

Public Trust in Vaccines and Its Implications for Global Health Security: A Study of Perception, Barriers, and Compliance in Jikwoyi-Abuja, Nigeria

Josepha Jummai Saduwa*· John Bimba

Department of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care

*Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Vaccine hesitancy remains a growing public health challenge globally and in Nigeria, threatening progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 - good health and wellbeing. Despite free vaccine availability, misinformation, socio-cultural beliefs and low trust in the health care system continue to limit vaccine uptake, given the heavy burden of infectious diseases in our region, the emergence of needed new vaccine, and the absence of vaccine dynamics data in this region of Nigeria. This study examines public trust in vaccines and its implications for global health security, focusing on community perception, barriers and compliance in Jikwoyi, Abuja. The study adopted a mixed-method approach. Quantitative data were collected from 242 adult residents using structured questionnaires. While 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants (community members, health workers and religious leaders). Data were analyzed using SPSS version 27 for descriptive and inferential statistics and Qualitative data were analyzed thematically. The findings showed that of the 242 respondents, (44%) were fully compliant, (35%) partially compliant and (21%) non-compliant with vaccination schedules. Trust was significantly associated with compliance ($p < 0.05$); respondents with higher trust levels were 10-15% more likely to complete vaccination schedules. Major barriers included misinformation 33%, limited access (22%), fear of side effects (19%) and Religious and cultural influence (13%). Qualitative findings revealed that Misinformation, healthcare system barriers and economic hardship reinforce vaccine hesitancy. Study concludes that public trust strongly influences vaccine compliance in Jikwoyi-Abuja. Even where vaccines are free and accessible, misinformation and healthcare system barriers reduce uptake. Strengthening community engagement, transparent communication and trust-based interventions is essential to improve vaccine uptake and sustain global health security.

Keywords: Public Trust, Vaccine Hesitancy, Perception, Barriers & Compliance, Global Health Security

