

Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active. Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Preventive Medicine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ypmed

Review Article

Willingness, refusal and influential factors of parents to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Petros Galanis^{a,*}, Irene Vraka^b, Olga Siskou^c, Olympia Konstantakopoulou^c, Aglaia Katsiroumpa^a, Daphne Kaitelidou^c

^a Clinical Epidemiology Laboratory, Faculty of Nursing, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

^b Department of Radiology, P & A Kyriakou Children's Hospital, Athens, Greece

^c Center for Health Services Management and Evaluation, Faculty of Nursing, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: COVID-19 Vaccination Willingness Predictors Refusal Children Parents

ABSTRACT

We aimed to estimate parents' willingness and refusal to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19, and to investigate the predictors for their decision. We followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis guidelines. We searched Scopus, Web of Science, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL and medrxiv from inception to December 12, 2021. We applied a random effect model to estimate pooled effects since the heterogeneity was very high. We used subgroup analysis and metaregression analysis to explore sources of heterogeneity. We found 44 studies including 317,055 parents. The overall proportion of parents that intend to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 was 60.1%, while the proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children was 22.9% and the proportion of unsure parents was 25.8%. The main predictors of parents' intention to vaccinate their children were fathers, older age of parents, higher income, higher levels of perceived threat from the COVID-19, and positive attitudes towards vaccination (e.g. children's complete vaccination history, history of children's and parents' vaccination against influenza, confidence in vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines, and COVID-19 vaccine uptake among parents). Parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 is moderate and several factors affect this decision. Understanding parental COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy does help policy makers to change the stereotypes and establish broad community COVID-19 vaccination. Identification of the factors that affect parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 will provide opportunities to enhance parents' trust in the COVID-19 vaccines and optimize children's uptake of a COVID-19 vaccine.

1. Introduction

Given the human, social and economic burden of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the uptake of a safe and effective vaccine remains a critical strategy to curb its impact (Graham, 2020). Simulation experiments revealed that up to 80% of the population needs to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that is at least 80% effective to largely extinguish the COVID-19 pandemic without any other non-pharmaceutical measures (e.g., social distancing, masks, etc.) (Bartsch et al., 2020). Thus, COVID-19 vaccine uptake among children will be instrumental in limiting the spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the disease.

COVID-19 vaccine uptake relies on adequate production, fair

distribution, and high levels of acceptance among the general public (Neumann-Böhme et al., 2020). Recent meta-analyses found that the overall COVID-19 vaccine acceptance rate was approximately 73%, while acceptance among the general population is higher than among healthcare workers (Galanis et al., 2021; Luo et al., 2021; Snehota et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b). Also, real-world data from early studies reveal that COVID-19 vaccination uptake ranges from 28.6% to 98% in the general population (Galanis et al., 2021a). Several factors influence vaccination intention and uptake in the general population such as sociodemographic characteristics, attitudes towards vaccination, psychological factors, perceptions of risk and susceptibility to COVID-19, knowledge, information, personal factors, medical conditions, etc. (Al-Amer et al., 2021; Galanis et al., 2021a; Snehota et al., 2021; Wake,

* Corresponding author at: Clinical Epidemiology Laboratory, Faculty of Nursing, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 123 Papadiamantopoulou street, GR-11527 Athens, Greece.

E-mail address: pegalan@nurs.uoa.gr (P. Galanis).

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2022.106994

Received 3 September 2021; Received in revised form 7 February 2022; Accepted 12 February 2022 Available online 18 February 2022 0091-7435/© 2022 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.





2021; Wang et al., 2021b).

The risk of severe illness and death from the COVID-19 remains quite low for children, but children COVID-19 cases rise sharply due to the highly transmissible delta variant (Tanne, 2021). For instance, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, children represent 14.4% of total COVID-19 cases in the USA but for the week ending August 12, 2021, children were 18% of weekly cases (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021). Moreover, children make up about 2.4% of total hospitalizations in the USA and about 1% of all pediatric COVID-19 cases resulted in hospitalization since the start of the pandemic (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021). Additionally, preliminary findings show that a recent mutation of SARS-CoV-2 (omicron variant) is spreading faster than any previous variant and may be more transmissible than other coronavirus variants (Dyer, 2021; Mahase, 2021). Thus, there is a need for safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for children of all ages as swiftly as possible (Tanne, 2021). Currently, COVID-19 vaccines are approved for children aged 12 and older and it is anticipated that younger children will become eligible since pharmaceutical companies are running clinical trials with children to study the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines (European Medicines Agency, 2021a, 2021b; Health Canada, 2021).

Since parents are key decision-makers for whether their children will receive a COVID-19 vaccine, it is important to measure willingness of parents to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19. Early studies have already investigated parents' intention to vaccinate their children but until now, no systematic review and meta-analysis on this field is published. Thus, we performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to estimate parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19, and to investigate the predictors for their decision. Also, we estimated the percentage of the parents that (a) refuse to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19, and (b) were unsure.

2. Methods

2.1. Data sources and strategy

We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis, applying the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines (Moher et al., 2009). We searched Scopus, Web of Science, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL and pre-print services (medrxiv) from inception to December 12, 2021. We used the following strategy in all fields: ((vaccin*) AND (COVID-19)) AND (parent*). The review protocol was registered with PROSPERO (CRD42021273125).

2.2. Selection and eligibility criteria

Firstly, we removed duplicates, and then we screened consecutively titles, abstracts, and full texts. Also, we examined reference lists of all relevant articles. Two independent researchers performed study selection and a third, senior researcher resolved the discrepancies. We included quantitative studies reporting parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19. Also, we included quantitative studies that examine factors that affect parents' willingness to vaccinate their children. Study population included parents and guardians of children aged <18 years. We did not apply criteria regarding study population, e.g. gender, age, race, sample size, etc. We included studies with parents from the general population and excluded studies involving specific population groups (e.g. parents with mental issues or other health issues, specific occupational groups such as physicians, nurses, teachers, etc.). Studies published in English in journals with peer review system were eligible to be included. We excluded protocols, reviews, case reports, opinions articles, commentaries, editorials, and letters to the Editor.

2.3. Data extraction and quality assessment

Two authors independently extracted the following data from the

studies: reference, country, data collection time, sample size, gender of parents, age of parents and children, study design, sampling method, recruitment method, response rate, publication type (journal or preprint), question or statement to measure parents' willingness, response scales, percentage of parents that agree to vaccinate their children, percentage of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children, percentage of parents that were unsure, and factors that affect parents' willingness to vaccinate their children.

Studies quality was assessed with the Joanna Briggs Institute critical appraisal tool (Santos et al., 2018). The tool consists of eight questions regarding inclusion criteria for the sample, study settings, exposure and outcome measurement, identification and elimination of confounders, and statistical analysis. There are four answers for each question; e.g., the answers "yes", "no", "unclear" and "not applicable" for the question "were strategies to deal with confounding factors stated?". For this question, when authors use multivariable methods to estimate the relation between an independent variable and the outcome the answer is "yes", when authors do not investigate the relation between an independent variable and the outcome the answer is "no", and when the authors do not investigate the relation between an independent variable and the outcome the answer is "no", and when the authors rated the quality of the studies and a third senior author solved any discrepancies.

2.4. Statistical analysis

Parents' intention to vaccinate their children was assessed with a variety of statements or questions like these "When a vaccine for Coronavirus becomes available, I will have my child get it", "If a COVID-19 vaccine is safe and available to your child for free, how likely would your child be to get vaccinated?", "At this moment, are you willing to receive COVID-19 vaccination for your child?" etc. Possible answers were in (a) Likert scales (e.g. strongly disagree; disagree; neither disagree nor agree; agree; strongly agree), (b) yes/no/unsure options, and (c) yes/no options. For each study, we followed the authors' decision regarding the positive answer, the negative answer and the unsure answer of parents. For instance, in studies where authors used Likert scales, a positive answer could be only one answer (strongly agree) or two answers (agree and strongly agree). We divided the positive answers of parents by the total number of parents to calculate the proportion of parents that agreed to vaccinate their children. In a similar way, we calculated the proportion of parents that refuse a COVID-19 vaccine for their children, and the proportion of parents that were unsure. Then, we transformed these three proportions with the Freeman-Tukey Double Arcsine method and we calculated the proportion of parents that (a) intend to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19, (b) refuse to vaccinate their children, and (c) were unsure. Moreover, we calculated the 95% confidence intervals (CI) for the proportions (Barendregt et al., 2013).

We used the Hedges Q statistics and I^2 to assess heterogeneity between studies. A *p*-value < 0.1 for the Hedges Q statistic indicates statistically significant heterogeneity, while I² value higher than 75% indicates high heterogeneity (Higgins, 2003). We applied a random effect model to estimate pooled effects since the heterogeneity between results was very high (Higgins, 2003). We considered data collection time, age of parents and children, study design, sampling method, recruitment method, response rate, publication type, response scales (studies with or without unsure option), studies quality, and the continent that studies were conducted as pre-specified sources of heterogeneity. Due to the scarce data and the high heterogeneity in the results in some variables (e.g. age of parents and children), we decided to perform subgroup analysis for recruitment method, publication type, response scales, studies quality, and the continent that studies were conducted. Also, we performed meta-regression analysis using data collection time as the independent variable. We treated data collection time as a continuous variable giving the number 1 for studies that were conducted in January 2020, the number 2 for studies that were conducted in

February 2020 etc. We conducted a leave-one-out sensitivity analysis to determine the influence of each study on the overall effect. We used the funnel plot and the Egger's test to assess the publication bias. Regarding the Egger's test, a *p*-value < 0.05 indicating publication bias (Egger et al., 1997). We used OpenMeta[Analyst] for the meta-analysis (Wallace et al., 2009).

We did not perform meta-analysis for the factors that influence parents' decision to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 since the data were highly heterogeneous. Since predictors were measured and/or analyzed differently across studies, we reported the proportion of studies finding positive or negative significant relationships (*p*-value < 0.05) between each predictor and parents' intention to vaccinate their children. Thus, we calculated this proportion dividing the number of studies with a significant association (*p*-value < 0.05) between the predictor and parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 by the total number of studies examined the predictor.

3. Results

3.1. Identification and selection of studies

After initial search, we found 6211 unique records. Applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, we identified 44 articles (Fig. 1).

3.2. Characteristics of the studies

We found 44 studies including 317,055 parents. Details of the studies included in this systematic review are presented in Table 1. Seven studies were conducted in the USA, six studies in China, four studies in Canada, four studies in Israel, four studies in Turkey, four studies in Saudi Arabia, five studies in other European countries (German, Greece, Italy, Poland, and United Kingdom), and one study in India, Korea, New Zealand, Qatar, Zambia, Australia, and Brazil. Also, three studies covered more than two countries. Data collection time among studies ranged from March 2020 to September 2021. Sample size ranged from

226 to 227,740 parents with a median number of 1094 parents. The minimum percentage of mothers participating in the studies was 39.6%, while the maximum percentage was 100%. All studies were cross-sectional, while 38 studies used a convenience sample, three studies used a probability sample, one study used a non-probability sample, and two studies used the snowball sampling method. Recruitment of parents was achieved through online surveys in 34 studies, while in 10 studies the study questionnaire was completed during the visit of parents in clinical settings (e.g., pediatric emergency departments, outpatients clinics, primary healthcare centers, etc.). Thirty-eight articles were in peer-reviewed journals and six articles were in pre-print services. Twenty-nine studies included an "unsure" response option for parents' willingness to vaccinate their children, 14 studies did not include this response option, and one study used a scale from 1 to 100 (Table 2).

3.3. Quality assessment

Quality assessment of cross-sectional studies included in this review is shown in Supplementary Table S1. Quality was good in 37 studies, moderate in six studies, and low in one study.

3.4. Parents' willingness and refusal to vaccinate their children

Forty-three studies reported the number of parents that intend to vaccinate their children, while one study measured parents' willingness in a scale from 0 to 100. The overall proportion of parents that intend to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 was 60.1% (95% CI: 51.7–68.1%) (Fig. 2). The heterogeneity between results was very high ($I^2 = 99.91\%$, *p*-value for the Hedges Q statistic < 0.001). Parents' willingness ranged from 25.6% to 92.2%. A leave-one-out sensitivity analysis showed that no single study had a disproportional effect on the overall proportion, which varied between 59.1% (95% CI: 50.6–67.4%), and 60.9% (95% CI: 52.6–68.9%) (Supplementary Fig. S1). *p*-value for Egger's test (<0.05) and funnel plot (Supplementary Fig. S2) indicated potential publication bias.



Fig. 1. Flowchart of the literature search according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis.

Table 1

Overview of the studies included in systematic review.

| Reference | Country | Data collection time | Sample size (n) | Mothers (%)/fathers (%) | Age of parents, mean (SD) | Age of children, mean (SD) | Study design | Sampling method | Recruitment method | Response rate (%) | Published in |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| (Ruggiero et al., 2021) | USA | November 2020 to January 2021 | 427 | NR | NR | <3 years, 23.1%; 4–12 years, 59.2%; 13–18 years, 23.6% | Cross- sectional | Snowball | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Wang et al., 2021a) | China | September 21 to October 17, 2020 | 3009 | 74.6/25.4 | 31.4 (4.5) | 2.2 (2.4) | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Community health service center immunization clinics | NR | Journal |
| (Szilagyi et al., 2021) | USA | February 17 to March 30, 2021 | 1745 | 57.9/42.1 | 18–39 years, 23.3%; 40–49 years, 34.3%; ≥50 years, 38.2% | <5 years, 21.8%; 5–10 years, 27%; 11–18 years, 32.7% | Cross- sectional | Probability | National online survey | 87 | Journal |
| (Montalti et al., 2021) | Italy | December 2020 to January 2021 | 4993 | 76.6/23.4 | ≤29 years, 1.8%; 30–39 years, 18.9%; 40–49 years, 55.4%; ≥50 years, 24% | ≤5 years, 12.7%; 6–13 years, 62.5%; ≥14 years, 24.9% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Kelly et al., 2021) | USA | April 2020 | 2279 | 52/48 | \leq 34 years, 27%; 35–49 years, 24%; 50–64 years, 26%; \geq 65 years, 22% | NR | Cross- sectional | Probability | National community online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Bell et al., 2020a) | United Kingdom | April 19 to May 11, 2020 | 1252 | 95/5 | 32.9 (4.6) | ≤14 months, 88.9%; 14–18 months, 11.1% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Xu et al., 2021c) | China | December 2020 | 4748 | 76/24 | 40.2 (5.1) | <10 years, 27.9%; 10–14 years, 49.5%; ≥14 years, 22.6% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Brandstetter et al., 2021) | Germany | May 2020 | 612 | 80/10 (10 mothers and fathers) | NR | 3.4 (0.9) | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | 50.1 | Journal |
| (Skjefte et al., 2021) | USA, India, Brazil, Russia, Spain, Argentina, Colombia, United Kingdom, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Italy, Chile, Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand | October 28 to November 18, 2020 | 17,054 | 100/0 | 34.4 (7.3) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Goldman et al., 2020) | USA, Canada, Spain, Israel, Japan, and Switzerland | March 26 to May 31, 2020 | 1541 | 72/25.5 (2.5 other) | 39.9 (7.6) ^a | 7.5 (5.0) ^a | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Pediatric emergency departments | NR | Journal |
| (Hetherington et al., 2021) | Canada | May to June 2020 | 1321 | 100/0 | 42.2 (4.4) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | 53.8 | Journal |
| (Yigit et al., 2021) | Turkey | NR | 428 | 63.6/36.4 | 39.7 (10.7) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Children's hospital | NR | Journal |
| (Yilmaz and Sahin, 2021) | Turkey | February 2021 | 1035 | 77.8/22.2 | ≤29 years, 12.6%; 30–39 years, 53.3%; ≥40 years, 34.1% | ≤6 years, 49.8%; 7–12 years, 28.9%; ≥13 years, 21.4% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Teasdale et al., 2021) | USA | March 2021 | 2074 | 60.1/39.3 (0.6 others) | ≤29 years, 20.3%; 30–44 years, 65.1%; ≥45 years, 14.6% | 4.7 (1.7–8.3) ^b | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Community online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Jeffs et al., 2021) | New Zealand | May 2020 | 1191 | 92.7/6.2 (1.2 caregivers) | 39.9 (NR) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Scherer et al., 2021) | USA | April 2021 | 1022 | 48.2/51.3 (0.5 others) | NR | | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | 77.5 | Journal |

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

| Reference | Country | Data collection time | Sample size (n) | Mothers (%)/fathers (%) | Age of parents, mean (SD) | Age of children, mean (SD) | Study design | Sampling method | Recruitment method | Response rate (%) | Published in |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | \leq 15 years, 62%; \geq 16 | | | | | |
| (Zhang et al., 2020) | China | September 2020 | 1052 | 62.5/37.5 | \leq 30 years, 22.6%; 31–40 years, 55.7%; \geq 41 | ≤ 12 years, $\leq 2\%$; ≥ 13 years, 18% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Akarsu et al., 2021) | Turkey | June to July 2020 | 232 | 62.8/37.2 | 32.4 (9.9) | NR | Cross- sectional | Snowball | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Aldakhil et al., 2021) | Saudi Arabia | January to February 2021 | 280 | 100/0 | 33 (5.5) | <6 months, 12.4%; 6–18 months, 18.2%; >18 months, 69.4% | Cross- sectional | Non- probability purposive | Outpatients clinics | NR | Journal |
| (Alfieri et al., 2021) | USA | June 2020 | 1425 | NR | NR | NR | Cross- sectional | Probability purposive | Online survey | 38.4 | Journal |
| (Almusbah et al., 2021) | Saudi Arabia | May to June 2021 | 1000 | 78.8/21.2 | NR | 0–2 years, 40.2%; 2–6 years, 40.2%; >6 | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Altulaihi et al., 2021) | Saudi Arabia | NR | 333 | 49.8/50.2 | 18–30 years, 29.1%; 31–40 years, 45.6%; >40 years, 25.3% | 0–6 years, 41.4%; 7–17 years, 58.6% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Primary healthcare centers | 83.3 | Journal |
| (Babicki et al., 2021) | Poland | May 2021 | 4432 | 77.6/22.4 | 37.5 (6.6) | <2 years, 16.6%; ≥2 years, 83.4% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Bagateli et al., 2021) | Brazil | May to June 2021 | 501 | 85/15 | 18–29 years, 13%; \geq 30 years, 87% | <9 years, 59%; \geq 9 years, 41% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Pediatric emergency departments | 100 | Journal |
| (Carcelen et al., 2021) | Zambia | November 2020 | 2400 | NR | NR | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Primary healthcare centers | NR | Journal |
| (Choi et al., 2021) | Korea | May to June 2021 | 226 | 79.6/20/4 | <39 years, 34.5%; ≥40 years, 65.5% | 10–15 years, 84.6%; 16–18 years, 15.4% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Outpatients clinics | NR | Journal |
| (Dror et al., 2020) | Israel | March 2020 | 1112 | NR | NR | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Evans et al., 2021) | Australia | January 2021 | 1094 | 83/17 | 39.2 (6.8) | 8.9 (5.1) | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Gendler and Ofri, 2021) | Israel | June 2021 | 520 | 77.1/22.9 | 44.8 (8.1) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Humble et al., 2021) | Canada | December 2020 | 1702 | 55.3/44 | 39.2 (8.4) | <12 years, 66.4%; ≥12 33.6% | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Kezhong et al., 2021) | China | July 2021 | 13,451 | 63.6/36.4 | 36.0 (5.7) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Lackner and Wang, 2021) | Canada | July 2020 | 455 | 91.9/7.3 | 38.2 (6.8) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Musa et al., 2021) | Qatar | May to June 2021 | 4023 | NR | NR | 13.4 (1.1) | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Outpatients clinics | NR | Journal |
| (Temsah et al., 2021) | Saudi Arabia | NR | 3167 | 65/35 | 18–44 years, 62.7%; ≥45 years, 37.3% | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Urrunaga- Pastor et al., 2021) | 20 Latin America and Caribbean countries | May to July 2021 | 227,740 | 55/45 | 18–34 years, 41.3%; \geq 35 years, 58.7% | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Xu et al., 2021b) | China | July to August 2021 | 917 | 67.5/32.5 | 37.0 (5.9) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Yılmazbaş et al., 2021) | Turkey | May 2020 | 440 | 70.5/29.5 | 39.1 (6.4) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Journal |
| (Zhou et al., 2021) | China | July to September 2020 | 747 | 75.5/24.5 | <40 years, 82.6%; \geq 40 years, 17.4% | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Primary healthcare centers | NR | Journal |
| (Galanis et al., 2021b) | Greece | September 2021 | 813 | 76.1/23.9 | 42.3 (7.4) | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Pre-print |
| (Atad et al., 2021) | Israel | April to May 2021 | 1118 | NR | NR | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Pre-print |
| | USA | June 2020 | 1008 | NR | NR | NR | | Convenience | | 50 (continued o | Pre-print |

Table 1 (continued)

| Reference | Country | Data collection time | Sample size (n) | Mothers (%)/fathers (%) | Age of parents, mean (SD) | Age of children, mean (SD) | Study design | Sampling method | Recruitment method | Response rate (%) | Published in |
|--|---------|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| (Davis et al., 2020) (Padhi et al., 2021) | India | November 2020 to January 2021 | 770 | 39.6/60.4 | 18–49 years, 75.6%; ≥50 years, 24.4% | NR | Cross- sectional Cross- sectional | Convenience | National online survey Online survey | NR | Pre-print |
| (McKinnon et al., 2021) | Canada | May to June 2021 | 809 | NR | NR | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Pre-print |
| (Shmueli, 2021) | Israel | September to October 2021 | 1012 | 51/49 | 18–39 years, 48.3%, ≥40 years, 51.7% | NR | Cross- sectional | Convenience | Online survey | NR | Pre-print |

NR: not reported.

^a Median (standard deviation).
 ^b Median (interquartile range).

Table 2

Response scales and results of parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 in studies included in systematic review.

| Reference | Question/statement to measure parents' willingness | Response scale ^a | Willingness results (%) |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Ruggiero et al., 2021) | I plan to have my child vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine if one becomes available | Yes [Y], no [N] | Yes: 44.3 No: 55.7 |
| (Wang et al., 2021a) | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate for your child? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 59.3 Unsure: 37.4 No: 3.3 |
| (Szilagyi et al., 2021) | How likely are you to get your child vaccinated for coronavirus once a vaccine is available for children? | Very likely [Y], somewhat likely [Y], unsure [N], somewhat unlikely [N], very unlikely [N] | Yes: 48 No: 52 |
| (Montalti et al., 2021) | If a new COVID-19 vaccine became available would you accept the vaccine for your child/children? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 60.4 Unsure: 29.6 No: 9.9 |
| (Kelly et al., 2021) | When a vaccine for Coronavirus becomes available, I will have my child get it | Strongly agree [Y], agree [Y], disagree [N], strongly disagree [N] | Yes: 73 No: 27 |
| (Bell et al., 2020a) | If a new coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine became available would you accept the vaccine for your child/children? | Yes, definitely [Y], unsure but leaning towards yes [U], unsure but leaning towards no [U], no, definitely not [N] | Yes: 48.2 Unsure: 48.4 No: 3.4 |
| (Xu et al., 2021c) | At this moment, are you willing to receive COVID-19 vaccination for your child? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 72.7 Unsure: 6.7 No: 20.6 |
| (Brandstetter et al., 2021) | If there was an effective vaccine against COVID-19, would you have your child vaccinated? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 51 Unsure: NR No: NR |
| (Skjefte et al., 2021) | If a COVID-19 vaccine is safe and available to your child for free, how likely would your child be to get vaccinated if the vaccine has an efficacy of 90% (in other words, it reduces the chance of getting infected by 90%)? | Very likely [Y], fairly likely [Y], somewhat likely [Y], quite unlikely [N], not at all likely [N] | Yes: 69.2 No: 30.8 |
| (Goldman et al., 2020) | There is no vaccine/immunization currently available for Coronavirus (COVID-19). If a vaccine/immunization was available today, would you give it to your child? | Yes [Y], no [N] | Yes: 65.2 No: 34.8 |
| (Hetherington et al., 2021) | If an approved COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, would you plan to have your child receive this vaccine? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 60.4 Unsure: 31.0 No: 8.6 |
| (Yigit et al., 2021) | Would you vaccinate your child if a COVID-19 vaccine is available? | Yes [Y], no [N] | Yes: 29 No: 71 |
| (Yilmaz and Sahin, 2021) | If an approved COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, would you plan to have your child receive this vaccine? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 36.3 Unsure: 35.6 No: 28.1 |
| (Teasdale et al., 2021) | When a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is approved for children, would you want your child to receive the vaccine? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 49.4 Unsure: 25.0 No: 25.6 |
| (Jeffs et al., 2021) | Would you vaccinate your child if a COVID-19 vaccine is available? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 69.5 Unsure: NR No: NB |
| (Scherer et al., 2021) | Would you vaccinate your child if a COVID-19 vaccine is available? | Definitely will get a vaccine [Y], probably will get a vaccine [Y], probably will not get a vaccine [N], definitely will not get a vaccine [N] | Yes: 55.5 No: 44.5 |
| (Zhang et al., 2020) | If a COVID-19 vaccine is safe and available to your child for free, how likely would your child be to get vaccinated? | Very likely [Y], likely [Y], neutral [U], unlikely [N], very unlikely [N] | Yes: 72.6 Unsure: 21.3 No: 6.1 |
| (Akarsu et al., 2021) | If an approved COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, would you plan to have your child receive this vaccine? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 55.5 Unsure: 35.9 No: 8.6 |

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

P. Galanis et al.

| Deferrer | - | | D | XA7:11: |
|-------------|--------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Referenc | e | Question/statement to measure parents' willingness | Response scale | willingness |
| | | | | results (%) |
| (Aldakhi | l et al., | It is likely that I will vaccinate my child/children against COVID-19 | Strongly agree [Y], agree [Y], neutral [U], disagree [N], strongly | Yes: 52.5 |
| 2021) | | in the next 6 months | disagree [N] | Unsure: 27.9 |
| | | | | No: 19.6 |
| (Alfieri e | et al., | If a new vaccine against COVID-19 became available, how likely | Very likely [Y], somewhat likely [Y], I'm not sure [U], not likely | Yes: 33.0 |
| 2021) | | would you be to get your child vaccinated? | [N] | Unsure: NR |
| | | | | No: NR |
| (Almusba | ah et al., | Are you willing to get the COVID-19 vaccine for your child if | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 25.6 |
| 2021) | | approved? | | Unsure: 37.0 |
| | | | | No: 37.4 |
| (Altulaih | i et al., | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate for your child? | Very likely [Y], likely [Y], neutral [U], unlikely [N], very unlikely | Yes: 54.1 |
| 2021) | | | [N] | Unsure: 18.9 |
| | | | | No: 27.0 |
| (Babicki | et al., | Are you planning to vaccinate your child against COVID-19? | Yes, as soon as it will be possible [Y], yes, but only in a few months | Yes: 44.1 |
| 2021) | | | (up to a year) [N], yes, but in more than a year [N], I cannot decide | Unsure: 11.3 |
| | | | [U], no, but maybe I will consider it in the future [N], no, never [N] | No: 44.6 |
| (Bagateli | i et al., | Would you have your child vaccinated with a vaccine reported | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 91 |
| 2021) | | effective against COVID-19 and approved by the authorities? | | Unsure: 4.6 |
| | | | | No:4.4 |
| (Carceler | n et al., | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate your child? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 92 |
| 2021) | | | | Unsure: NR |
| | | | | No: NR |
| (Choi et | al., 2021) | If a vaccine against COVID-19 is available, how likely would you be | Extremely likely [Y], somewhat likely [Y], neither likely nor | Yes: 64.2 |
| | | to get your children vaccinated? | unlikely [U], somewhat unlikely [N], extremely unlikely [N] | Unsure: 23.5 |
| | | | | No: 12.3 |
| (Dror et a | al., 2020) | Would you vaccinate your child for COVID-19? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 70 |
| | | | | Unsure: NR |
| | | | | No: NR |
| (Evans et | t al., 2021) | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate for your child? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 48 |
| | | | | Unsure: 38 |
| | | | | No: 14 |
| (Gendler | and Ofri, | If a vaccine against COVID-19 is available, how likely would you be | Very likely [Y], somewhat likely [Y], somewhat unlikely [N], | Yes: 70.4 |
| 2021) | | to get your children vaccinated? | definitely not [N] | No:29.6 |
| (Humble | et al., | If a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is available, I will get my | Strongly agree [Y], agree [Y], neutral [U], disagree [N], strongly | Yes: 63.1 |
| 2021) | | child/children vaccinated | disagree [N] | Unsure: NR |
| | | | | No: NR |
| (Kezhong | g et al., | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate for your child? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 50.0 |
| 2021) | | | | Unsure: NR |
| | | | | No: NR |
| (Lackner | and | If a vaccine against COVID-19 is available, how likely would you be | A scale from 1 to 100 | Yes: NR |
| Wang, | 2021) | to get your children vaccinated? | | Unsure: NR |
| | | | | No: NR |
| (Musa et | al., 2021) | Parents' agreement to obtain a confirmed COVID-19 vaccine | Yes [Y], no [N] | Yes: 82.1 |
| | | booking appointment for their children at the time of study | | No: 17.9 |
| (Temsah | et al., | Are you willing/intending to give the COVID-19 vaccine to your | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 47.5 |
| 2021) | | child (children)? | | Unsure: 20.5 |
| | | | | No: 32.0 |
| (Urrunag | ga-Pastor | Will you choose to get a COVID-19 vaccine for your child or children | Yes, definitely [Y], yes, probably [Y], no, probably not [N], no, | Yes: 92.2 |
| et al., 2 | 2021) | when they are eligible? | definitely not [N] | No: 7.8 |
| (Xu et al. | ., 2021b) | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available for your children, would you like | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 84.3 |
| | | them to get it? | | Unsure: NR |
| (III) 1 | | | | NO: NR |
| (Yilmazb | baş et al., | If a vaccine is reported to be effective against COVID-19, would you | I definitely do [Y], I'll probably get it [U], undecided [U], I | Yes: 43.4 |
| 2021) | | consider getting it to your children? | definitely not [N] | Unsure: 55.0 |
| (71) | -1 0001) | | V [V] [N] | NO: 1.0 No: 05-0 |
| (Zhou et | al., 2021) | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate your child? | Yes [Y], no [N] | Yes: 85.3 |
| (0-1 | | If a COMP 10 model is see itable will see an instance with the | V DVI | NO: 14./ |
| (Galanis | et al., | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available, will you vaccinate your child? | Yes [Y], unsure [U], no [N] | Yes: 36.0 |
| 20210 |) | | | Unsure: 30.5 |
| () + 1 + 1 | -1 0001) | Demonstrate the course that the course 10 | Ver definitely (V) and and all (N) and added (N) and and all | NO: 33.5 |
| (Atad et | aı., 2021) | vogene becomes evolution for them? | res, ucinitiery [1], yes, probably [N], undecided [N], no, probably | 105: 51.5 |
| (Dervie -+ | al 20202 | vacuue becomes available for filefil? | Hot LNJ, HO, UCHHIERY HOE LNJ Vorgelikoly [V], compressed likoly [V], not too likoly [N], and of all | NU. 08.5 |
| (Davis et | ai., 2020) | in a vacuue against GOVID-19 becomes available in the next 12 | VELY INCLY [1], SOMEWHAL INCLY [1], HOL LOO HEELY [N], NOT AT AM | No. 27.0 |
| (Dedb: -+ | eal 20212 | Do you intend to viocing to your child(ren) for COVID 10 | | NO. 37.0 |
| (Padni et | ı аі., 2021) | bo you mitenu to vaccinate your child(ren) for COVID-19 once a | res [r], dilsure [U], ilo [N] | Tes: 74.0 |
| | | vaculie is available for cliffuren? | | Viisure: 14.0 |
| (Mckinn | on et al | If a COVID-19 vaccine is available will you vaccinate your shild? | Very likely [V] comewhat likely [1] unlikely [N] | NU. 12.0 |
| 20212 | on ci di., | in a COVID-17 vaccine is available, will you vaccillate your clille? | very intery [1], somewhat intery [0], unittery [N] | 103. / J.J Uncuro: 14.9 |
| 2021) | | | | No. 12 4 |
| (Chronel | i 2021) | How appropriate do you consider to vaccinate your children assist | A scale from 1 [not appropriate at all] to 6 [your appropriate V] | NO. 12.4 Vec: 57.9 |
| Commuell | ., 2021) | COVID-19? | is sense from a floor appropriate at any to o fvery appropriate, 1] | Unsure NR |
| | | 55112 I.S. | | No: NR |
| | | | | 110. 111 |

NR: not reported. ^a [Y], [N] and [U] indicate extracted response options representing yes, no and unsure in this meta-analysis.

| Studies | Estim | ate (95 | % C.I.) | Ev/Trt | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|---------|--|------|-----|-----------|------------|----------------|------|
| Ruggiero et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.443 | (0.396, | 0.490) | 189/427 | | _ | | | | |
| Wang et al. (China) 2021 | 0.593 | (0.575, | 0.610) | 1784/3009 | | | | _ | - | |
| Szilagyi et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.480 | (0.457, | 0.504) | 838/1745 | | | | | | |
| Montalti et al. (Italy) 2021 | 0.604 | (0.591, | 0.618) | 3017/4993 | | | | | - | |
| Kelly et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.730 | (0.712, | 0.748) | 1664/2279 | | | | | | |
| Bell et al. (United Kingdom) 2020 | 0.480 | (0.452, | 0.508) | 601/1252 | | | | | | |
| Xu, Zhang et al. (China) 2021 | 0.727 | (0.714, | 0.740) | 3452/4748 | | | | | - | |
| Brandstetter et al. (Germany) 2021 | 0.510 | (0.470, | 0.549) | 312/612 | | | | _ | | |
| Skjefte et al. (16 countries) 2021 | 0.692 | (0.685, | 0.699) | 11800/17054 | | | | | • | |
| Goldman et al. (6 countries) 2020 | 0.652 | (0.628, | 0.676) | 1005/1541 | | | | | | |
| Hetherington et al. (Canada) 2021 | 0.604 | (0.578, | 0.630) | 798/1321 | | | | _ | - | |
| Yigit et al. (Turkey) 2021 | 0.290 | (0.248, | 0.334) | 124/428 | | | | | | |
| Yilmaz & Sahin (Turkey) 2021 | 0.363 | (0.334, | 0.393) | 376/1035 | | | | | | |
| Teasdale et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.494 | (0.473, | 0.516) | 1025/2074 | | | | | | |
| Jeffs et al. (New Zealand) 2021 | 0.695 | (0.669, | 0.721) | 828/1191 | | | | | | |
| Scherer et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.555 | (0.524, | 0.585) | 567/1022 | | | | | | |
| Zhang et al. (China) 2020 | 0.726 | (0.699, | 0.753) | 764/1052 | | | | | | |
| Akarsu et al. (Turkey) 2021 | 0.556 | (0.492, | 0.619) | 129/232 | | | | | | |
| Aldakhil et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.525 | (0.466, | 0.583) | 147/280 | | | | | | |
| Alfieri et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.330 | (0.306, | 0.354) | 470/1425 | | | | | | |
| Almusbah et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.256 | (0.229, | 0.284) | 256/1000 | | | | | | |
| Altulaihi et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.541 | (0.487, | 0.594) | 180/333 | | | | | | |
| Babicki et al. (Poland) 2021 | 0.441 | (0.427, | 0.456) | 1955/4432 | | | | | | |
| Bagateli et al. (Brazil) 2021 | 0.910 | (0.884, | 0.934) | 456/501 | | | | | | |
| Carcelen et al. (Zambia) 2021 | 0.920 | (0.909, | 0.931) | 2208/2400 | | | | | | - |
| Choi et al. (Korea) 2021 | 0.642 | (0.578, | 0.703) | 145/226 | | | | - | | |
| Dror et al. (Israel) 2020 | 0.700 | (0.672, | 0.726) | 778/1112 | | | | | | |
| Evans et al. (Australia) 2021 | 0.480 | (0.450, | 0.510) | 525/1094 | | | | | | |
| Gendler & Ofri (Israel) 2021 | 0.704 | (0.664, | 0.742) | 366/520 | | | | | | |
| Humble et al. (Canada) 2021 | 0.631 | (0.608, | 0.654) | 1074/1702 | | | | | | |
| Kezhong et al. (China) 2021 | 0.500 | (0.492, | 0.508) | 6726/13451 | | | + | | | |
| Musa et al. (Qatar) 2021 | 0.821 | (0.809, | 0.833) | 3303/4023 | | | | | | - |
| Temsah et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.475 | (0.458, | 0.492) | 1504/3167 | | | | | | |
| Urrunaga-Pastor et al. (20 Latin America and Caribbean countries) 2021 | 0.922 | (0.921, | 0.923) | 209976/227740 | | | | | | • |
| Xu, Xu et al. (China) 2021 | 0.843 | (0.819, | 0.866) | 773/917 | | | | | | |
| Ylmazba et al. (Turkey) 2021 | 0.434 | (0.388, | 0.481) | 191/440 | | _ | | | | |
| Zhou et al. (China) 2021 | 0.853 | (0.826, | 0.877) | 637/747 | | | | | | |
| Galanis et al. (Greece) 2021 | 0.360 | (0.328, | 0.394) | 293/813 | | | | | | |
| Atad et al. (Israel) 2021 | 0.315 | (0.288, | 0.342) | 352/1118 | - | | | | | |
| Davis et al. (USA) 2020 | 0.630 | (0.600, | 0.659) | 635/1008 | | | | | | |
| Padhi et al. (India) 2021 | 0.740 | (0.709, | 0.771) | 570/770 | | | | | | |
| McKinnon et al. (Canada) 2021 | 0.733 | (0.702, | 0.763) | 593/809 | | | | | | |
| Shmueli et al. (Israel) 2021 | 0.572 | (0.542, | 0.602) | 579/1012 | | | | | | |
| Overall (I^2=99.91 % , P< 0.001) | 0.601 | (0.517, | 0.681) | 263965/317055 | | | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | | 0.50 | 0.72 | 1 |
| | | | | L. L | 1.20 | 0.4 | Arcsine o | f Square R | oot Proportion | 0.93 |

Fig. 2. Forest plot of parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19.

Thirty-four studies reported data on parents' refusal to vaccinate their children. The pooled proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children was 22.9% (95% CI: 17.3–29.0%) (Fig. 3). The heterogeneity between results was very high ($I^2 = 99.83\%$, *p*-value for the Hedges Q statistic < 0.001). Parents' refusal ranged from 1.6% to 71.0%. A leave-one-out sensitivity analysis showed that no single study had a disproportional effect on the overall proportion, which varied between 21.6% (95% CI: 16.2–27.6%) and 23.9% (95% CI: 18.1–30.1%) (Supplementary Fig. S3). *p*-value for Egger's test (<0.05) and funnel plot (Supplementary Fig. S4) indicated potential publication bias.

Twenty-one studies presented the number of parents reporting unsure of their children's vaccination against the COVID-19. The pooled proportion of unsure parents was 25.8% (95% CI: 20.0–32.0%) (Fig. 4). The heterogeneity between results was very high ($I^2 = 99.36\%$, *p*-value for the Hedges Q statistic < 0.001). Proportion of unsure parents ranged from 4.6% to 55.0%. A leave-one-out sensitivity analysis showed that no single study had a disproportional effect on the overall proportion, which varied between 24.5% (95% CI: 18.8–30.6%) and 27.2% (95% CI: 21.3–33.5%) (Supplementary Fig. S5). *p*-value for Egger's test (<0.05) and funnel plot (Supplementary Fig. S6) indicated potential publication bias.

3.5. Presence vs. absence of an "unsure" response option

When "unsure" was a response option for the parents the overall proportion of parents that intend to vaccinate their children was lower (58.3%, 95% CI = 52.7–63.8%, $I^2 = 99.45\%$) than in studies where there was no "unsure" response option (64.5%, 95% CI = 51.6–76.5%, $I^2 = 99.91\%$). Difference was larger in case of parents' refusal to vaccinate their children. In particular, when there was the "unsure" response option the pooled proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children was 16.9% (95% CI = 11.1–23.6%, $I^2 = 99.60\%$), and when "unsure" was not a response option the proportion was 35.5% (95% CI = 23.5–48.4%, $I^2 = 99.91\%$).

3.6. Time trends

Meta-regression analysis showed that parents' willingness to vaccinate their children was independent data collection time (coefficient = -0.003, 95% CI = -0.014 to 0.008, p = 0.63) (Supplementary Fig. S7). Similarly, there was not a relation between intention of parents not to vaccinate their children and month study was conducted (coefficient = 0.008, 95% CI = -0.007 to 0.022, p = 0.32) (Supplementary Fig. S8). Moreover, there was no relation between proportion of parents being unsure about their children's vaccination and month of study

| Studies | Estima | ate (95 | % C.I.) | Ev/Trt | | | | | |
|--|--------|---------|---------|--------------|------|---|--------|--|------|
| Ruggiero et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.557 | (0.510, | 0.604) | 238/427 | | | | | |
| Wang et al. (China) 2021 | 0.033 | (0.027, | 0.040) | 99/3009 | | | | | |
| Szilagyi et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.520 | (0.496, | 0.543) | 907/1745 | | | | | |
| Montalti et al. (Italy) 2021 | 0.099 | (0.091, | 0.107) | 494/4993 | | + | | | |
| Kelly et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.270 | (0.252, | 0.288) | 615/2279 | | | | | |
| Bell et al. (United Kingdom) 2020 | 0.034 | (0.025, | 0.045) | 43/1252 | - | | | | |
| Xu, Zhang et al. (China) 2021 | 0.206 | (0.195, | 0.218) | 978/4748 | | | | | |
| Skjefte et al. (16 countries) 2021 | 0.308 | (0.301, | 0.315) | 5253/17054 | | | | - | |
| Goldman et al. (6 countries) 2020 | 0.348 | (0.324, | 0.372) | 536/1541 | | | | | |
| Hetherington et al. (Canada) 2021 | 0.086 | (0.072, | 0.102) | 114/1321 | | | | | |
| Yigit et al. (Turkey) 2021 | 0.710 | (0.666, | 0.752) | 304/428 | | | | | |
| Yilmaz & Sahin (Turkey) 2021 | 0.281 | (0.254, | 0.309) | 291/1035 | | | | _ | |
| Teasdale et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.256 | (0.237, | 0.275) | 531/2074 | | | | | |
| Scherer et al. (USA) 2021 | 0.445 | (0.415, | 0.476) | 455/1022 | | | | | |
| Zhang et al. (China) 2020 | 0.061 | (0.047, | 0.076) | 64/1052 | | | | | |
| Akarsu et al. (Turkey) 2021 | 0.086 | (0.054, | 0.126) | 20/232 | | | | | |
| Aldakhil et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.196 | (0.152, | 0.245) | 55/280 | | - | | | |
| Almusbah et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.374 | (0.344, | 0.404) | 374/1000 | | | | | |
| Altulaihi et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.270 | (0.224, | 0.319) | 90/333 | | | | | |
| Babicki et al. (Poland) 2021 | 0.446 | (0.431, | 0.461) | 1977/4432 | | | | | |
| Bagateli et al. (Brazil) 2021 | 0.044 | (0.028, | 0.064) | 22/501 | | - | | | |
| Choi et al. (Korea) 2021 | 0.124 | (0.084, | 0.170) | 28/226 | | | _ | | |
| Evans et al. (Australia) 2021 | 0.140 | (0.120, | 0.161) | 153/1094 | | | - | | |
| Gendler & Ofri (Israel) 2021 | 0.296 | (0.258, | 0.336) | 154/520 | | | | · | |
| Musa et al. (Qatar) 2021 | 0.179 | (0.167, | 0.191) | 720/4023 | | | | | |
| Temsah et al. (Saudi Arabia) 2021 | 0.320 | (0.304, | 0.336) | 1013/3167 | | | | - | |
| Urrunaga-Pastor et al. (20 Latin America and Caribbean countries) 2021 | 0.078 | (0.077, | 0.079) | 17764/227740 | | · | | | |
| Ylmazba et al. (Turkey) 2021 | 0.016 | (0.006, | 0.030) | 7/440 | + | | | | |
| Zhou et al. (China) 2021 | 0.147 | (0.123, | 0.174) | 110/747 | | | | | |
| Galanis et al. (Greece) 2021 | 0.335 | (0.303, | 0.367) | 272/813 | | | | | |
| Atad et al. (Israel) 2021 | 0.685 | (0.658, | 0.712) | 766/1118 | | | | | |
| Davis et al. (USA) 2020 | 0.370 | (0.341, | 0.400) | 373/1008 | | | | | |
| Padhi et al. (India) 2021 | 0.119 | (0.098, | 0.143) | 92/770 | | | | | |
| McKinnon et al. (Canada) 2021 | 0.124 | (0.102, | 0.147) | 100/809 | | | | | |
| Overall (I^2=99.83 % , P< 0.001) | 0.229 | (0.173, | 0.290) | 35012/293233 | | | \leq | | |
| | | | | | - | | 1 | · · · · · | 1 |
| | | | | | 0.01 | | 0.19 | 0.38 0.57 Arcsine of Square Root Proportion | 0.75 |

Fig. 3. Forest plot of parents' refusal to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19.



Fig. 4. Forest plot of parents reporting unsure of their children's vaccination against the COVID-19.

(coefficient = -0.009, 95% CI = -0.024 to 0.006, p = 0.24) (Supplementary Fig. S9).

Also, we analyzed the time trend separately for studies with an "unsure" response option and those without this response option and we

confirmed that data collection time did not affect parents' intentions. Specifically, there was not a relation between intention of parents to vaccinate their children and data collection time in studies with an "unsure" response option (coefficient = -0.003, 95% CI = -0.015 to

10

Studies examining factors related with parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19.

| (a) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|--|
| Reference | Older children | Older parents | Fathers | Higher educational level | Ethnicity | Higher income | Health insurance | Increased number of children | Children with chronic illness | Higher risk perception of getting infected | Increased perceived threat from the COVID-19 | Psychological distress | Trust in public health agencies/ health science/ physicians |
| (Ruggiero et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| (Wang et al., 2021a) | - | NS | NS | Ļ | - | NS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Szilagyi et al., 2021) | † | - | NS | 1 | NS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Montalti et al., 2021) | - | ↑ | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Kelly et al., 2021) | - | NS | 1 | 1 | \downarrow (Black parents) | 1 | NS | - | NS | ↑ | ↑ | - | - |
| (Bell et al., 2020a) | - | NS | - | _ | ↓ (parents from Black, Asian or minority ethnic groups) | NS | - | ſ | _ | - | - | - | _ |
| (Xu et al., 2021c) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | _ | - | - | ţ | |
| (Brandstetter et al., 2021) | - | NS | - | 1 | NS | - | - | - | - | NS | NS | - | NS |
| (Skjefte et al., 2021) | - | NS | - | NS | - | Ť | NS | NS | - | - | 1 | - | ↑ |
| (Goldman et al., 2020) | † | - | 1 | NS | - | - | - | - | Ļ | - | - | - | - |
| (Hetherington et al., 2021) | - | NS | - | 1 | NS | † | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Yigit et al., 2021) | - | NS | 1 | ţ | - | - | - | - | NS | - | - | Ļ | - |
| (Yilmaz and Sahin, 2021) | - | NS | - | NS | - | NS | - | NS | - | - | ↑ | _ | - |
| (Teasdale et al., 2021) | - | NS | 1 | 1 | ↑ (Asian parents) | 1 | NS | NS | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Scherer et al., 2021) | - | NS | 1 | 1 | \downarrow (Black parents) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Zhang et al., 2020) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | _ | - | - | - | - |
| (Akarsu et al., 2021) | - | NS | NS | 1 | - | NS | Ť | - | NS | - | - | NS | - |
| (Aldakhil et al., 2021) | NS | NS | - | 1 | - | - | - | NS | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Alfieri et al., 2021) | - | - | - | 1 | \downarrow (Black parents) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Almusbah et al., 2021) | NS | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | NS | - | - | - | - |
| (Altulaihi et al., 2021) | ↑ | 1 | NS | NS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Babicki et al., 2021) | NS | † | NS | - | - | - | _ | NS | NS | - | 1 | - | - |
| (Bagateli et al., 2021) | NS | 1 | NS | 1 | NS | ↑ | - | Ļ | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | _ | - | NS | NS | - | - | – ontinued on next page) |

| P. | |
|---------|--|
| Galanis | |
| et | |
| al. | |

| (a) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Reference | Older children | Older parents | Fathers | Higher educational level | Ethnicity | Higher income | Health insurance | Increased number of children | Children with chronic illness | Higher risk perception of getting infected | Increased perceived threat from the COVID-19 | Psychological distress | Trust in public health agencies/ health science/ physicians |
| (Choi et al., 2021) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (Evans et al., 2021) | - | - | NS | NS | _ | NS | _ | - | NS | - | - | NS | 1 |
| (Humble et al., 2021) | - | NS | NS | NS | NS | - | - | - | - | NS | NS | - | - |
| (Kezhong et al., 2021) | Ļ | NS | - | Ļ | - | NS | - | NS | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Lackner and Wang, 2021) | NS | 1 | NS | NS | - | NS | - | - | - | - | - | NS | - |
| (Musa et al., 2021) | Ļ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NS | - | - | - | - |
| (Temsah et al., 2021) | 1 | 1 | NS | Ļ | - | NS | - | † | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Urrunaga- Pastor et al., 2021) | NS | † | NS | ↑ | - | Ļ | - | - | _ | - | - | ↑ | - |
| (Xu et al., 2021b) | NS | NS | NS | Ļ | - | Ļ | - | ↑ | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Zhou et al., 2021) | NS | NS | NS | Ļ | - | - | - | NS | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Galanis et al., 2021b) | - | 1 | NS | NS | - | NS | - | - | - | - | ↑ | - | î |
| (Atad et al., 2021) | - | - | - | ↑ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Davis et al., 2020) | - | 1 | NS | ↑ | ↑ (Hispanic parents) | NS | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Padhi et al., 2021) | NS | | NS | ↑ | | NS | - | - | - | NS | - | - | NS |
| (McKinnon et al., 2021) | NS | NS | NS | - | \uparrow (White parents) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (Shmueli, 2021) | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Positive association ^a | 4/16 | 10/25 | 7/24 | 15/29 | 3/12 (White $[n = 1]$, Asian, $[n = 1]$, and Hispanic $[n = 1]$ parents) | 7/20 | 1/4 | 3/11 | 1/10 | 2/6 | 4/6 | 1/6 | 3/5 |
| Negative association ^b | 2/16 | 0/25 | 0/24 | 6/29 | 4/12 (Black $[n = 4]and Asian [n = 1]$ | 2/20 | 0/4 | 1/11 | 1/10 | 0/6 | 0/6 | 2/6 | 0/5 |
| No association ^c | 10/16 | 15/25 | 17/24 | 8/29 | 5/12 | 11/20 | 3/4 | 7/11 | 8/10 | 4/6 | 2/6 | 3/6 | 2/5 |
| (b) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reference | Children's complete vaccination history | Histor childre vaccin agains influer | y of en's ation t nza | History of parents' vaccination against influenza | Confidence Con in vaccines in C vacc | fidence OVID-19 :ines | Vaccination hesitancy | Concerns for serious side effects and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines | COVID-19 vaccine uptake/ intention among parents | Information based in the web/social media | Compliance with prevention measures/ knowledge abour prevention measures | High level of information about the COVID-19 pandemic/ vaccination | Level of analysis |

(continued on next page)

| Table 3 | (continued) |
|---------|-------------|
| Tuble 0 | (continueu) |

12

| (b) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Reference | Children's complete vaccination history | History of children's vaccination against influenza | History of parents' vaccination against influenza | Confidence in vaccines | Confidence in COVID-19 vaccines | Vaccination hesitancy | Concerns for serious side effects and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines | COVID-19 vaccine uptake/ intention among parents | Information based in the web/social media | Compliance with prevention measures/ knowledge about prevention measures | High level of information about the COVID-19 pandemic/ vaccination | Level of analysis |
| (Ruggiero | - | ↑ | - | ¢ | - | Ļ | Ļ | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| et al., 2021) (Wang et al., 2021a) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Szilagyi et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Montalti | - | - | - | - | - | Ļ | - | - | Ļ | - | - | Multivariable |
| et al., 2021) (Kelly et al., 2021) | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Bell et al., 2020a) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Xu et al., | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Brandstetter | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | ↑ | Multivariable |
| et al., 2021) (Skjefte et al., | ↑ | - | - | 1 | † | _ | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Goldman | 1 | † | 1 | - | _ | - | _ | - | _ | - | - | Univariate |
| et al., 2020) (Hetherington | ↑ | - | - | _ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Yigit et al., 2021) | - | - | - | _ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Univariate |
| (Yilmaz and | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | _ | - | - | _ | - | Multivariable |
| (Teasdale | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Scherer et al., | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| 2021) (Zhang et al., 2020) | _ | _ | - | _ | † | - | - | _ | - | - | Ť | Multivariable |
| (Akarsu et al., 2021) | NS | - | ↑ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Univariate |
| (Aldakhil | - | - | - | - | - | Ļ | - | - | - | - | - | Univariate |
| et al., 2021) (Alfieri et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Almusbah | NS | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Univariate |
| (Altulaihi | - | - | ↑ | - | - | - | - | - | NS | - | NS | Multivariable |
| et al., 2021) (Babicki et al., 2021) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | Ļ | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Bagateli et al., | _ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | _ | Univariate |
| (Choi et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | Ť | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | – (conti | Multivariable nued on next page) |

| (b) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|----------------------|
| Reference | Children's complete vaccination history | History of children's vaccination against influenza | History of parents' vaccination against influenza | Confidence in vaccines | Confidence in COVID-19 vaccines | Vaccination hesitancy | Concerns for serious side effects and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines | COVID-19 vaccine uptake/ intention among parents | Information based in the web/social media | Compliance with prevention measures/ knowledge about prevention measures | High level of information about the COVID-19 pandemic/ vaccination | Level of analysis |
| (Evans et al., 2021) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (Humble et al., 2021) | NS | NS | - | - | ↑ | - | - | ↑ | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Kezhong et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | - | Ļ | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Lackner and Wang 2021) | ↑ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Musa et al., | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Temsah et al., | - | - | - | - | - | Ļ | - | ¢ | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Urrunaga- Pastor et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | † | - | 1 | - | Multivariable |
| (Xu et al., 2021b) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Zhou et al., 2021) | _ | - | † | - | - | - | - | - | - | NS | - | Multivariable |
| (Galanis et al., 2021b) | - | - | ↑ | Ť | - | - | \downarrow | NS | - | - | ↑ | Multivariable |
| (Atad et al., 2021) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | Univariate |
| (Davis et al., 2020) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Padhi et al., | - | - | - | - | - | NS | - | 1 | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (McKinnon | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| (Shmueli, 2021) | - | ↑ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Multivariable |
| Positive | 5/8 | 3/4 | 7/7 | 3/3 | 5/5 | 0/6 | 0/3 | 7/8 | 0/2 | 2/3 | 3/4 | |
| Negative | 0/8 | 0/4 | 0/7 | 0/3 | 0/5 | 5/6 | 3/3 | 0/8 | 1/2 | 0/3 | 0/4 | |
| No association ^c | 3/8 | 1/4 | 0/7 | 0/3 | 0/5 | 1/6 | 0/3 | 1/8 | 1/2 | 1/3 | 1/4 | |

NS: non-significant.

↑ more likely to vaccinate.

 \downarrow less likely to vaccinate.

- not investigated.

^a Number of studies with a positive significant association (*p*-value < 0.05) between the predictor and parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19/total number of studies examined the predictor.

^b Number of studies with a negative significant association (*p*-value < 0.05) between the predictor and parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19/total number of studies examined the predictor.

 c Number of studies without a significant association (*p*-value \geq 0.05) between the predictor and parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19/total number of studies examined the predictor.

0.010, p = 0.68), as well as in studies without an "unsure" response option (coefficient = -0.001, 95% CI = -0.021 to 0.020, p = 0.97). We found evidence that data collection time affected parents' refusal to vaccinate their children. Specifically, over time intention not to vaccinate increased in studies with an "unsure" response option (coefficient = 0.02, 95% CI = 0.003–0.036, p = 0.018). On the other hand, data collection time did not affect parents' refusal to vaccinate their children in studies without an "unsure" response option (coefficient = 0.001, 95% CI = -0.020 to 0.021, p = 0.97).

3.7. Risk of bias analysis

The pooled proportion of parents that intend to vaccinate their children was higher in studies with high quality (62.0%, 95% CI = 53.1–70.4%, $I^2 = 99.92\%$) than in studies with low/moderate quality (50.1%, 95% CI = 31.8–68.3%, $I^2 = 99.4\%$). Similarly, the pooled proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children was 21.6% (95% CI = 15.9–28.0%, $I^2 = 99.84\%$) in studies with high quality and 28.0% (95% CI = 9.1–52.3%, $I^2 = 99.67\%$) in studies with low/moderate quality.

Parents' willingness to vaccinate their children was higher in journal articles (60.7%, 95% CI = 51.8–69.3%, I^2 = 99.92%) than in pre-prints (56.1%, 95% CI = 41.1–70.5%, I^2 = 99.23%). Moreover, parents' refusal was higher in pre-prints (31.1%, 95% CI = 12.4–53.8%, I^2 = 99.6%) than in journal articles (21.6%, 95% CI = 15.9–27.8%, I^2 = 99.84%).

We found evidence that recruitment method affected parents' willingness to vaccinate their children. When data were collected through online surveys the proportion was 57.2% (95% CI = 47.2–66.9%, I^2 = 99.93%), and when data were collected through questionnaires in clinical settings the proportion was 69.2% (95% CI = 57.2–80.0%, I^2 = 99.49%). Similarly, when data were collected through online surveys the proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children was 23.8% (95% CI = 17.1–31.3%, I^2 = 99.86%), and when data were collected through questionnaires in clinical settings the proportion was 20.4% (95% CI = 10.2–33.1%, I^2 = 99.51%).

There was evidence of differences in findings between studies in North America, Asia, and Europe. In particular, the proportion of parents that intend to vaccinate their children in studies that were conducted in Asia was 58.5% (95% CI = 51.0–65.9%, $I^2 = 99.52\%$), in North America was 56.5% (95% CI = 48.2–64.6%, $I^2 = 98.97$), and in Europe was 47.9% (95% CI = 39.0–56.9%, $I^2 = 98.84\%$). Additionally, the proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children in studies that were conducted in North America was 31.5% (95% CI = 20.5–43.6%, $I^2 = 99.41\%$), in Asia was 21.8% (95% CI = 14.1–30.5%, $I^2 = 99.85\%$), and in Europe was 20.0% (95% CI = 4.0–44.1%, $I^2 = 99.86\%$).

3.8. Predictors of parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19

Thirty-nine studies investigated factors that affect parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 (Table 3a,b). Thirtytwo studies used multivariable analysis eliminating confounders, while seven studies used univariate analysis.

Several sociodemographic characteristics affected parents' intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. In 10/25 studies older parents were more likely to intend to vaccinate their children than young parents, while 15 studies found no effect of age. In 7/24 studies, fathers were more likely to report intending to vaccinate than mother, while 17 studies did not find a significant association. Four studies out of 16 found that parents intend to vaccinate older children more often than younger children, but two studies found the opposite and 10 studies found no effect of children's age. Higher income was associated with parents' willingness to vaccinate their children in 7/20 studies, while two studies found the opposite relation and 11 studies found no effect of income. Educational level was a controversial issue, since in 15/29 studies higher educational level was associated with intending to vaccinate, but in 6/29 studies lower educational level was associated with intending to vaccinate (no association in eight studies). With regards to ethnicity, Black parents were less likely to intend to vaccinate their children (4/12 studies), while White parents (one study) and Hispanic parents (one study) were more likely to intend to vaccinate their children (no association in five studies). Health insurance, increased number of children, and children with chronic illness were non-significant predictors in 3/4, 7/11, and 8/10 studies respectively.

Positive attitudes regarding vaccination affected positively parents' intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. In particular, children's complete vaccination history (5/8 studies; no association in three studies), history of children's vaccination against influenza (3/4 studies; no association in one study), history of parents' vaccination against influenza (7/7 studies), confidence in vaccines (3/3 studies), confidence in COVID-19 vaccines (5/5 studies), and COVID-19 vaccine uptake/intention among parents (7/8 studies; no association in one study) were associated with increased intended uptake of a COVID-19 vaccine. On the other hand, overall vaccination hesitancy (5/6 studies; no association in one study), and concerns for serious side effects and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination (3/3 studies) decreased parents' willingness to vaccinate their children.

Moreover, higher levels of perceived threat from the COVID-19 (4/6 studies; no association in two studies), compliance with prevention measures (2/3 studies; no association in one study), trust in public health agencies/health science/physicians (3/5 studies; no association in two studies), and high level of information about the COVID-19 pandemic/vaccination (3/4 studies; no association in one study) were associated with parents' intention to accept COVID-19 vaccination for their children.

4. Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first systematic review and metaanalysis that assesses the willingness and the refusal of parents to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 and investigates the predictors for their decision. Forty-four papers including 317,055 parents met our inclusion criteria. The primary reasons that papers were excluded from our systematic review include irrelevant research questions and other types of publications (e.g. reviews, qualitative studies, case reports, protocols, etc.).

4.1. Parents' willingness and refusal to vaccinate their children

We found that the overall proportion of parents that intend to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 is moderate (60.1%) with a wide range among studies from 25.6% to 92.2%. Parents' intention to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 is lower than the intention of the general population to take a COVID-19 vaccine (60.1% vs. 73%) (Snehota et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b). This finding is confirmed by a meta-analysis of large nationally representative samples where 72.9% of the general population intend to vaccinate against the COVID-19, 14.3% intend to refuse vaccination, and 22.1% were unsure (Robinson et al., 2021). Similarly, in our study 60.1% of parents intend to vaccinate their children, 22.9% intend to refuse vaccination, and 25.8% were unsure. Intentions and refusals vary substantially between studies included in both meta-analyses. Also, the willingness of high-risk groups such as healthcare workers to accept COVID-19 vaccination is higher than parents' willingness to vaccinate their children (63.5% vs. 60.1%) (Galanis et al., 2021; Luo et al., 2021). A possible explanation for the lower overall intention of parents to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 demonstrated by our meta-analysis could be the perception of a very low risk of severe COVID-19 in children and the fact that children are often asymptomatic carriers. The wide range of parents' willingness among studies is confirmed by similar reviews in the general population and could be due to different study designs, study populations, levels of knowledge and information, attitudes towards vaccination, etc. (Galanis et al., 2021a; Snehota et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021b).

4.2. Sub-group analysis

Interestingly, we found differences in parents' willingness to vaccinate their children according to the continent that studies were conducted. In general, acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination for children is higher among parents from Asia than those from North America and Europe. On the other hand, refusal of COVID-19 vaccination is higher among parents from North America than those from Asia and Europe.

Moreover, subgroup analysis identified that recruitment method affected parents' intention to vaccinate their children. In particular, parents' willingness was higher in studies where data were collected through questionnaires in clinical settings than in studies where data were collected through online surveys. Also, the proportion of parents that refuse to vaccinate their children was lower in studies that were conducted in clinical settings than in studies that were conducted online.

Another interesting finding of our meta-analysis is the effect of the "unsure" response option in surveys. In particular, the presence of the "unsure" response option decreased both the intention of parents to accept a COVID-19 vaccine for their children and their refusal. A recent meta-analysis of samples from the general population confirms this finding since when there was no "unsure" response option the proportion of participants intending to vaccinate was 82.8%, and when there was an "unsure" response option the proportion was 63.5% (Robinson et al., 2021). Also, when there was no "unsure" response option the proportion intending to refuse a COVID-19 vaccine was 17.2%, while when there was an "unsure" response option the proportion was 12.4%.

It is noteworthy that our meta-regression analysis revealed that data collection time does not affect parents' intention and refusal to vaccinate their children but studies of current and ongoing attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination should be conducted since information and knowledge about COVID-19 vaccines are still evolving. In that case, the only significant relation we found was that over time intention not to vaccinate increased in studies with an "unsure" response option.

4.3. Predictors of parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19

According to our review, several sociodemographic characteristics affect parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. In particular, mothers and younger parents were more hesitant, a finding that is confirmed by the literature since females and younger individuals are in general more likely to report vaccine hesitancy (Galanis et al., 2021a; Lin et al., 2020b; Neumann-Böhme et al., 2020; Schwarzinger et al., 2021). This could be due to the fact that males and older individuals, reported being at higher risk of intensive care unit admission and death from COVID-19, and so could be more prone to vaccination (Bienvenu et al., 2020; Peckham et al., 2020). On the other hand, females tend to experience more adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination and their vaccine hesitancy may be related to poor knowledge regarding issues such as fertility, pregnancy, and breastfeeding (Schrading et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2021a). Therefore, mothers could be more worried about potential side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines in their children, and thus are more reluctant to vaccinate their children.

Moreover, we found that educational level is a controversial issue regarding parents' intention to accept a COVID-19 vaccine for their children. The impact of parents' educational level on vaccine hesitancy is debatable since previous studies have shown that lower educational level is associated with more concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy (Gust et al., 2003; Shui et al., 2006; Smith et al., 2004), but other studies found the opposite (Opel et al., 2011). Also, a higher level of parents' education is related to higher confidence towards vaccination by giving more tools for decision-making (Bocquier et al., 2018; Gualano et al.,

2018; Kempe et al., 2020), but higher educated parents are more likely to forego immunizations (Gilkey et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2011).

Our review revealed that parents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups are less willing than White parents to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. This is consistent with a systematic review which shows that COVID-19 vaccination uptake is higher among individuals from White race than individuals from Black race (Galanis et al., 2021a). Also, individuals from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups have a lower level of COVID-19 vaccine acceptability (Funk and Tyson, 2021; Hamel et al., 2021; Malik et al., 2020; Ruiz and Bell, 2021) and they have lower seasonal influence vaccine coverage (Williams et al., 2017). Given that people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups are at higher risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 infection and at increased risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19, a concerted effort must be made to minimize inequalities in COVID-19 vaccination uptake and ensure equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines (Martin et al., 2020; Sze et al., 2020; Voysey et al., 2021).

We found that parents' positive attitudes towards vaccination affect their decision to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. In particular, parents whose children had recently received the influenza vaccination or had a completed vaccination history reported a higher likelihood of COVID-19 vaccination for their children. During the COVID-19 pandemic, an important predictor of future behavior remains past behavior (Bourassa et al., 2020). Past behavior predicts future behavior in a direct pathway, where a habitual process occurring, or in an indirect pathway via conscious, intentional processes (Ouellette and Wood, 1998; Schwarzer and Hamilton, 2020). For instance, several studies have identified the relationship between individuals' vaccination in the past and uptake of the pandemic H1N1 vaccine (Bish et al., 2011; Rubin et al., 2011; Setbon and Raude, 2010; Torun et al., 2010). This pattern is similar to our finding that COVID-19 vaccine uptake among parents is associated with increased intended uptake of a COVID-19 vaccine among children. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic seems to increase the polarization of parents' vaccination behaviors since parents who did not vaccinate their children in the past reported becoming even less likely to vaccinate them in the near future (Sokol and Grummon, 2020).

According to our review, confidence in vaccination, concerns for serious side effects and effectiveness of vaccines, and vaccine hesitancy are significant predictors of parents' attitudes regarding vaccination. These findings are confirmed by the literature since parents in the USA are hesitant to vaccinate their children with routine immunizations because of safety, side effects and low effectiveness concerns (Kempe et al., 2020; Nyhan and Reifler, 2015). Vaccine hesitancy is a complex issue and one of the main obstacles to control the COVID-19 pandemic since an instrumental percentage of the general population refuses COVID-19 vaccines (Jaca et al., 2021; Wiysonge et al., 2021). Unfortunately, providing information on vaccine safety and effectiveness to individuals who are vaccine-hesitant can be counterproductive (Nyhan et al., 2014; Nyhan and Reifler, 2015; L. D. Scherer et al., 2016). Tailored and targeted communication materials and balanced information on vaccines providing both the benefits and risks of vaccination are necessary to optimize vaccine uptake (Dubé et al., 2015; Dubé et al., 2020). A robust, transparent, reasonable, and widespread COVID-19 vaccine educational campaign harnessing media, healthcare workers, leaders, and social influencers should be implemented by the public health officials to diminish parents' concerns for COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy (Schaffer DeRoo et al., 2020). Also, behavioralchange theories (e.g., the health-belief model) have already been effectively adapted to improve individual medical use and should be used by government and health authorities to curb COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among parents (Lin et al., 2020a; Opel et al., 2009).

Since COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness are key parental concerns, it is critical to emphasize the safety profile of COVID-19 vaccines for children based on evidence from randomized controlled trials and post-approval data. Well-informed parents experience less worry, fear, and anxiety about COVID-19 and are more likely to receive a COVID-19 vaccine for their children as suggested by our review. The rigorous development and approval process of COVID-19 vaccines by the federal agencies worldwide increase parents' concerns and there is a need for continued transparency and active public education regarding the development of the COVID-19 vaccines (Bell et al., 2020b; Lee et al., 2020). In that case, the role of primary care physicians to communicate about COVID-19 vaccines for children is critical since prior studies show that clear messages and recommendations by primary care physicians have a large impact on vaccine uptake (Braun and O'Leary, 2020; Dempsey and O'Leary, 2018; Edwards et al., 2016).

5. Limitations

This systematic review has several limitations. In particular, the statistical heterogeneity was very high due probably to heterogeneity in study designs and populations. To account for this heterogeneity, we applied a random effects model and we performed subgroup and metaregression analysis. At least, subgroup analysis and leave-one-out sensitivity analysis revealed that our results are robust. We searched for studies conducted until to December 12, 2021, but the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and evidence from randomized controlled trials and post-approval data are increasing on an ongoing basis and parents' attitudes could be changed. Thus, our findings may not be generalizable to later in the COVID-19 pandemic. Since all studies in our review were cross-sectional, we cannot infer causal relationships between parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 and predictors of this attitude. Additionally, we included in our review articles in pre-print services which do not apply peer-review process. Thus, articles in pre-print services could be of low quality. To overcome this limitation, we assessed studies quality and we performed subgroup analysis according to studies quality and publication type. We consider predictors of parents' intention to vaccinate their children as a potential area for future study since only sociodemographic variables have so far been investigated thoroughly. Future studies should assess broader and diverse parent populations to fully understand the factors that affect parents' intention to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19. Finally, the proportion of parents that agreed to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 may be a biased estimation since studies measured willingness and not COVID-19 vaccination uptake.

6. Conclusions

High vaccination coverage is indispensable to control the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the highly transmissible delta and omicron variants, COVID-19 vaccination coverage should be increased to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. This is the main reason that the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is expanding to the children population. Thus, it is critical to better understand what factors affect parents' decision to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. Understanding parental COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy does help policymakers to change the stereotypes and establish broad community COVID-19 vaccination. As global COVID-19 vaccines rollout continue, our review could help policy makers and healthcare workers to understand parental decision around COVID-19 vaccination. This information can be used for evidence-based targeted campaigns and health interventions to ultimately maximize future COVID-19 vaccine uptake among children. There is a need to build vaccine confidence during the COVID-19 pandemic through clear messages and effective community engagement. Targeted public health strategies should aim to assuage parents' concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccines. Identification of the factors that affect parents' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 will provide opportunities to enhance parents' trust in the COVID-19 vaccines and optimize children's uptake of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Funding

None.

Conflicts of interest

None.

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2022.106994.

References

- Akarsu, B., Canbay Özdemir, D., Ayhan Baser, D., Aksoy, H., Fidancı, İ., Cankurtaran, M., 2021. While studies on COVID-19 vaccine is ongoing, the public's thoughts and attitudes to the future COVID-19 vaccine. Int. J. Clin. Pract. 75 (4) https://doi.org/ 10.1111/ijcp.13891.
- Al-Amer, R., Maneze, D., Everett, B., Montayre, J., Villarosa, A.R., Dwekat, E., Salamonson, Y., 2021. COVID-19 vaccination intention in the first year of the pandemic: a systematic review. J. Clin. Nurs. https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15951.
- Aldakhil, H., Albedah, N., Alturaiki, N., Alajlan, R., Abusalih, H., 2021. Vaccine hesitancy towards childhood immunizations as a predictor of mothers' intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia. J. Infect. Public Health 14 (10), 1497–1504. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2021.08.028.
- Alfieri, N.L., Kusma, J.D., Heard-Garris, N., Davis, M.M., Golbeck, E., Barrera, L., Macy, M.L., 2021. Parental COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy for children: vulnerability in an urban hotspot. BMC Public Health 21 (1), 1662. https://doi.org/10.1186/ s12889-021-11725-5.
- Almusbah, Z., Alhajji, Z., Alshayeb, Z., Alhabdan, R., Alghafli, S., Almusabah, M., Almuqarrab, F., Aljazeeri, I., Almuhawas, F., 2021. Caregivers' willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia: a cross-sectional survey. Cureus. https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.17243.
- Altulaihi, B.A., Alaboodi, T., Alharbi, K.G., Alajmi, M.S., Alkanhal, H., Alshehri, A., 2021. Perception of parents towards COVID-19 vaccine for children in Saudi population. Cureus. https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.18342.
- American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021. Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report. https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infectio ns/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/.
- Atad, E., Netzer, I., Peleg, O., Landsman, K., Dalyot, K., Reuven, S.E., Baram-Tsabari, A., 2021. Vaccine-hesitant parents' considerations regarding Covid-19 vaccination of adolescents [Preprint]. Pediatrics. https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.25.21257780.
- Babicki, M., Pokorna-Kałwak, D., Doniec, Z., Mastalerz-Migas, A., 2021. Attitudes of parents with regard to vaccination of children against COVID-19 in Poland. A nationwide online survey. Vaccines 9 (10), 1192. https://doi.org/10.3390/ vaccines9101192.
- Bagateli, L.E., Saeki, E.Y., Fadda, M., Agostoni, C., Marchisio, P., Milani, G.P., 2021. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among parents of children and adolescents living in Brazil. Vaccines 9 (10), 1115. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9101115.
- Barendregt, J.J., Doi, S.A., Lee, Y.Y., Norman, R.E., Vos, T., 2013. Meta-analysis of prevalence. J. Epidemiol. Community Health 67 (11), 974–978. https://doi.org/ 10.1136/iech-2013-203104.
- Bartsch, S.M., O'Shea, K.J., Ferguson, M.C., Bottazzi, M.E., Wedlock, P.T., Strych, U., McKinnell, J.A., Siegmund, S.S., Cox, S.N., Hotez, P.J., Lee, B.Y., 2020. Vaccine efficacy needed for a COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccine to prevent or stop an epidemic as the sole intervention. Am. J. Prev. Med. 59 (4), 493–503. https://doi.org/ 10.1016/j.ameore.2020.06.011.
- Bell, S., Clarke, R., Mounier-Jack, S., Walker, J., Paterson, P., 2020a. Parents' and guardians' views on the acceptability of a future COVID-19 vaccine: a multi-methods study in England. Vaccine 38 (49), 7789–7798. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. vaccine.2020.10.027.
- Bell, B.P., Romero, J.R., Lee, G.M., 2020b. Scientific and ethical principles underlying recommendations from the advisory committee on immunization practices for COVID-19 vaccination implementation. JAMA 324 (20), 2025–2026. https://doi. org/10.1001/jama.2020.20847.
- Bienvenu, L.A., Noonan, J., Wang, X., Peter, K., 2020. Higher mortality of COVID-19 in males: sex differences in immune response and cardiovascular comorbidities. Cardiovasc. Res. 116 (14), 2197–2206. https://doi.org/10.1093/cvr/cvaa284.
- Bish, A., Yardley, L., Nicoll, A., Michie, S., 2011. Factors associated with uptake of vaccination against pandemic influenza: a systematic review. Vaccine 29 (38), 6472–6484. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2011.06.107.
- Bocquier, A., Fressard, L., Cortaredona, S., Zaytseva, A., Ward, J., Gautier, A., Peretti-Watel, P., Verger, P., Baromètre santé 2016 group, 2018. Social differentiation of vaccine hesitancy among French parents and the mediating role of trust and commitment to health: a nationwide cross-sectional study. Vaccine 36 (50), 7666–7673. https://doi.org/10.1016/i.vaccine.2018.10.085.
- Bourassa, K.J., Sbarra, D.A., Caspi, A., Moffitt, T.E., 2020. Social distancing as a health behavior: county-level movement in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic is associated with conventional health behaviors. Ann. Behav. Med. 54 (8), 548–556. https://doi.org/10.1093/abm/kaaa049.
- Brandstetter, S., Bohmer, M., Pawellek, M., Seelbach-Gobel, B., Melter, M., Kabesch, M., Apfelbacher, C., KUNO-Kids Study Grp, 2021. Parents' intention to get vaccinated and to have their child vaccinated against COVID-19: cross-sectional analyses using

data from the KUNO-Kids health study. Eur. J. Pediatr. https://doi.org/10.1007/ s00431-021-04094-z.

Braun, C., O'Leary, S.T., 2020. Recent advances in addressing vaccine hesitancy. Curr. Opin. Pediatr. 32 (4), 601–609. https://doi.org/10.1097/MOP.000000000000929.

- Carcelen, A.C., Prosperi, C., Mutembo, S., Chongwe, G., Mwansa, F.D., Ndubani, P., Simulundu, E., Chilumba, I., Musukwa, G., Thuma, P., Kapungu, K., Hamahuwa, M., Mutale, I., Winter, A., Moss, W.J., Truelove, S.A., 2021. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Zambia: a glimpse at the possible challenges ahead for COVID-19 vaccination rollout in sub-Saharan Africa. Hum. Vaccines Immunotherapeutics 1–6. https://doi. org/10.1080/21645515.2021.1948784.
- Choi, S.-H., Jo, Y.H., Jo, K.J., Park, S.E., 2021. Pediatric and parents' attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines and intention to vaccinate for children. J. Korean Med. Sci. 36 (31), e227 https://doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2021.36.e227.
- Davis, M.M., Zickafoose, J.S., Halvorson, A.E., Patrick, S.W., 2020. Parents' likelihood to vaccinate their children and themselves against COVID-19 [Preprint] Pediatrics. https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.10.20228759.
- Dempsey, A.F., O'Leary, S.T., 2018. Human papillomavirus vaccination: narrative review of studies on how providers' vaccine communication affects attitudes and uptake. Acad. Pediatr. 18 (2S), S23–S27. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acap.2017.09.001.
- Dror, A.A., Eisenbach, N., Taiber, S., Morozov, N.G., Mizrachi, M., Zigron, A., Srouji, S., Sela, E., 2020. Vaccine hesitancy: the next challenge in the fight against COVID-19. Eur. J. Epidemiol. 35 (8), 775–779. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-020-00671-y.
- Dubé, E., Gagnon, D., MacDonald, N.E., SAGE Working Group on Vaccine Hesitancy, 2015. Strategies intended to address vaccine hesitancy: review of published reviews. Vaccine 33 (34), 4191–4203. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2015.04.041.
- Dubé, E., Gagnon, D., Vivion, M., 2020. Optimizing communication material to address vaccine hesitancy. Canada Communicable Disease Report = Releve Des Maladies Transmissibles Au Canada 46 (2–3), 48–52. https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr. v46i23a05.
- Dyer, O., 2021. Covid-19: Omicron is causing more infections but fewer hospital admissions than delta, South African data show. BMJ. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj. n3104 n3104.
- Edwards, K.M., Hackell, J.M., Committee on Infectious Diseases, the Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine, 2016. Countering Vaccine Hesitancy. Pediatrics 138 (3), e20162146. https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-2146.
- Egger, M., Smith, G.D., Schneider, M., Minder, C., 1997. Bias in meta-analysis detected by a simple, graphical test. BMJ 315 (7109), 629–634. https://doi.org/10.1136/ bmj.315.7109.629.
- European Medicines Agency, 2021a. First COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Children Aged 12 to 15 in EU. https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/first-covid-19-vaccineapproved-children-aged-12-15-eu.
- European Medicines Agency, 2021b. COVID-19 Vaccine Spikevax Approved for Children Aged 12 to 17 in EU. https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/covid-19-vaccine-spi kevax-approved-children-aged-12-17-eu.
- Evans, S., Klas, A., Mikocka-Walus, A., German, B., Rogers, G.D., Ling, M., Fernando, J.
 W., Kothe, E., Westrupp, E.M., 2021. "Poison" or "protection"? A mixed methods exploration of Australian parents' COVID-19 vaccination intentions. J. Psychosom. Res. 150, 110626 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2021.110626.
- Funk, C., Tyson, A., 2021. Growing share of Americans say they plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine – or already have. Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/scie nce/2021/03/05/growing-share-of-americans-say-they-plan-to-get-a-covid-19-vacci ne-or-already-have/.
- Galanis, P., Vraka, I., Fragkou, D., Bilali, A., Kaitelidou, D., 2021. Intention of health care workers to accept COVID-19 vaccination and related factors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Asian Pac. J. Trop. Dis. 14, 543–554. https://doi.org/10.4103/1995-7645.332808.
- Galanis, P., Vraka, I., Siskou, O., Konstantakopoulou, O., Katsiroumpa, A., Kaitelidou, D., 2021a. Predictors of COVID-19 vaccination uptake and reasons for decline of vaccination: a systematic review [Preprint] Public and Global Health.. https://doi. org/10.1101/2021.07.28.21261261.
- Galanis, P., Vraka, I., Siskou, O., Konstantakopoulou, O., Katsiroumpa, A., Moisoglou, I., Kaitelidou, D., 2021b. Predictors of parents' intention to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 in Greece: a cross-sectional study [Preprint] Public and Global Health.. https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.09.27.21264183.
- Gendler, Y., Ofri, L., 2021. Investigating the influence of vaccine literacy, vaccine perception and vaccine hesitancy on Israeli Parents' acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine for their children: a cross-sectional study. Vaccines 9 (12), 1391. https://doi. org/10.3390/vaccines9121391.
- Gilkey, M.B., McRee, A.-L., Brewer, N.T., 2013. Forgone vaccination during childhood and adolescence: findings of a statewide survey of parents. Prev. Med. 56 (3–4), 202–206. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2012.12.019.
- Goldman, R.D., Yan, T.D., Seiler, M., Parra Cotanda, C., Brown, J.C., Klein, E.J., Hoeffe, J., Gelernter, R., Hall, J.E., Davis, A.L., Griffiths, M.A., Mater, A., Manzano, S., Gualco, G., Shimizu, N., Hurt, T.L., Ahmed, S., Hansen, M., Sheridan, D., Staubli, G., 2020. Caregiver willingness to vaccinate their children against COVID-19: Cross sectional survey. Vaccine 38 (48), 7668–7673. https://doi. org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.09.084.
- Graham, B.S., 2020. Rapid COVID-19 vaccine development. Science (New York, N.Y.) 368 (6494), 945–946. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abb8923.
- Gualano, M.R., Bert, F., Voglino, G., Buttinelli, E., D'Errico, M.M., De Waure, C., Di Giovanni, P., Fantini, M.P., Giuliani, A.R., Marranzano, M., Masanotti, G., Massimi, A., Nante, N., Pennino, F., Squeri, R., Stefanati, A., Signorelli, C., Siliquini, R., Castaldi, S., Zappalà, G., 2018. Attitudes towards compulsory vaccination in Italy: results from the NAVIDAD multicentre study. Vaccine 36 (23), 3368–3374. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2018.04.029.

- Gust, D.A., Woodruff, R., Kennedy, A., Brown, C., Sheedy, K., Hibbs, B., 2003. Parental perceptions surrounding risks and benefits of immunization. Semin. Pediatr. Infect. Dis. 14 (3), 207–212. https://doi.org/10.1016/s1045-1870(03)00035-9.
- Hamel, L., Kirzinger, A., Lopes, L., Sparks, G., Kearney, A., Stokes, M., Brodie, M., 2021. KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: May 2021. Kaiser Family Foundation. htt ps://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/kff-covid-19-vaccine-monitormay-2021/
- Health Canada, 2021. Health Canada Authorizes Use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Children 12 to 15 Years of Age. https://www.canada.ca/en/health-can ada/news/2021/05/health-canada-authorizes-use-of-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19vaccine-in-children-12-to-15-years-of-age.html.
- Hetherington, E., Edwards, S.A., MacDonald, S.E., Racine, N., Madigan, S., McDonald, S., Tough, S., 2021. SARS-CoV-2 vaccination intentions among mothers of children aged 9 to 12 years: a survey of the All Our Families cohort. CMAJ Open 9 (2), E548–E555. https://doi.org/10.9778/cmajo.20200302.
- Higgins, J.P.T., 2003. Measuring inconsistency in meta-analyses. BMJ 327 (7414), 557–560. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.327.7414.557.
- Humble, R.M., Sell, H., Dubé, E., MacDonald, N.E., Robinson, J., Driedger, S.M., Sadarangani, M., Meyer, S.B., Wilson, S., Benzies, K.M., Lemaire-Paquette, S., MacDonald, S.E., 2021. Canadian parents' perceptions of COVID-19 vaccination and intention to vaccinate their children: results from a cross-sectional national survey. Vaccine 39 (52), 7669–7676. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.10.002.
- Jaca, A., Iwu-Jaja, C.J., Balakrishna, Y., Pienaar, E., Wiysonge, C.S., 2021. A global bibliometric analysis of research productivity on vaccine hesitancy from 1974 to 2019. Human Vaccines Immunotherapeutics 1–7. https://doi.org/10.1080/ 21645515.2021.1903294.
- Jeffs, E., Lucas, N., Walls, T., 2021. COVID-19: Parent and caregiver concerns about reopening New Zealand schools. J. Paediatr. Child Health 57 (3), 403–408. https:// doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15234.
- Kelly, B.J., Southwell, B.G., McCormack, L.A., Bann, C.M., MacDonald, P.D.M., Frasier, A.M., Bevc, C.A., Brewer, N.T., Squiers, L.B., 2021. Predictors of willingness to get a COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. BMC Infect. Dis. 21 (1), 338. https://doi.org/ 10.1186/s12879-021-06023-9.
- Kempe, A., Saville, A.W., Albertin, C., Zimet, G., Breck, A., Helmkamp, L., Vangala, S., Dickinson, L.M., Rand, C., Humiston, S., Szilagyi, P.G., 2020. Parental hesitancy about routine childhood and influenza vaccinations: a national survey. Pediatrics 146 (1), e20193852. https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-3852.
- Kezhong, A., Lu, X., Wang, J., Hu, L., Li, B., Lu, Y., 2021. Association between adult vaccine hesitancy and parental acceptance of childhood COVID-19 vaccines: a webbased survey in a northwestern region in China. Vaccines 9 (10), 1088. https://doi. org/10.3390/vaccines9101088.
- Lackner, C.L., Wang, C.H., 2021. Demographic, psychological, and experiential correlates of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination intentions in a sample of Canadian families. Vaccine: X 8, 100091. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvacx.2021.100091.
- Lee, G.M., Bell, B.P., Romero, J.R., 2020. The advisory committee on immunization practices and its role in the pandemic vaccine response. JAMA 324 (6), 546–547. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.13167.
- Lin, L., Sun, R., Yao, T., Zhou, X., Harbarth, S., 2020a. Factors influencing inappropriate use of antibiotics in outpatient and community settings in China: a mixed-methods systematic review. BMJ Glob. Health 5 (11), e003599. https://doi.org/10.1136/ bmieh-2020-003599.
- Lin, C., Tu, P., Beitsch, L.M., 2020b. Confidence and receptivity for COVID-19 vaccines: a rapid systematic review. Vaccines 9 (1), 16. https://doi.org/10.3390/ vaccines9010016.
- Luo, C., Yang, Y., Liu, Y., Zheng, D., Shao, L., Jin, J., He, Q., 2021. Intention to COVID-19 vaccination and associated factors among health care workers: a systematic review and meta-analysis of cross-sectional studies. Am. J. Infect. Control S0196-6553 (21). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2021.06.020, 00460-0.
- Mahase, E., 2021. Covid-19: Hospital admission 50-70% less likely with omicron than delta, but transmission a major concern. BMJ, n3151. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj. n3151.
- Malik, A.A., McFadden, S.M., Elharake, J., Omer, S.B., 2020. Determinants of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in the US. EClinicalMedicine 26, 100495. https://doi.org/ 10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100495.
- Martin, C.A., Jenkins, D.R., Minhas, J.S., Gray, L.J., Tang, J., Williams, C., Sze, S., Pan, D., Jones, W., Verma, R., Knapp, S., Major, R., Davies, M., Brunskill, N., Wiselka, M., Brightling, C., Khunti, K., Haldar, P., Pareek, M., Leicester COVID-19 consortium., 2020. Socio-demographic heterogeneity in the prevalence of COVID-19 during lockdown is associated with ethnicity and household size: Results from an observational cohort study. EClinicalMedicine 25, 100466. https://doi.org/ 10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100466.
- McKinnon, B., Quach, C., Dubé, È., Nguyen, C.T., Zinszer, K., 2021. Social inequalities in COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and uptake for children and adolescents in Montreal, Canada: a cross-sectional study [Preprint] Epidemiology. https://doi.org/10.1101/ 2021.05.08.21256831.
- Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., Altman, D.G., The PRISMA Group, 2009. Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement. PLoS Med. 6 (7), e1000097 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000097.
- Montalti, M., Rallo, F., Guaraldi, F., Bartoli, L., Po, G., Stillo, M., Perrone, P., Squillace, L., Dallolio, L., Pandolfi, P., Resi, D., Fantini, M.P., Reno, C., Gori, D., 2021. Would parents get their children vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2? Rate and predictors of vaccine hesitancy according to a survey over 5000 families from Bologna, Italy. Vaccines 9 (4), 366. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9040366.
- Musa, S., Dergaa, I., Abdulmalik, M.A., Ammar, A., Chamari, K., Saad, H.B., 2021. BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among parents of 4023 young adolescents

(12-15 Years) in Qatar. Vaccines 9 (9), 981. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9090981.

- Neumann-Böhme, S., Varghese, N.E., Sabat, I., Barros, P.P., Brouwer, W., van Exel, J., Schreyögg, J., Stargardt, T., 2020. Once we have it, will we use it? A European survey on willingness to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Eur. J. Health Econ. HEPAC: Health Econ. Prev. Care 21 (7), 977–982. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10198-020-01208-6.
- Nyhan, B., Reifler, J., 2015. Does correcting myths about the flu vaccine work? An experimental evaluation of the effects of corrective information. Vaccine 33 (3), 459–464. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2014.11.017.
- Nyhan, B., Reifler, J., Richey, S., Freed, G., 2014. Effective messages in vaccine promotion: a randomized trial. Pediatrics 133 (4), e835–e842. https://doi.org/ 10.1542/peds.2013-2365.
- Opel, D.J., Diekema, D.S., Lee, N.R., Marcuse, E.K., 2009. Social marketing as a strategy to increase immunization rates. Arch. Pediatr. Adolesc. Med. 163 (5), 432. https:// doi.org/10.1001/archpediatrics.2009.42.
- Opel, D.J., Taylor, J.A., Mangione-Smith, R., Solomon, C., Zhao, C., Catz, S., Martin, D., 2011. Validity and reliability of a survey to identify vaccine-hesitant parents. Vaccine 29 (38), 6598–6605. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2011.06.115.
- Ouellette, J.A., Wood, W., 1998. Habit and intention in everyday life: the multiple processes by which past behavior predicts future behavior. Psychol. Bull. 124 (1), 54–74. https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.124.1.54.
- Padhi, B.K., Satapathy, P., Rajagopal, V., Rustagi, N., Vij, J., Jain, L., Chakrapani, V., Patro, B., Kar, S.S., Singh, R., Pala, S., Sankhe, L., Modi, B., Bali, S., Kiran, T., Goel, K., Aggarwal, A.K., Gupta, M., 2021. Parents' perceptions and intention to vaccinate their children against COVID-19: results from a cross-sectional national survey in India [Preprint] Public Global Health. https://doi.org/10.1101/ 2021.10.30.21265449.
- Peckham, H., de Gruijter, N.M., Raine, C., Radziszewska, A., Ciurtin, C., Wedderburn, L. R., Rosser, E.C., Webb, K., Deakin, C.T., 2020. Male sex identified by global COVID-19 meta-analysis as a risk factor for death and ITU admission. Nat. Commun. 11 (1), 6317. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-19741-6.
- Robinson, E., Jones, A., Lesser, I., Daly, M., 2021. International estimates of intended uptake and refusal of COVID-19 vaccines: a rapid systematic review and metaanalysis of large nationally representative samples. Vaccine 39 (15), 2024–2034. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.02.005.
- Rubin, G.J., Potts, H.W.W., Michie, S., 2011. Likely uptake of swine and seasonal flu vaccines among healthcare workers. A cross-sectional analysis of UK telephone survey data. Vaccine 29 (13), 2421–2428. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. vaccine.2011.01.035.
- Ruggiero, K.M., Wong, J., Sweeney, C.F., Avola, A., Auger, A., Macaluso, M., Reidy, P., 2021. Parents' intentions to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. J. Pediatr. Health Care. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2021.04.005. Scopus.
- Ruiz, J.B., Bell, R.A., 2021. Predictors of intention to vaccinate against COVID-19: Results of a nationwide survey. Vaccine 39 (7), 1080–1086. https://doi.org/ 10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.01.010.
- Santos, W.M. dos, Secoli, S.R., Püschel, V.A. de A., 2018. The Joanna Briggs Institute approach for systematic reviews. Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem 26. https://doi.org/10.1590/1518-8345.2885.3074.
- Schaffer DeRoo, S., Pudalov, N.J., Fu, L.Y., 2020. Planning for a COVID-19 vaccination program. JAMA 323 (24), 2458. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.8711.
- Scherer, L.D., Shaffer, V.A., Patel, N., Zikmund-Fisher, B.J., 2016. Can the vaccine adverse event reporting system be used to increase vaccine acceptance and trust? Vaccine 34 (21), 2424–2429. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2016.03.087.
- Scherer, A.M., Gedlinske, A.M., Parker, A.M., Gidengil, C.A., Askelson, N.M., Petersen, C. A., Woodworth, K.R., Lindley, M.C., 2021. Acceptability of adolescent COVID-19 vaccination among adolescents and parents of adolescents—United States, April 15–23, 2021. Morb. Mortal. Wkly Rep. 70 (29), 997–1003 (Scopus).
- Schrading, W.A., Trent, S.A., Paxton, J.H., Rodriguez, R.M., Swanson, M.B., Mohr, N.M., Talan, D.A., Project COVERED Emergency Department Network, 2021. Vaccination rates and acceptance of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination among U.S. emergency department health care personnel. Acad. Emerg. Med. 28 (4), 455–458. https://doi.org/ 10.1111/acem.14236.
- Schwarzer, R., Hamilton, K., 2020. Changing behavior using the health action process approach. In: Hagger, M.S., Cameron, L.D., Hamilton, K., Hankonen, N., Lintunen, T. (Eds.), The Handbook of Behavior Change, 1st ed. Cambridge University Press, pp. 89–103. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108677318.007.
- Schwarzinger, M., Watson, V., Arwidson, P., Alla, F., Luchini, S., 2021. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in a representative working-age population in France: a survey experiment based on vaccine characteristics. Lancet Public Health 6 (4), e210–e221. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(21)00012-8.
- Setbon, M., Raude, J., 2010. Factors in vaccination intention against the pandemic influenza A/H1N1. Eur. J. Public Health 20 (5), 490–494. https://doi.org/10.1093/ eurpub/ckq054.
- Shmueli, L., 2021. Parents' intention to vaccinate their 5-11 years old children with the COVID-19 vaccine: rates, predictors and the role of incentives [Preprint] Health Policy.. https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.11.05.21265900.
- Shui, I.M., Weintraub, E.S., Gust, D.A., 2006. Parents concerned about vaccine safety: differences in race/ethnicity and attitudes. Am. J. Prev. Med. 31 (3), 244–251. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2006.04.006.
- Skjefte, M., Ngirbabul, M., Akeju, O., Escudero, D., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Wyszynski, D.F., Wu, J.W., 2021. COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among pregnant women and mothers of young children: results of a survey in 16 countries. Eur. J. Epidemiol. 36 (2), 197–211. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-021-00728-6.

- Smith, P.J., Chu, S.Y., Barker, L.E., 2004. Children who have received no vaccines: who are they and where do they live? Pediatrics 114 (1), 187–195. https://doi.org/ 10.1542/peds.114.1.187.
- Smith, P.J., Humiston, S.G., Marcuse, E.K., Zhao, Z., Dorell, C.G., Howes, C., Hibbs, B., 2011. Parental delay or refusal of vaccine doses, childhood vaccination coverage at 24 months of age, and the Health Belief Model. Public Health Rep. (Wash. D.C.: 1974) 126 (Suppl. 2), 135–146. https://doi.org/10.1177/0033549111260S215.
- Snehota, M., Vlckova, J., Cizkova, K., Vachutka, J., Kolarova, H., Klaskova, E., Kollarova, H., 2021. Acceptance of a vaccine against COVID-19—A systematic review of surveys conducted worldwide. Bratisl. Lek. Listy 122 (8), 538–547. https://doi.org/10.4149/BLL 2021 086.
- Sokol, R.L., Grummon, A.H., 2020. COVID-19 and parent intention to vaccinate their children against influenza. Pediatrics 146 (6), Scopus. https://doi.org/10.1542/ peds.2020-022871.
- Sze, S., Pan, D., Nevill, C.R., Gray, L.J., Martin, C.A., Nazareth, J., Minhas, J.S., Divall, P., Khunti, K., Abrams, K.R., Nellums, L.B., Pareek, M., 2020. Ethnicity and clinical outcomes in COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. EClinicalMedicine 29, 100630. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100630.
- Szilagyi, P.G., Shah, M.D., Delgado, J.R., Thomas, K., Vizueta, N., Cui, Y., Vangala, S., Shetgiri, R., Kapteyn, A., 2021. Parents' intentions and perceptions about COVID-19 vaccination for their children: results from a national survey. Pediatrics. https://doi. org/10.1542/peds.2021-052335.
- Tanne, J.H., 2021. Covid-19: Cases in children rise sharply in US as doctors call for vaccine approval. BMJ, n2030. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n2030.
- Teasdale, C.A., Borrell, L.N., Kimball, S., Rinke, M.L., Rane, M., Fleary, S.A., Nash, D., 2021. Plans to vaccinate children for COVID-19: a survey of us parents. J. Pediatr. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.07.021.
- Temsah, M.-H., Alhuzaimi, A.N., Aljamaan, F., Bahkali, F., Al-Eyadhy, A., Alrabiaah, A., Alhaboob, A., Bashiri, F.A., Alshaer, A., Temsah, O., Bassrawi, R., Alshahrani, F., Chaiah, Y., Alaraj, A., Assiri, R.A., Jamal, A., Batais, M.A., Saddik, B., Halwani, R., Alhasan, K., 2021. Parental attitudes and hesitancy about COVID-19 vs. routine childhood vaccinations: a national survey. Front. Public Health 9, 752323. https:// doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.752323.
- Torun, S.D., Torun, F., Catak, B., 2010. Healthcare workers as parents: attitudes toward vaccinating their children against pandemic influenza A/H1N1. BMC Public Health 10 (1), 596. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-10-596.
- Urrunaga-Pastor, D., Herrera-Añazco, P., Uyen-Cateriano, A., Toro-Huamanchumo, C.J., Rodriguez-Morales, A.J., Hernandez, A.V., Benites-Zapata, V.A., Bendezu-Quispe, G., 2021. Prevalence and factors associated with parents' non-intention to vaccinate their children and adolescents against COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Vaccines 9 (11), 1303. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9111303.
- Voysey, M., Clemens, S.A.C., Madhi, S.A., Weckx, L.Y., Folegatti, P.M., Aley, P.K., Angus, B., Baillie, V.L., Barnabas, S.L., Bhorat, Q.E., Bibi, S., Briner, C., Cicconi, P., Collins, A.M., Colin-Jones, R., Cutland, C.L., Darton, T.C., Dheda, K., Duncan, C.J.A., Oxford COVID Vaccine Trial Group, 2021. Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK. Lancet (London, England) 397 (10269), 99–111. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32661-1.
- Wake, A.D., 2021. The willingness to receive COVID-19 vaccine and its associated factors: "vaccination refusal could prolong the war of this pandemic" – a systematic review. Risk Manag. Healthcare Policy 14, 2609–2623. https://doi.org/10.2147/ RMHP.S311074.
- Wallace, B.C., Schmid, C.H., Lau, J., Trikalinos, T.A., 2009. Meta-analyst: software for meta-analysis of binary, continuous and diagnostic data. BMC Med. Res. Methodol. 9 (1), 80. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-9-80.
- Wang, Q., Xiu, S., Zhao, S., Wang, J., Han, Y., Dong, S., Huang, J., Cui, T., Yang, L., Shi, N., Liu, M., Han, Y., Wang, X., Shen, Y., Chen, E., Lu, B., Jin, H., Lin, L., 2021a. Vaccine hesitancy: COVID-19 and influenza vaccine willingness among parents in Wuxi, China—a cross-sectional study. VACCINES 9 (4). https://doi.org/10.3390/ vaccines9040342
- Wang, Q., Yang, L., Jin, H., Lin, L., 2021b. Vaccination against COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis of acceptability and its predictors. Prev. Med. 150, 106694 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2021.106694.
- Williams, W.W., Lu, P.-J., O'Halloran, A., Kim, D.K., Grohskopf, L.A., Pilishvili, T., Skoff, T.H., Nelson, N.P., Harpaz, R., Markowitz, L.E., Rodriguez-Lainz, A., Fiebelkorn, A.P., 2017. Surveillance of vaccination coverage among adult populations—United States, 2015. Morb. Mortal. Weekly Rep. Surveill. Summ. (Wash. D.C.: 2002) 66 (11), 1–28. https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6611a1.
- Wiysonge, C.S., Ndwandwe, D., Ryan, J., Jaca, A., Batouré, O., Anya, B.-P.M., Cooper, S., 2021. Vaccine hesitancy in the era of COVID-19: could lessons from the past help in divining the future? Human Vaccines Immunotherapeutics 1–3. https://doi.org/ 10.1080/21645515.2021.1893062.
- Xu, B., Gao, X., Zhang, X., Hu, Y., Yang, H., Zhou, Y.-H., 2021a. Real-world acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines among healthcare workers in perinatal medicine in China. Vaccines 9 (7), 704. https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9070704.
- Xu, Y., Xu, D., Luo, L., Ma, F., Wang, P., Li, H., Li, Q., Wei, L., Diao, J., Liu, Y., Zhang, W., Zheng, X., 2021b. A cross-sectional survey on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among parents from shandong vs. Zhejiang. Front. Public Health 9, 779720. https://doi. org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.779720.
- Xu, Y., Zhang, R., Zhou, Z., Fan, J., Liang, J., Cai, L., Peng, L., Ren, F., Lin, W., 2021c. Parental psychological distress and attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination: a crosssectional survey in Shenzhen, China. J. Affect. Disord. 292, 552–558. Scopus. htt ps://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2021.06.003.
- Yigit, M., Ozkaya-Parlakay, A., Senel, E., 2021. Evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine refusal in parents. Pediatr. Infect. Dis. J. 40 (4), E134–E136. https://doi.org/10.1097/ INF.0000000000003042.

- Yilmaz, M., Sahin, M., 2021. Parents' willingness and attitudes concerning the COVID-19 vaccine: a cross-sectional study. Int. J. Clin. Pract. https://doi.org/10.1111/ ijcp.14364.
- Yılmazbaş, N.P., Terzi, O., Ozceker, D., 2021. Did Covid-19 pandemic changed parents' approach to vaccination? Erciyes Med. J. 43 (2), 130–134. https://doi.org/ 10.14744/etd.2020.85451.
- Zhang, K.C., Fang, Y., Cao, H., Chen, H., Hu, T., Chen, Y.Q., Zhou, X., Wang, Z., 2020.
 Parental acceptability of COVID-19 vaccination for children under the age of 18 years: cross-sectional online survey. JMIR Pediatr. Parenting 3 (2), Scopus. https://doi.org/10.2196/24827.
 Zhou, Y., Zhang, J., Wu, W., Liang, M., Wu, Q.-S., 2021. Willingness to receive future
- Zhou, Y., Zhang, J., Wu, W., Liang, M., Wu, Q.-S., 2021. Willingness to receive future COVID-19 vaccines following the COVID-19 epidemic in Shanghai, China. BMC Public Health 21 (1), 1103. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11174-0.