

# COVID-19 Vaccine Attitudes among Parenting Foster Care Alumni: A Call to Action

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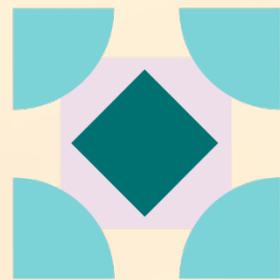
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 ReSHAPING Network



**RESHAPING**

# Research Team & Funding

- Funding: Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Co-PI's Drs. Liz Aparicio (University of Maryland) & Svetlana Shpiegel (Montclair State University)
- Youth Advisors
  - Alexander Sanchez & Sheila VanWert
- Data Collector Dr. Genevieve Martinez-Garcia (Healthy Teen Network)
- Data Analysts
  - Marissa Ventola, Michelle Jasczynski, & Amara Channell Doig (Graduate Students)
- Collaborator: Dr. Rhoda Smith (Springfield College)



# Panelists



Dr. Liz Aparicio



Dr. Svetlana Shpiegel



Mr. Alexander Sanchez



Dr. Devlon Jackson

# Main Study Design

- Multimethod qualitative study
- Focus Groups and Interviews + PhotoVoice Project
- 23 Young Parents
  - Foster care system alumni
  - Currently in care

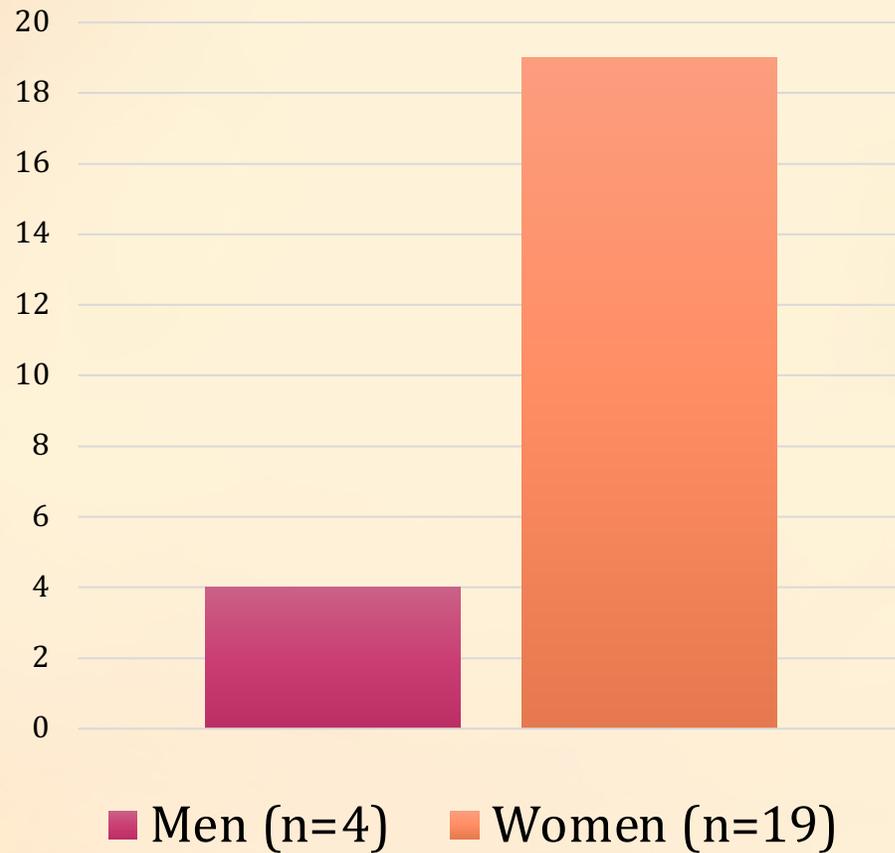


# Exploring Vaccine Attitudes

- Focus Group & Individual Interviews
  - Impact on housing, employment, education, children and parenting, physical and mental health, etc.
  - Effects of racism and discrimination during pandemic
  - Strengths, supports, and services
  - *Vaccine attitudes*
- Vaccine attitudes questions were also explored in the PhotoVoice sessions (9 participants)
- Transcription & Thematic Analysis



# Demographics (N=23)



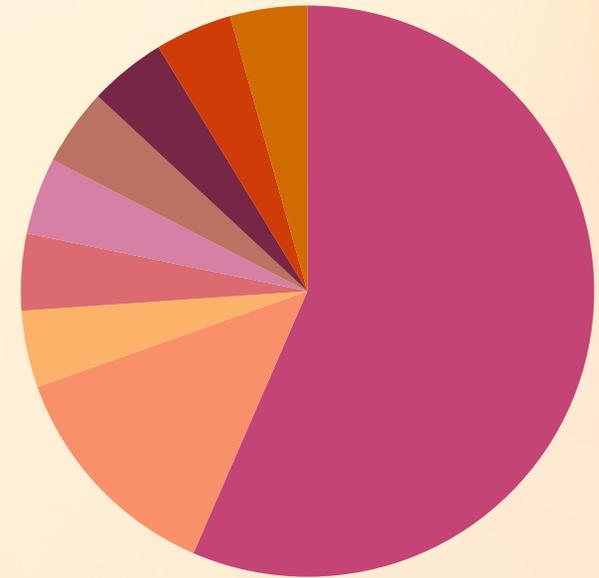
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Race & Ethnicity	<i>n</i>
American Indian or Alaska Native	2
Black or African American	8
Hispanic or Latinx	8
Non-Latinx White	10
Prefer Not to Respond	1

# Demographics (N=23)

- Youths' Ages: 18-26 years (mean 22.13)
- All currently in or recently aged out of foster care
- Number of Children
  - Biological: 1-5
  - Non-biological: 1-2
- Children's Ages
  - Biological: 1 month to 10 years
  - Non-biological: 1-17

Current Living Situation



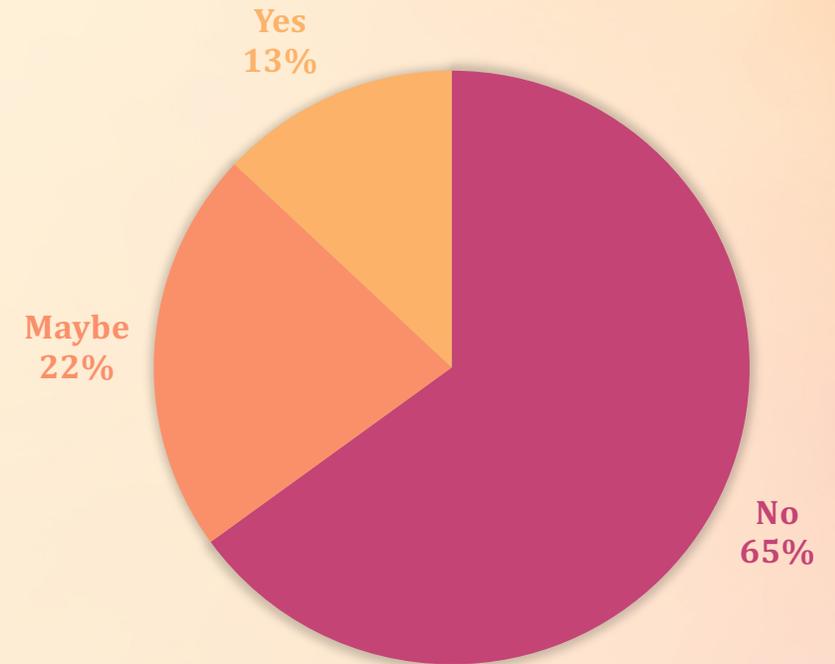
- Own Apartment
- Spouse or Partner who is Parent of Child
- Spouse or Partner who is not Parent of Child
- Biological Parent or Relative
- Shared Housing with Friend
- Family of Child's Father
- Homeless Shelter
- Homeless - Couch-Surfing
- Independent/Transitional Living Program



# Key Findings

- Most youth did not plan to get vaccinated
- Major concerns:
  - Vaccines were developed too fast
  - More data is needed about their short-term and long-term effects
  - Vaccines were developed under an untrustworthy presidential administration
  - Doubts about safety and efficacy
  - Problems with vaccine access and availability
  - Misinformation in the media
- Many were open to changing their minds if concerns are addressed

## VACCINATION INTENTIONS



## Next Steps: Call to Action

- Openly address concerns, without judgment
- Clear communication about side effects (e.g., fatigue, fever, menstrual cycle irregularities)
- Paid time off to get vaccinated and recover if not feeling well
- Mobile vaccination sites
- Same day appointments

PhotoVoice Photograph by Aaliyah\*



## Next Steps: Call to Action

- Community benefits
- Leverage social networks & social media
- Address misinformation & mistrust
- Use of trusted health communication sources

PhotoVoice Photograph by Aaliyah\*



# Gen Z & COVID-19 Vaccine Info.

- Current messages do not speak to their concerns
- Trusted Sources & Channels
  - Source(s):
    1. Government
    2. Social Media Influencers & Celebrities
  - Channel(s): Social Media specifically...
    1. TikTok (#1 Channel)
    2. Instagram
    3. Facebook

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# Health Communication Recommendations

- Tailor information by...
  - Content
  - Channel, and
  - Source (i.e. government and social media)
- Include multiple approaches to disseminate information (i.e. mass media and interpersonal communication)
- Continue strategies to address misinformation used in social media
- Consider additional related factors such as...
  - Parental status
  - Race & ethnicity
  - SES

# Q & A



# Thank You & Keep in Touch

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- Devlon Jackson [djacks04@umd.edu](mailto:djacks04@umd.edu)
  
- Research brief available by request
- Summer webinar from our team, hosted by AECF
- ReSHAPING webinar in future months

PhotoVoice Photograph by Aaliyah\*

