

## Minority Groups and Vaccinations

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Minority populations frequently are the most under vaccinated populations. These include: African American, Hispanics/Latinx, and Native/Americans Alaskan Indians. The tips below can assist you in understanding why these populations are under vaccinated.

### **Cultural Implications:**

- Members whose ethnicity is from the eastern world including: Asia, eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Arab world, may express greater collectivism while western cultures may express more individualism. This may mean these individuals are more likely to do what is accepted in their culture versus making their own decision to become vaccinated.
- African Americans are less likely to get vaccinated due to greater awareness of disparities in the healthcare setting, including: having less knowledge about the flu vaccine, less trust of the flu vaccine, which can equate to feelings of greater hesitancy. African Americans are more likely to receive the flu vaccine if they feel higher racial fairness within their healthcare setting.

### **Communication Implications:**

- In many cultures such as the African American culture, if flu vaccinations are not discussed, this can lead to a general lack of knowledge and acceptance that if it is not spoken of, then it is not needed.
- Communicating that receiving a flu vaccine can protect others is key for minority groups who often take care of their extended family. The CDC has shown that 82% of minorities would receive a flu shot if they knew it would protect not themselves, but instead their family members.
- Language can be a barrier to receiving the flu vaccine, especially in older adults 65 years and older. This is especially true in the Hispanics/Latinx population where Spanish is preferred over English. Remember that when translating medical information, relying on family members to translate can hinder the effectiveness and seriousness of what is being said.

### **Religious Implications:**

- Remember that there are different religious views when it comes to vaccinations. For example, vaccines that are produced from haram (pig products) would not be permissible for those that are Muslim. In addition, Buddhist often will not accept vaccines that are made from any living creators, including animals. Other religions with prohibition against vaccines include: Hinduism, Judaism, and Scientology.

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