appointment

Included Patients By language

**520 Charts
Reviewed**

**217 Unvaccinated
Patients Identified**

**157 Patients
Called in English**

**59 Patients
Called in Spanish**

Table 1: Patient Demographics & Comorbidities

| Demographics | English Speaking Patients (N 157) | English Speaking Patients Percent (%) | Spanish Speaking Patients (N 59) | Spanish Speaking Patients Percent (%) | P value |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Age | 41 | - | 41.6 | - | - |
| Ethnicity | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Indian | 4 | 2.55 | 1 | 1.69 | - |
| Asian | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.69 | - |
| Black or African American | 127 | 80.89 | 1 | 1.69 | - |
| Declined to Answer | 0 | 0 | 19 | 32.20 | - |
| Hispanic or Latino | 1 | 0.64 | 5 | 8.47 | - |
| Middle Eastern | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.69 | - |
| Not Specified | 1 | 0.64 | 1 | 1.69 | - |
| White or Caucasian | 24 | 15.29 | 30 | 50.85 | - |
| Comorbidities | - | - | - | - | - |
| DM | 8 | 5.10 | 6 | 10.17 | p=.18 |
| HTN | 40 | 25.48 | 14 | 23.73 | p=.79 |
| Heart Disease | 12 | 7.64 | 2 | 3.39 | p=.26 |
| Lung Disease | 2 | 1.27 | 0 | 0.00 | p=.38 |
| CKD | 11 | 7.01 | 2 | 3.39 | p=.32 |
| Hepatitis B | 4 | 2.55 | 2 | 3.39 | p=.74 |
| Hepatitis C | 3 | 1.91 | 2 | 3.39 | p=.52 |
| Cirrhosis | 2 | 1.27 | 0 | 0.00 | p=.76 |
| Obesity | 50 | 31.85 | 23 | 38.98 | p=.32 |
| HIV Care | - | - | - | - | - |
| On ART | 150 | 95.54 | 59 | 100.00 | p=.10 |
| Viral Load <200 | 134 | 85.35 | 59 | 100.00 | p=.002 |
| Average CD4 | 589 | - | 613 | - | - |
| Engaged in Care >5 years | 75 | 47.77 | 25 | 42.37 | p=.48 |
| Vaccine History | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2019 Flu | 79 | 50.32 | 49 | 83.05 | p=.00001 |
| Prevnar | 123 | 78.34 | 57 | 96.61 | p=.001 |
| Pneumovax | 108 | 68.79 | 49 | 83.05 | p=.04 |

Results

Figure 1: Results of Intervention By Language – All Patients

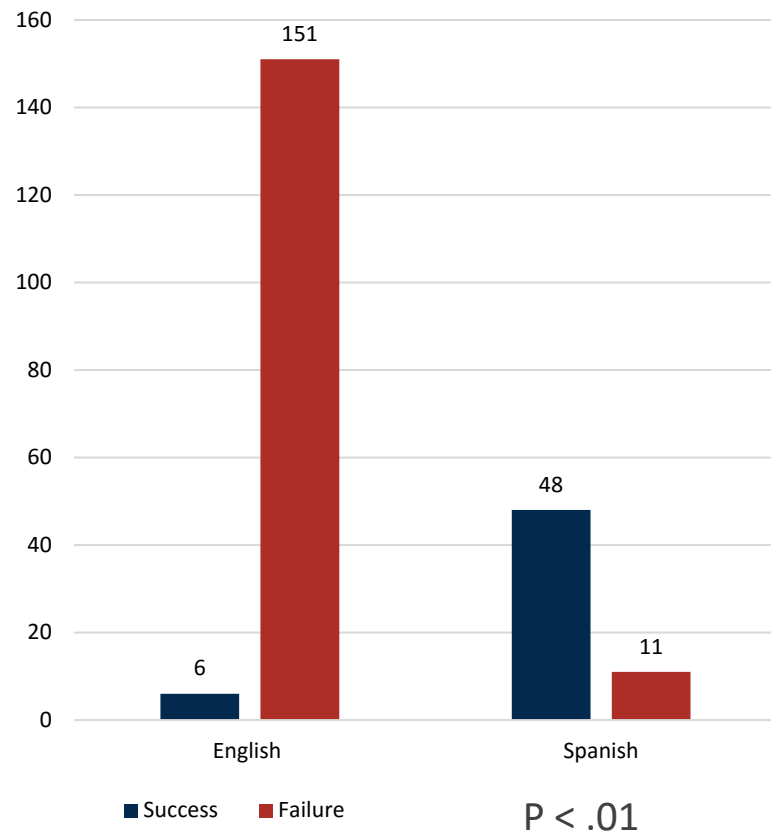


Figure 2: Reason for Failure for All Patients

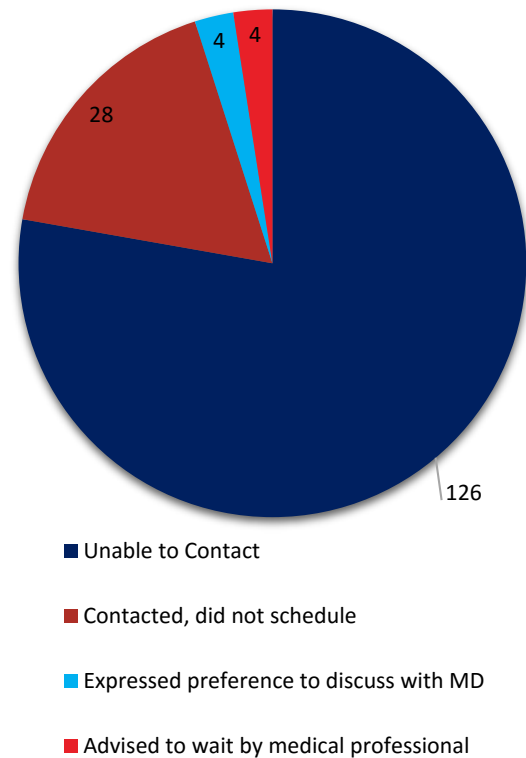
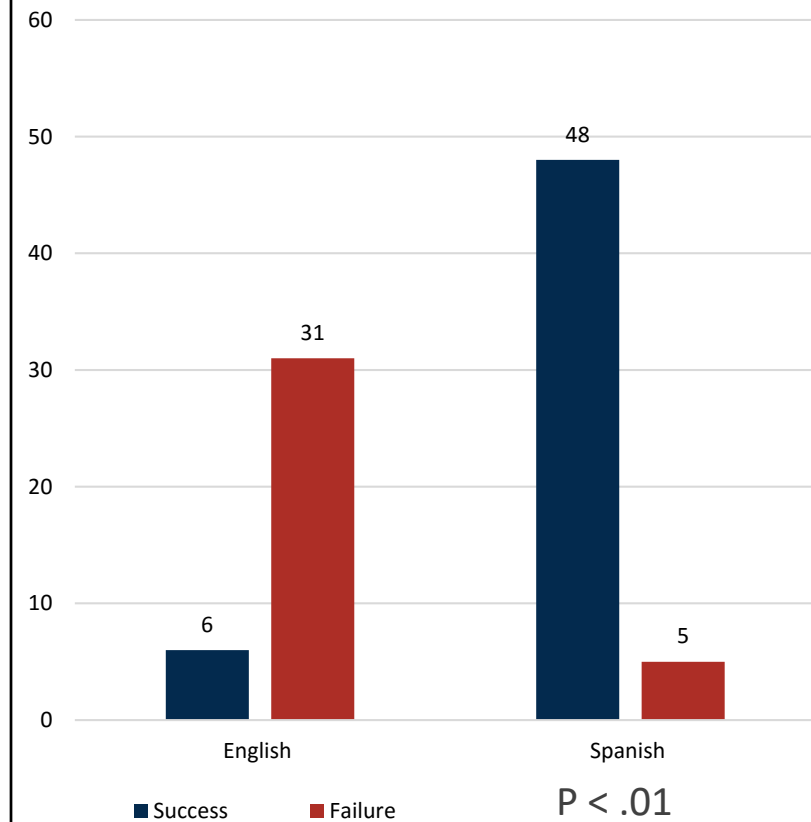


Figure 3: Results of Intervention By Language – Contacted Patients



Limitations



Spanish-speaking patients were contacted by a translator with whom they had a pre-existing relationship from clinic visits



Prior vaccination records were only as documented in the medical record, so if patients had transferred care and were vaccinated elsewhere this is not reflected



Unable to contact quite a few patients – unclear if this is a pitfall of not having the best contact number, calls being blocked, or another factor



Intervention limited to English and Spanish at this time

Impact & Future Directions

- Given the impact of this campaign on Spanish-speaking patients, we question if language-specific health outreach programs would be effective in other public health initiatives in this population
- We question whether language-specific outreach programs would be effective in the general Spanish-speaking population, not limited to HIV patients?
- While overcoming the language barrier may be effective in non-English speaking populations, other reasons driving vaccine hesitancy in the English-speaking population need to be further investigated and addressed by other methods



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