



**School of Public Health
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health**

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Public Health

Mehret Girmay
will defend her thesis:



EVALUATING PARENTS' SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND CHILDHOOD VACCINE DECISION



Abstract

Vaccination is considered one of the most successful public health achievements of the 20th century. However, with increasing vaccine skepticism emerging over the past decades there is a threat to the ongoing sustainment of vaccine coverage within all US communities. This study evaluated and compared parents' sociodemographic factors associated with childhood vaccine decisions. data from a previous cross-sectional study was used, and analyzed from 893 parents/guardians, age 18 - 55 years with child (ren) < 7 years living in the U.S. predictive analysis was conducted using multinomial logistic regression modeling, and calculated vaccine decisions (accept, hesitant, and refuse) in relation to parents' sociodemographic factors. Overall 66.6% of parents accepted recommended vaccines, while 23.6% hesitated, and 9.7% refused, the recommended childhood vaccines. Males were more likely than females to refuse vaccine than accept (OR= 1.88, 95% CI 1.03- 3.43). Parents with low income were more likely to refuse compared to middle-income parents (OR= 2.40, 95% CI 1.32-4.37). However, parents with high income were less likely to refuse vaccine when compared to parents with middle income (OR= 0.59, 95% CI 0.28- 1.24). To reduce the proportion of vaccine hesitant parents and improve coverage, interventions should be tailored to specific group of parents to identify the barriers around them, address those barriers by implementing target specific interventions and programs, and monitor them to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs.

Date: Thursday, August 22, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: BHS 201

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Committee In Charge:

Dr. Brian Labus, Advisory Committee Chair

Dr. Chad Cross, Advisory Committee Member

Dr. Paula Frew, Advisory Committee Member

Dr. Nirmala Lekhak, Graduate College Representative