

The Effect of Anti-Racism Strategies on Vaccinations

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What is the role of institutional efforts in combating systemic racism on COVID-19 health behaviors?

States with health equity content that includes anti-racism strategies have an average county vaccination rate that is 8.46 percentage points higher than states without health equity content ($t = 2.09$, $p = 0.04$).

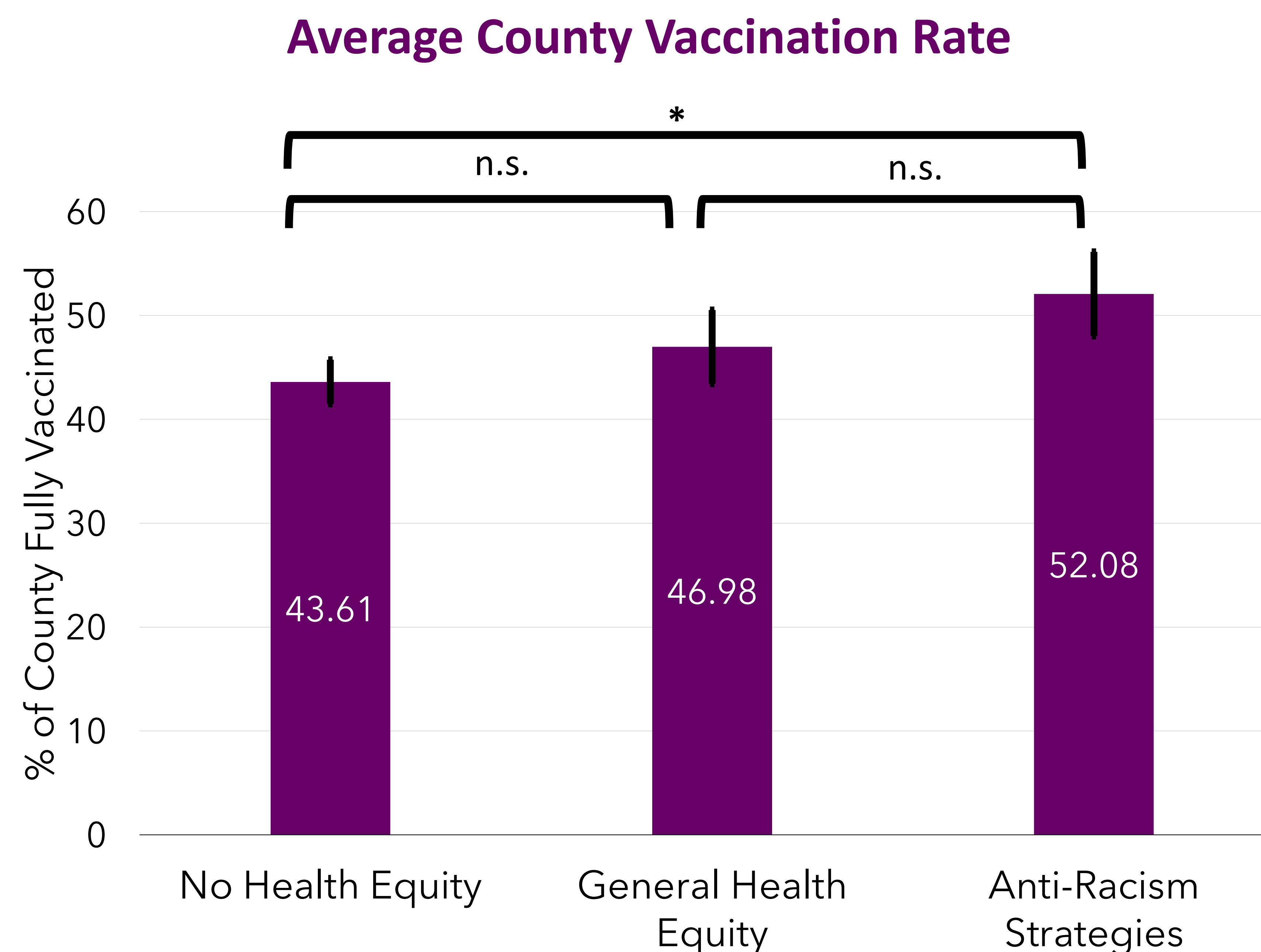
Introduction

- Diversity cues are related to perceptions of safety^{1,2}
- Beneficial outcomes from addressing experiences of prejudice and culturally-inclusive practices³

Methods

Secondary data analysis, using a multilevel model

- **Health equity content:** State COVID-19 response websites (N = 51) were coded for the presence and content of health equity responses
- **County vaccination rates:** N = 3140; vaccination rates from October 25, 2021⁴
- **Covariates:**
 - County political leaning
 - Social Vulnerability Index⁵
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index⁶



D.C.'s website only briefly describes an advisory committee, while Washington's website includes anti-racism practices



DC Health Scientific Advisory Committee for the Development and Implementation of a Safe, Effective, and Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program in the District of Columbia

COVID-19 Vaccine - Equity and Engagement

The Washington State Department of Health recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone but has not impacted everyone equally. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on existing health inequities, amplified them, and revealed their root causes.



Results

- No difference between states with no health equity content vs. generic resources
- No difference between states with generic content vs. anti-racism strategies

Discussion

- Future intervention point in increasing rates of other public health behaviors
- The current pandemic is constantly evolving, thus the differences in vaccination rates at this single point in time may not be indicative of future differences
- Health equity content at the state level may not be as psychologically salient
- Replicate using county health department websites to test the effect of changes within an individual community

Future directions:

We plan to conduct an experimental manipulation of health department content to establish the role of anti-racism strategies on health behaviors

References

1. Purdie-Vaughns et al., 2008
2. Cipollina & Sanchez, 2020
3. Brannon & Lin, 2020
4. CDC, 2021
5. CDC, 2018
6. Surgo Ventures, 2021

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