

Factors associated with COVID-19 vaccine compliance and reasons for hesitancy among adults in Benin: A cross-sectional survey

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Introduction

Immunization is one of the most effective public health measures for preventing cases and deaths related to infectious diseases. However, vaccine hesitancy and non-compliance have recently been observed worldwide, particularly in Africa, especially during the COVID-19 emergency. The study aimed to investigate the factors associated with COVID-19 vaccine compliance and reasons for hesitancy in Cotonou, Benin.

Methods

A cross-sectional survey was carried out in Cotonou in December 2022. Respondents were at least 18 years of age. A three-stage stratified random sampling method was used. Vaccination coverage and reasons for hesitancy were assessed. The factors associated with COVID-19 vaccination compliance were identified using a binary logistic regression.

Results

Among the 815 respondents, 53% were vaccinated. The most cited reasons for non-compliance were “fear adverse events” (42.4%), the “rumours” (37.2%), and the “lack of knowledge or confidence in the health system” (10.4%). The COVID-19

vaccination compliance demonstrated spatial heterogeneity with rates increasing from the youngest to the oldest age groups ($p=0.0005$), from the lowest to the highest education levels ($p=0.0021$), with a good habit of accessing health care and vaccination, the perception of the risk of contracting the COVID-19 ($p=0.0271$), and decreased with the fear of adverse effects of the vaccines ($p<0.0001$).

Conclusion

The Government and donors should invest in debunking misinformation and disinformation related to all vaccines in Africa to ensure effective routine vaccination and outbreak response.