

# Acceptance of a pandemic influenza vaccine: a systematic review of surveys of the general public

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**Introduction:** The effectiveness of pandemic vaccine campaigns such as the H1N1 vaccine rollout is dependent on both the vaccines' effectiveness and the general public's willingness to be vaccinated. It is therefore critical to understand the factors that influence the decision of members of the public whether to get vaccinated with new, emergently released vaccines.

**Methods:** A systematic review of English language quantitative surveys was conducted to identify consistent predictors of the decision to accept or decline any (pre)pandemic vaccine, including the H1N1 influenza A vaccine. A total of ten studies were included in this review and all pertained to the 2009 H1N1 influenza A pandemic. Respondents' willingness to receive a pandemic vaccine ranged from 8%–67% across the ten studies. The factors reported to be consistent predictors of the intention to vaccinate were: risk of infection, proximity or severity of the public health event, severity of personal consequences resulting from the illness, harm or adverse events from the vaccine, acceptance of previous vaccination, and ethnicity. Age and sex were the demographic variables examined most frequently across the ten studies and there was no consistent association between these variables and the intention to accept or reject a pandemic vaccine.

**Conclusion:** Some predictors of the intention to accept or decline a (pre)pandemic vaccine or the H1N1 influenza A vaccine are consistently identified by surveys. Understanding the important factors influencing the acceptance of a pandemic vaccine by individual members of the public may help inform strategies to improve vaccine uptake during future pandemics.

**Keywords:** pandemic, H1N1 influenza A, emergent vaccine, personal risk, demographic

## Introduction

The release of a pandemic vaccine to protect individuals from H1N1 was an unprecedented undertaking for many nations across the world. The development-to-implementation process of a new, emergency-released vaccine like the H1N1 vaccine differs in many ways from that of established vaccines, such as the seasonal influenza vaccine. Given the urgent need for a vaccine during the H1N1 pandemic or similar emergency situations, a vaccine must be developed and distributed in an efficient and timely manner to reduce the overall public health burden of the disease. Furthermore, a large portion of the population must be vaccinated within a short period to maximize the benefits of the vaccine. Vaccination campaigns that are successful in encouraging the general public to get vaccinated can help reduce the morbidity and mortality related to the emerging disease. Understanding the factors that influence decisions made by individual members of the public to accept or decline an emergency-released

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vaccine such as the H1N1 vaccine can help public health officials in preparedness planning and management activities for future infectious disease outbreaks.

Several surveys have examined the factors that influenced the uptake of the H1N1 vaccine. A systematic review of the published survey literature was conducted to synthesize the data from these studies and identify barriers and facilitators to vaccination that were consistently identified across studies.

## Methods

### Search strategy

A systematic search of the literature for all articles was conducted on July 26, 2010 using the MEDLINE (Ovid interface: January 1950 to July 26, 2010), EMBASE (Ovid interface: 1947 to July 26, 2010), and PsycINFO (Ovid interface: 1806 to July 26, 2010) databases. The search strategy for the MEDLINE database was based on medical subject headings and keywords. The research librarian ensured that the coding was as inclusive and exhaustive as possible and provided guidance in transporting the search strategy into other databases. The search strategy combined terms that represented attitudes, perceptions, and barriers and facilitators with “H1N1 influenza” and “pandemic vaccine.” The searches were supplemented by a review of the references of key articles on the topic. The full search strategies are presented in the Appendix.

### Study selection

All abstracts generated by the searches were added to a database and duplicates were removed prior to screening. Two reviewers independently screened the abstracts for eligibility. Agreement between reviewers on the selection of studies was compared using a Kappa score. All English articles that met the following criteria were included in the final meta-synthesis: sampled the general public and not a specific population; examined H1N1 pandemic, or swine flu, or other prepandemic vaccines and vaccination/immunization; examined personal intention or willingness to get vaccinated, or actual vaccination rate, or barriers and/or predictors of intention to personally receive or having received the vaccination; obtained data through a quantitative survey.

Any disagreement between the reviewers was discussed and resolved by consensus. In cases where consensus was not achieved, a third reviewer addressed any discrepancies that arose.

### Data abstraction

Two reviewers independently extracted data from the eligible studies and a third addressed any discrepancies that arose. From a preliminary review of the articles, the two reviewers developed a coding template, using the constant comparative method.<sup>1</sup> The factors influencing vaccine use identified in the studies were categorized using this coding template, which consisted of broad headings termed “themes,” and subheadings termed “categories.”<sup>2</sup> The reviewers conducted a second review of the articles to extract quantitative survey data pertaining to the themes in the coding template. The quantitative data extracted from the studies had to meet one of the following criteria of significance; either: odds ratio (OR) values with a *P*-value of <0.05, or when a *P*-value is not provided the 95% confidence interval must not include the value of 1, or the factors were indicated by the author(s) of the study to be statistically significant. If both univariate and multivariate analyses were available, data from the multivariate analyses were preferentially extracted. When the data were presented as percentage values, the top three responses for a given question were reported. The authors of all the studies included in the analysis were emailed and requested to review the information that was extracted to help ensure that the data extracted represented the data and results presented in the authors’ respective publications.

### Statistical analysis

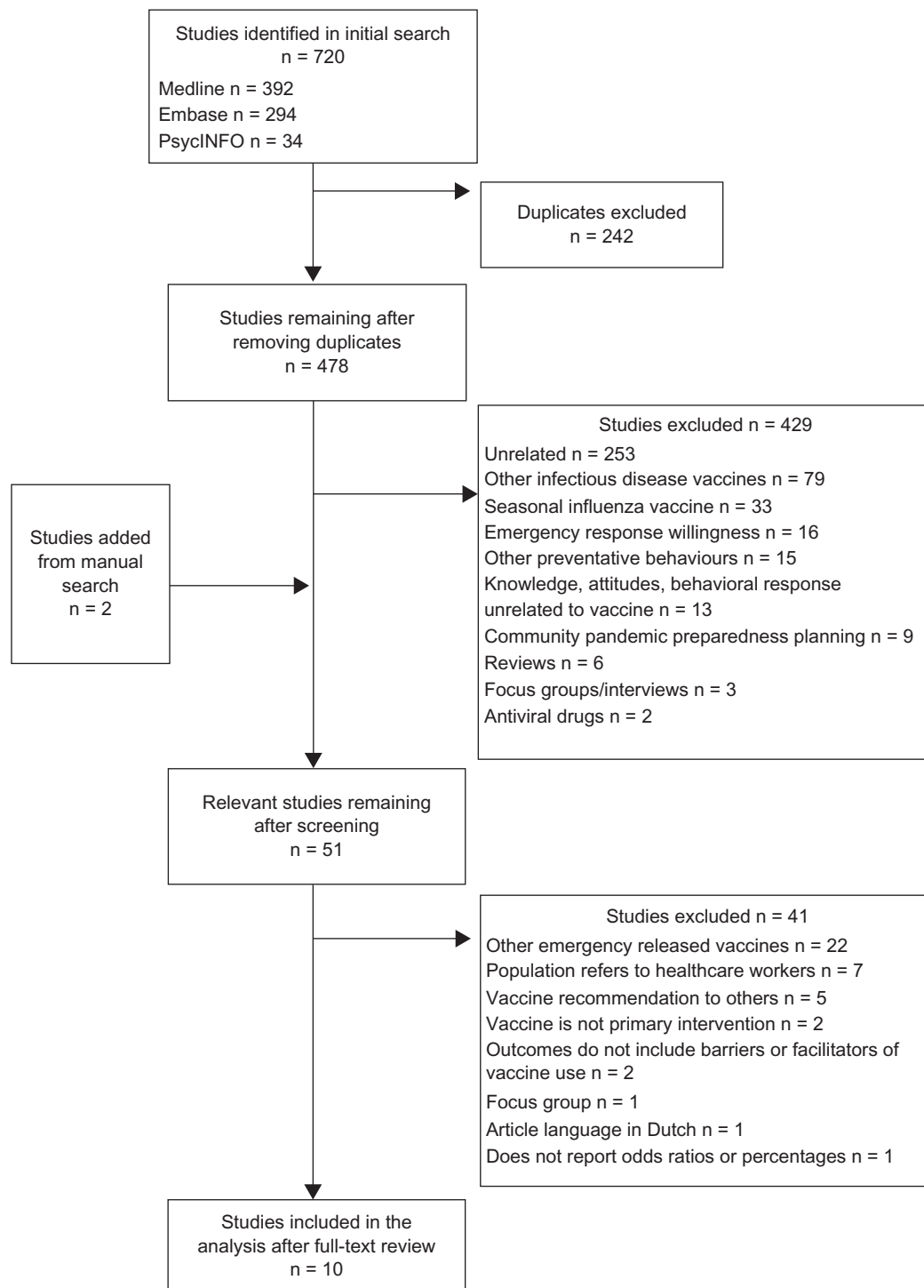
Kappa scores were calculated to determine chance-adjusted interobserver agreement in the abstract and study selection processes. Due to the heterogeneity of the populations and survey methods covered by the studies included in the review, as well as a lack of guidelines on combining survey data, a meta-analysis was not conducted.

## Results

### Study selection and characteristics

The search strategy yielded 720 abstracts and titles (Figure 1). Of these, 51 studies met selection criteria and the full articles were pulled for further analysis. A total of ten studies met the final inclusion criteria and were included in the systematic review. There was excellent agreement between the two reviewers for the initial screening of the abstracts ( $\kappa = 0.97$ ) and the final articles ( $\kappa = 1.00$ ).

The characteristics of the studies included in the review are summarized in Table 1. The studies included in the analysis surveyed the general population of adults aged  $\geq 18$  years, except for one study that surveyed participants



**Figure 1** Flow diagram of selection of studies for the systematic review.

aged  $\geq 16$  years.<sup>3</sup> The methods of survey administration included telephone surveys (n = 4), online surveys (n = 3), paper-based surveys (n = 2), and one survey was conducted in person. Five of the surveys were self-administered.<sup>4-8</sup> The sample size of the ten studies ranged from 207<sup>9</sup> to 5175<sup>3</sup> respondents. The response rate for the surveys ranged from

8%<sup>3</sup> to 80%.<sup>9</sup> Three studies were conducted in the USA,<sup>4,5,9</sup> four were conducted in Europe,<sup>3,6,8,10</sup> two studies took place in Australia,<sup>7,11</sup> and one in Hong Kong.<sup>12</sup> All of the studies took place during the H1N1 influenza A pandemic. Five of these surveys were administered before the availability of the H1N1 vaccine in the respective countries.<sup>3,5,7,9,12</sup>

**Table 1** Summary of the characteristics of the studies included in the review

Study	Year	Country	n	Time of survey administration (date)	Survey administration method	Survey response rate	Characteristics of participants	Outcome measures	Participants' willingness to receive pandemic vaccine
Quinn et al <sup>5</sup>	2009	USA	1543	Before the approval of the vaccine (June 3–July 6, 2009)	Online survey, self-administered	62%	Adults aged $\geq 18$ years	Willingness to accept an unapproved vaccine and (EUA) drug, perceived susceptibility, risk severity of H1N1 flu, level of trust in government handling outbreak	8.7%
Sypsa et al <sup>10</sup>	2009	Greece	1000 per week	(Last week of August–November 1, 2009)	Telephone survey	Not reported	Not specified	Acceptability of the pandemic influenza A(H1N1) vaccine, demographic factors associated with intention to decline as well as stated reasons for declining vaccination	9.1%–22.9% depending on the week of the survey
Eastwood et al <sup>11</sup>	2010	Australia	830	During pandemic (August 20–September 11, 2009)	Computer assisted telephone interviews by interviewers	72%	Adults aged $\geq 18$ years	Expectations of being offered vaccine, willingness to accept vaccination, concerns regarding safety and side effects, convenience of clinic locations, willingness to share with developing countries	67%
Horney et al <sup>9</sup>	2010	USA	207	Before vaccine availability for distribution (August 28–29, 2009)	In-person structured interviews by interviewers	80%	Adults aged 18–92 years	Intention to be vaccinated, reasons to receive or refuse, concern about disease, knowledge of the vaccine, conditions facilitate or hinder compliance with social distancing, intention to vaccinate children	64%
Lau et al <sup>12</sup>	2010	Hong Kong	301	Before availability of vaccine (July 2–8, 2009)	Telephone by interviewers	79.6%	Adults aged 18–60 years	Intention to receive H1N1 vaccine under several hypothetical scenarios: 3 different prices for vaccine, availability of data on safety and efficacy; knowledge of beliefs about transmission, perceptions related to disease	15%–45% for different prices of the vaccine; 5% for absence of data on efficacy and safety
Maurer et al <sup>4</sup>	2010	USA	3917	After 2009 vaccination season (March 4–24, 2010)	Online survey, self-administered	74%	Adults aged $\geq 18$ years	Vaccine uptake; perceptions of seriousness; perceptions of safety and value of the vaccine; association with various information sources used in adults' vaccination decisions	20% self-reported uptake rate

Rubin et al <sup>3</sup>	2010	UK	5175 (intention to accept the H1N1 vaccine)	Before swine flu vaccination campaign (May 8–September 13, 2009)	Telephone by interviewers	8%–11%	Participants aged $\geq 16$ + years	Likely vaccine uptake, worry/perceptions of flu, information heard about flu, personal/health-related variables	56.1%
Schwarzinger et al <sup>6</sup>	2010	France	2167	During mass vaccination campaign (November 17–25, 2009)	Online survey, self-administered	12%	Adults aged 18–64 years	Socio-demographic characteristics; behaviors/attitudes towards vaccination; risk perception of threat associated with disease	17%
Seale et al <sup>7</sup>	2010	Australia	627	Immediately before availability of vaccine (September 5–October 3, 2009)	Self-administered in person	47%	Adults aged $\geq 18$ years	Perceived risk, seriousness of disease; recent behavioral changes, likely acceptance of vaccine, issues relating to uptake and perceived safety	54.7%
Zijregtop et al <sup>8</sup>	2010	Netherlands	508	One month prior to the first announcement of outbreak of H1N1 in Mexico (April 2009)	Self-administered postal questionnaire	33.9%	Adults aged $\geq 18$ years	Intention to get a pandemic flu vaccine prior to the pandemic 'at this moment' and during a pandemic 'if there is a pandemic'	65.5%

## Intention to vaccinate

The reported willingness of the respondents to receive the pandemic vaccine was evaluated in nine studies and this ranged from 8%<sup>5</sup> to 67%.<sup>11</sup> A study conducted by Maurer and colleagues was conducted after the vaccination campaign and reported an actual vaccination rate of 20% for H1N1 influenza A vaccine in their study population.<sup>4</sup>

### Factors influencing intention to receive vaccination

Table 2 reports the factors identified in the studies that influenced intention or willingness to receive a pandemic vaccine. The factors were categorized under the following themes: personal risk perception, vaccination attitude, communications and information sources, access, demographic variables, and others. The major themes summarized factors that share similarities and these themes are further divided into categories within each theme.

#### Personal risk perception

Nine studies were identified to report data under the theme personal risk perception.<sup>3,5–12</sup> Of these, data on the perception of harm or adverse events from the vaccine were reported in seven studies.<sup>5–7,9–12</sup> Two of the seven studies<sup>5,12</sup> reported ORs of 0.11, 0.33, and 0.36, demonstrating that these concerns were associated with a lower intention to be vaccinated. Among the factors with the largest effect size for the intention to vaccinate was the perception of harm or adverse events from vaccine; in one study, participants who were more worried about the vaccine were 90% less likely to accept the vaccine (OR = 0.11).<sup>5</sup> Five studies reported the perception of harm or adverse events from the vaccine as one of the top three factors influencing the decision to accept or decline the new vaccine.<sup>6,7,9–11</sup> Four studies presented data on factors relating to the perception of the proximity or severity of the public health issues and reported ORs ranging from 1.2 to 2.5, suggesting that this factor increased the intention to vaccinate.<sup>3,6,7,11</sup> Four studies presented data on the perception of the severity of personal consequences from the illness and reported ORs ranging from 1.64 to 3.61.<sup>5,6,8,9</sup> Five studies reported data pertaining to perceptions of the risk of infection with ORs ranging from 1.55 to 4.7.<sup>3,7–10</sup> In one study, participants who had higher levels of worry about personally catching the pandemic flu were almost five times more likely to accept the vaccine (OR = 4.7).<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2** Themes identified as predictors of vaccination with a pandemic vaccine by the general public

	Quinn et al <sup>5</sup>	Sypsa et al <sup>10</sup>	Eastwood et al <sup>11</sup>	Horney et al <sup>9</sup>	Lau et al <sup>12</sup>	Maurer et al <sup>4</sup>	Rubin et al <sup>3</sup>	Schwarzinger et al <sup>6</sup>	Seale et al <sup>7</sup>	Zijregtop et al <sup>8</sup>
Personal risk perception	Proximity/severity of public health issue		1.84				1.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.65	2.5	
	Severity of personal consequences from illness	1.64			3		1.3 <sup>a</sup>	3.61	1	1.9
	Risk of infection		2.72 <sup>b</sup> 3.26 <sup>b</sup>		1		2.2	3	2	4.1
	Harm/adverse events from vaccine	0.11 <sup>d</sup> 0.36 <sup>d</sup>	1	2	2	0.33	4.7	1 2	3	
Vaccination attitude	Acceptance of previous vaccination	3.37 <sup>a</sup> 1.84 <sup>d</sup>	5.03	1.47 <sup>e</sup> 1.27 <sup>e</sup>	3.08 <sup>f</sup>			3.21	2.7	NS
	Belief of vaccine (in)effectiveness or (not) necessary		1		NS				2	1.7
Communications/information sources	Anti-vaccination attitude		3							3.8
	Recommendations from health care professionals					2		4.57 <sup>g</sup>		NS
	Public health messages					3		0.57 <sup>g</sup>		5.0
	Knowledge of disease/vaccine		NS		NS		1.5			1.8
Access	Influence of family and friends				4.04 <sup>f</sup>					
	Priority group							5.09 <sup>h</sup> 1.66 <sup>b</sup>		
Others	Convenience/inconvenience	NS						3		NS
	Financial costs/insurance									
	Vaccine delivery				NS					
	Societal role/responsibility				NS		8.0	2	1	NS
	Self-protection								1.8	
Alternative methods of protection	Government preparedness/Trust in government	NS					1.6			
	Trust in government									
	Employment					1				

**Notes:** Real numbers represent odds ratios (OR); integer refers to a category being reported as one of the top three factors influencing the decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate; bold indicates that the outcome is the intention to vaccinate, while normal type indicates that the outcome is the intention to not vaccinate; <sup>a</sup>proximity and severity of public health issue respectively; <sup>b</sup>varying perception of the likelihood of infection and severity; <sup>c</sup>study reported prevalence ratio instead of odds ratio; <sup>d</sup>answering yes or don't know to various statements relating to vaccination; <sup>e</sup>having received seasonal influenza vaccine previously in different years; <sup>f</sup>midpoint for range of ORs for association with uptake of H1N1 vaccination under different cost scenarios; <sup>g</sup>different levels of advice from healthcare professional; <sup>h</sup>different priority groups: pregnant women, chronic diseases.

**Abbreviation:** NS, no statistical significance in the association between the category and the intention to vaccinate.



### Vaccination attitude

Seven studies were identified to report data under the theme of vaccination attitude.<sup>5-9,11,12</sup> Two studies reported this theme as one of the top three factors influencing the decision to accept or decline the new vaccine.<sup>7,11</sup> Data relating to people's acceptance of previous vaccination on their intention to vaccinate was reported by seven studies<sup>5-9,11,12</sup> and six of these studies reported ORs ranging from 1.27 to 5.03, suggesting that this factor increased the intention to vaccinate.<sup>5-7,9,11,12</sup> Acceptance of previous vaccination was the factor with the largest effect on the intention to vaccinate, with those who accepted previous influenza vaccination shown to be five times more likely to accept a pandemic vaccine (OR = 5.03) in one study.<sup>11</sup> Information on people's belief of vaccine effectiveness or necessity and antivaccination attitude were less consistently reported and only four studies reported data on these two categories.<sup>7,8,11,12</sup>

### Communications and information sources

Seven studies were identified to report data under the theme of communications and information sources.<sup>3,4,6,8-10,12</sup> Within this larger theme the following categories were identified: recommendations from healthcare professionals, public health messages, knowledge of the disease or vaccine, and influence of family and friends. These categories were less consistently reported, with less than three studies reporting on each of the categories. Three of the seven studies reported nonsignificant association between this theme and the intention to vaccinate.<sup>8-10</sup> In one study, recommendations from health care professionals had a large effect on the intention to

vaccinate based on the different levels of advice given by health care professionals. Respondents who received positive advice from a primary care physician for vaccination were more likely to accept the pandemic vaccine (OR = 4.57), and those who did not receive positive advice were more likely to decline the vaccine (OR = 0.57).<sup>6</sup>

### Access

Four studies were identified to report data under the theme of access.<sup>5,6,8,9</sup> Within this broad theme the following categories were identified: priority group, convenience, financial costs/insurance, and vaccine delivery. Three of the four studies reported nonsignificant association between access and the intention to accept a pandemic vaccine.<sup>5,8,9</sup> One study reported an odds ratio of 5.09 for acceptance of a pandemic vaccine for those in a priority group compared to those who were not.<sup>6</sup>

### Demographic variables

The association between demographic variables and intention to accept or decline a pandemic vaccine are summarized in Table 3. Seven of ten studies reported data on the association between age and the intention to accept a pandemic vaccine.<sup>3,6,7,9-12</sup> The association was not significant in three of the seven studies.<sup>7,9,12</sup> Furthermore, there was inconsistency about which age group is more likely to accept a pandemic vaccine for studies reporting significant associations. Eight studies reported on the association between sex and the intention to accept a pandemic vaccine, which was shown to be not significant in five<sup>3,7-9,12</sup> of the eight studies.<sup>3,6-12</sup> Four studies reported on the association

**Table 3** Demographic variables identified as predictors of vaccination with a pandemic vaccine by the general public

	Quinn et al <sup>5</sup>	Sypsa et al <sup>10</sup>	Eastwood et al <sup>11</sup>	Horney et al <sup>9</sup>	Lau et al <sup>12</sup>	Maurer et al <sup>4</sup>	Rubin et al <sup>3</sup>	Schwarzinger et al <sup>6</sup>	Seale et al <sup>7</sup>	Zijtregtop et al <sup>8</sup>
Age		1.85 <sup>a</sup>	1.64 <sup>b</sup>	NS	NS		1.6 <sup>b</sup>	1.41 <sup>a</sup> 2.11 <sup>a</sup>	NS	
Sex		2.75 <sup>c</sup>	1.86 <sup>d</sup>	NS	NS		NS	0.57 <sup>c</sup>	NS	NS
Ethnicity	3.27 <sup>e</sup>			NS			1.9 <sup>e</sup>		1.6 <sup>e</sup>	
Education	0.40 <sup>f</sup>	NS						0.53 <sup>g</sup>		NS
Community/household-related factors		1.60 <sup>h</sup> 1.56 <sup>i</sup> NS		NS			2.1 <sup>h</sup> NS	1.68 <sup>h</sup> 0.61 <sup>i</sup>		NS
Personal health	0.41						1.5 <sup>j</sup> 1.4 <sup>j</sup>	NS		
Occupation/social grade/work status				NS	NS		NS	1.49-2.18 <sup>k</sup>		
Marital status					NS					

**Notes:** Real numbers represent odds ratios; bold indicates that the outcome is the intention to vaccinate, while normal type indicates that the outcome is the intention to not vaccinate; <sup>a</sup>older age groups compared to younger age group ( $\leq 34$  years old); <sup>b</sup>younger age groups compared to older age group (60 + years old); <sup>c</sup>reference is men; <sup>d</sup>reference is women; <sup>e</sup>other ethnic backgrounds compared to white/caucasian; <sup>f</sup>higher levels of education compared to high school level of education; <sup>g</sup>lower levels of education compared to university education; <sup>h</sup>physical household related variable; <sup>i</sup>physical community related variable; <sup>j</sup>different statements about one's health; <sup>k</sup>variety of occupations compared to clerical.

**Abbreviation:** NS, no statistical significance in the association between the category with the intention to vaccinate or not vaccinate.

between ethnicity and the intention to accept a pandemic vaccine.<sup>3,5,7,9</sup> The reported ORs ranged from 1.6 to 3.27 for a higher intention to accept a pandemic vaccine in people who were not of Caucasian background, in countries composed of a heterogeneous mix of ethnic groups.<sup>3,5,7</sup> Other demographic variables included education, community/household-related factors, personal health, occupation/social grade/work status, and marital status. For all of these, there was no clear trend toward statistical significance.

## Discussion

In a public health emergency, promoting the uptake of an emergency-released vaccine by the target population can be a difficult challenge for public health authorities. If such a challenge is not properly addressed, it may impede efforts to manage the infectious disease. Determining the factors influencing the intention to accept or decline a pandemic vaccine may inform strategies to promote vaccination uptake in case of future public health emergencies. Specific strategies to address factors influencing the public's reluctance to be vaccinated with a pandemic vaccine may increase the rate of overall vaccine uptake and help public health authorities better manage the emerging public health concern.

This study systematically reviewed the existing survey literature on factors influencing the intention to accept or decline a pandemic vaccine. The findings of a survey are generally limited to the population from which they were obtained. However, if multiple surveys in several different geographical regions sampling different populations consistently identify similar findings, then the generalizability of the findings is increased.

Based on the findings of this review, issues relating to personal risk perceptions, including severity of the public health issue, risk of being infected by the virus, risk of severe illness from being infected, and risk of harm from a pandemic vaccine, are important factors that should be considered for future emergency vaccination campaigns. Developing strategies to modify people's perception of their own risk may help encourage members of the general public to obtain vaccinations during public health emergencies. The findings also suggest that targeted messaging should perhaps be used for individuals of different ethnic groups in countries with a heterogeneous mix of ethnic groups, such as Canada and the USA, to reach groups that are more reluctant to accept a pandemic vaccine during a public health emergency.

Studies that did not meet the inclusion criteria but examined similar constructs, identified similar findings. A study conducted in 1976 by Cummings and colleagues<sup>13</sup>

reported factors that played a significant role in explaining variance in the behavioral intention to vaccinate; these were: perceived susceptibility and perceived severity of the disease, perceived efficacy of vaccination, and physician's recommendation. Together, these factors accounted for 37.8% of the variance in the behavioral intention to vaccinate. Levine and colleagues<sup>14</sup> also reported perceived risk as an independent facilitator of the likelihood to vaccinate. While addressing a previous influenza pandemic threat, these findings are consistent with the observations of this review. The findings from this review are also consistent with studies using other research methodologies. Focus groups conducted by Henrich and colleagues<sup>15</sup> reported perception of risk of infection, severity of morbidity from infection, proximity and ease of spread of the disease, and concerns about the safety of the new vaccine, as being among the factors influencing the decision to vaccinate with a novel vaccine during a pandemic. A meta-analysis of the relationship between risk perception and vaccination behavior found strong evidence that perceived risk of getting the disease, perceived self-susceptibility to the disease, and perceived severity of consequences significantly predicted vaccination.<sup>16</sup> In their review, Bish and colleagues<sup>17</sup> also reported perceived susceptibility to the disease and perceived severity of the disease as important predictors of protective behaviors, such as vaccination, during a pandemic.

The present review has important limitations. The review is specific but not sensitive for identifying generalizable themes. If a theme is not reported to be a consistent predictor of vaccination intention it may be a consequence of surveys not asking a specific question related to the theme, or not reporting data related to the theme. It is also limited by the biases inherent in the original studies, including response bias and social desirability bias. The responses the individuals gave of their intention to get vaccinated may not be a true indication of how they would behave in an actual pandemic, as intention does not consistently translate to behavior. Further research exploring the factors that influenced the vaccination behavior during the H1N1 pandemic is necessary for a complete understanding of the behavior pre- and postpandemic. Further, the results presented are also not generalizable to non-English-speaking populations. Non-English-language papers were specifically excluded because translation could result in distortion of meaning of themes and subsequent misclassification. Another limitation resulting from the exclusion of non-English-language papers is the possibility of reporting biases that may occur as statistically significant (positive) studies are more likely to be submitted and accepted for publication and are more likely to be published in English.<sup>18</sup>



## Conclusion

This review suggests that across different populations, the factors consistently associated with intention to accept or decline a pandemic vaccine include personal risk perception, vaccination attitude, and ethnicity. In future, emergency vaccination campaigns' public health officials should be cognizant of these issues in hope of increasing acceptance of a pandemic vaccine by the general public. In particular, the components of personal risk perception and vaccination attitude represent potentially modifiable factors that officials could develop strategies to influence, prior to and during the release of an emergent vaccine. By addressing these factors proactively public health officials may increase the uptake of an emergently released vaccine and reduce the overall impact of the emerging disease.

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## Appendix

### Search strategies

Database: Ovid MEDLINE® in-process and other nonindexed citations and Ovid MEDLINE® 1950 to present

#### Search strategy

- 1 Vaccination/or Mass Vaccination/or vaccin\$.tw. (181200)
- 2 Anthrax Vaccines/or Smallpox Vaccine/or Influenza Vaccines/or (H1N1 or swine flu or H5N1 or avian flu or bird flu).tw. (21236)
- 3 1 or 2 (189137)
- 4 Disease Outbreaks/or (pandemic\$ or epidemic\$ or outbreak\$).tw. (113889)
- 5 Bioterrorism/or emergencies/or (bioterror\$ or emergency or emergent).tw. (146705)
- 6 4 or 5 (257604)
- 7 3 and 6 (17661)
- 8 Attitude/or attitude\$.tw. (98801)
- 9 Perception/or (perception\$ or perceive\$).tw. (174307)
- 10 communication barriers/or barrier\$.tw. (114683)
- 11 "Patient Acceptance of Health Care"/or (accept\$ or rejection or willingness).tw. (301968)
- 12 Motivation/or Intention/or (intention\$ or motivat\$).tw. (110507)
- 13 Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice/or "Attitude of Health Personnel"/(118620)
- 14 exp decision making/or (decision\$ adj1 making).tw. (122071)
- 15 or/8–14 (890811)
- 16 7 and 15 (1182)
- 17 animals/not humans/(3425576)
- 18 16 not 17 (1100)
- 19 qualitative research/or qualitative.tw. (87357)
- 20 interview/or health surveys/or interviews as topic/or narration/or questionnaires/or Focus Groups/(299201)
- 21 (interview\$ or survey\$ or focus group\$ or questionnaire\$ or narrat\$ or experience\$).tw. (1039040)
- 22 Observation/or observation\$.tw. (469567)
- 23 or/19–22 (1613210)
- 24 18 and 23 (392)
- 25 from 24 keep 1–392 (392)

Database: EMBASE Classic plus  
EMBASE 1947 to 2010 July 22

#### Search strategy

- 1 vaccination/or mass immunization/or vaccin\$.tw. (168265)
- 2 anthrax vaccine/or smallpox vaccine/or influenza vaccine/or avian influenza vaccine/(19211)

- 3 (H1N1 or swine flu or H5N1 or avian flu or bird flu).tw. (6132)
- 4 or/1–3 (176731)
- 5 epidemic/or (pandemic\$ or epidemic\$ or outbreak\$).tw. (89724)
- 6 biological warfare/or (bioterror\$ or emergency or emergent).tw. (116221)
- 7 5 or 6 (203711)
- 8 4 and 7 (15798)
- 9 health personnel attitude/or nurse attitude/or physician attitude/or patient attitude/(48932)
- 10 attitude/or attitude\$.tw. (73587)
- 11 perception/or (perception\$ or perceive\$).tw. (142016)
- 12 barrier\$.tw. (97777)
- 13 (accept\$ or rejection or willingness).tw. (278073)
- 14 behavior/or motivation/(105523)
- 15 (intention\$ or motivat\$).tw. (71526)
- 16 decision making/or (decision\$ adj1 making).tw. (78039)
- 17 or/9–16 (782106)
- 18 qualitative research/or qualitative.tw. (73896)
- 19 exp interview/(60764)
- 20 health survey/(75971)
- 21 exp questionnaire/(164048)
- 22 information processing/(66875)
- 23 (interview\$ or survey\$ or focus group\$ or questionnaires\$ or narrat\$ or experience\$).tw. (850724)
- 24 observational study/or observation\$.tw. (489505)
- 25 or/18–24 (1509918)
- 26 8 and 17 and 25 (294)
- 27 from 26 keep 1–294 (294)

Database: PsycINFO® I806 to  
July week 3 2010

#### Search strategy

- 1 immunization/or vaccin\$.tw. (2506)
- 2 (h1n1 or swine flu or h5n1 or avian flu or bird flu).tw. (99)
- 3 1 or 2 (2583)
- 4 epidemics/or (pandemic\$ or epidemic\$ or outbreak\$).tw. (7129)
- 5 Bioterrorism/or (bioterror\$ or emergency or emergent).tw. (18614)
- 6 4 or 5 (25567)
- 7 3 and 6 (291)
- 8 Health Personnel Attitudes/or Health Attitudes/or Attitudes/or attitude\$.tw. (166439)
- 9 Communication Barriers/or barrier\$.tw. (25197)

- 10 Risk Perception/or Perception/or (perception\$ or perceive\$).tw. (265390)
- 11 (accept\$ or rejection or willingness).tw. (90606)
- 12 Consumer Behavior/or Client Attitudes/(23532)
- 13 Intention/or Motivation/or (intention\$ or motivat\$).tw. (123477)
- 14 decision making/or choice behavior/(41198)
- 15 (decision\$ adj1 making).tw. (44649)
- 16 or/8–14 (610471)
- 17 Qualitative Research/or qualitative.tw. (56552)
- 18 interviews/(5241)
- 19 Mail Surveys/or Consumer Surveys/or Telephone Surveys/or Surveys/(5346)
- 20 questionnaires/(11041)
- 21 (interview\$ or survey\$ or focus group\$ or questionnaire\$ or narrat\$ or experience\$).tw. (647996)
- 22 observation methods/or observation\$.tw. (90753)
- 23 or/17–22 (731033)
- 24 7 and 16 and 23 (34)
- 25 from 24 keep 1–34 (34)

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