



Research Article

## An overview of anxiety levels of Muhammadiyah citizens against COVID-19 vaccination in Surabaya

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### ABSTRACT

Since the publication of PERMENKES Number 10 of 2021 on the implementation of vaccinations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the community, particularly Muhammadiyah residents, has responded. Most Muhammadiyah residents do not have anxiety about COVID-19 vaccination because people are starting to realize the importance and benefits of vaccination. Even though vaccination activities have been going on for a long time, there are still people who feel anxious about the COVID-19 vaccination. The anxiety experienced by respondents is a natural thing because the current pandemic is a new type of disease that has never been experienced before. Numerous media outlets produce a lot of news that has the potential to change how the public feels about vaccines. Anxiety can be brought on by the general public's poor impression of immunizations. The process of immunizing will be hampered by the onset of fear. The study aimed to describe the amount of COVID-19 vaccination-related anxiety among Muhammadiyah inhabitants in Surabaya. This study, a descriptive study with 100 respondents, used probability sampling using a stratified random sampling technique. The DASS-42 questionnaire was utilized as the data-gathering tool. The findings revealed that 77 persons (77 percent) and 23 people did not experience any abnormal levels of vaccination fear (23 percent). According to the study's findings, the majority of Muhammadiyah inhabitants did not experience fear related to receiving a COVID-19 immunization since people were starting to understand the significance and advantages of vaccination. Although COVID-19 immunization campaigns have been ongoing for a while, some people still experience anxiety. Respondents' fear is understandable given that the present epidemic is a brand-new disease that has never been seen before.



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### INTRODUCTION

The first case of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) was discovered in December 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed COVID-19 to be a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 (Bedford et al., 2020). The best COVID-19 curative and preventive medicines currently available have limited biological effects. The COVID-19 disease's onset cannot be clinically managed by the healthcare system as it currently exists (Eaton & Kalichman, 2020). Based on the WHO report as of May 24, 2021, global data on the distribution of COVID-19 includes up to 223 nations. 3,459,966 deaths out of 166,860,081 patients were confirmed. As of May 25, 2021, there were 49,455 fatalities and 1,781,127 recoveries due to COVID-19 in Indonesia (WHO, 2021). East Java Province has a population of 144,426 people, 10,377 people died, 131,998 people recovered, and 2,051 people were treated. The city of Surabaya continues to lead, according to a map showing the distribution of cases in East Java, with 23,263 positive cases, 1,360 deaths, and a recovery rate of 21,773 people (infocovid19.jatimprov.go.id).

Indonesia begin receiving the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020. Tens of millions of doses still need to arrive and go through additional processing as of 2021. Newly delivered vaccines cannot be administered to the public directly; instead, they require approval by the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) to ensure their safety. Only after it is established that it is risk-free or has few negative effects is it permitted to be injected into the general populace. Those who receive the COVID-19 vaccine for the first time are those at high risk of contracting it where the community group consists of health

workers, public service officers, members of the TNI-Polri, airport, station, port, and other officers on duty in the field.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an anxiety response that has spread to all people in the world (Nasrullah et al., 2021), News of the availability of vaccines and the government of Indonesia's immunization campaign has a psychological effect on the neighborhood, especially members of Muhammadiyah. Psychological responses felt by the community can vary because everyone has a different view. After all, it is affected by attitudes and feelings. The vaccine was rushed into production and was only partially effective at preventing the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which caused worry and anxiety. As well as the information circulating on social media about the dangers of side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, researchers are interested in researching how the psychological impact of the community, especially Muhammadiyah residents, on COVID-19 vaccination.

The spread of COVID-19 in the world has no signs of ending, including in Indonesia. Recently, Indonesia is intensively carrying out vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccination programs have started around the world. Since the Republic of Indonesia's Minister of Health issued Regulation No. 10 of 2021 on the Implementation of Vaccination in the Context of Combating the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. Various responses have emerged from the community, especially from Muhammadiyah residents. Perceptions of receiving COVID-19 vaccines are very diverse, from thinking not sure about safety, not sure about effectiveness, fear of side effects, not believing in vaccines, and religious beliefs. Many people think vaccines are a project, but many more reasons result in feelings of doubt and even fear of getting vaccinated.



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The best method for achieving herd immunity at the moment is vaccination, which will lessen the transmission of the coronavirus. The COVID-19 immunization has been implemented with great caution in Indonesia. Additionally, Indonesia has a long history of trying to prevent infectious diseases by immunizing people. Indonesia also contributes to the prevention of diseases on Earth through vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccination started on January 13, 2021, and is targeting those who are recipients of the priority vaccine. The government targets that 40.2 million people will receive the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccine in the period January to April 2021. The 40.2 million people include 1.3 million health workers, 17.4 million workers in public services, and 21.5 million elderly. Because the COVID-19 vaccine does not ensure the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government urges both individuals who have received the vaccination and those who have not to continue to follow the health guidelines, even though the vaccination program is already in place (Kemenkes RI, 2021).

Establishing collaboration with various institutions and community organizations, including Muhammadiyah, is one of the government's measures to fulfill the vaccine aim. Muhammadiyah is renowned as one of the global community groups with a sizable member base dispersed across Indonesia. Through the PP Muhammadiyah statement letter number 01/PER/I.0/H/2021 concerning the Implementation of the Vaccination Program as an Effort to Handle the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Muhammadiyah Central Leadership expressed its full support for the government's efforts to implement the vaccination program (Muhammadiyah Covid-19 Command Center, 2021). It is anticipated that the existence of a formal declaration from the Muhammadiyah Central

Executive will serve as a guide and motivation for Muhammadiyah cadres or citizens to be able to actively participate in immunization. However, several Muhammadiyah residents expressed their anxiety regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. This then encourages Muhammadiyah residents to immediately seek various information, on what and how the vaccine will be implemented later because the implementation is not just vaccinated. Before administering any vaccinations, all medical staff members will have received training on the immunization process. The second step is to gather information on individuals who have a history of the disease; in this case, they must speak with a medical professional or doctor who typically treats them. If there is no history, the vaccination can be given following the schedule and technique.

Residents of Muhammadiyah should have positive ideas, namely that vaccination is one of the efforts to be healthy, according to the Indonesian Ulema Council's (MUI) explanation of the halalness of vaccines. Adequate literacy is necessary to avoid false news that the general population cannot understand. Because health protocols have started to be disregarded and many people are unaware of them, it is currently a battle for life or death. We must develop as progressive Muhammadiyah citizens. It is envisaged that people who have learned what and how to immunize against COVID-19 would be able to instruct others on the proper practices.

Based on the description above, the researchers were interested in researching the description of the level of anxiety among Muhammadiyah residents about the COVID-19 vaccination in Surabaya.



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## METHOD

This study used a descriptive research design that aims to describe the level of anxiety among Muhammadiyah residents about COVID-19 vaccination. A descriptive research design was used to solve or answer the problems being faced in the current situation. The sampling technique used was probability sampling with a stratified random sampling technique of 100

respondents. The data collection instrument used the DASS-42 questionnaire.

## RESULTS

The distribution of respondents by age is presented in Table 1. The distribution of respondents by gender is presented in Table 2. The distribution of respondents based on education level is presented in Table 3.

**Table 1** Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age (year)	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
13-14	1	1
15-24	9	9
25-34	30	30
35-44	22	22
45-54	20	20
55-64	15	15
> 65	3	3
Total	100	100

**Table 2** Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Male	68	68
Female	32	32
Total	100	100

**Table 3** Distribution of Respondents Based on Education Level

Level of Education	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Primary School	2	2
Junior High School	10	10
Senior High School	35	35
Undergraduate	42	42
Postgraduate	11	11
Total	100	100

**Table 4** Distribution of Respondents Based on Anxiety Levels

Anxiety Levels	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Panic	0	0
Severe	0	0
Moderate	0	0
Mild	23	23
No Anxiety	77	77
Total	100	100





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### DISCUSSION

According to the data analysis's findings, none of the 100 respondents reported having moderate to extremely severe anxiety. 23 respondents report just low levels of anxiety, whereas the majority of respondents 77 in total do not experience anxiety. Anxiety is a hazy unease brought on by discomfort or fear and is followed by a reaction (the cause is not specific or unknown to the individual). Fear and uncertainty serve as warning signs that danger is approaching and motivate people to take action to deal with the situation (Yusuf, A.H & ,R & Nihayati, 2015). Anxiety is the feeling we experience when we think about something unpleasant that will happen (Putri et al., 2021).

The results showed that most Muhammadiyah residents did not feel anxiety (a normal response) to the COVID-19 vaccination because people were starting to realize the benefits and importance of the COVID-19 vaccination. Although the majority of the research's findings indicate that respondents do not experience anxiety, some respondents do still feel a little anxious when it comes to COVID-19 immunization activities. This is consistent with a study by Putri et al. (2021) titled "Public Worry About COVID-19 Immunization," which found that out of 399 respondents, 207 (51,9%) reported no concern, and 192 (48.1%) reported having anxiety about the COVID-19 vaccination (Putri et al., 2021).

When the vaccine campaign was announced and put into place, people experienced the same level of worry that they had during the pandemic. Several factors contributed to the anxiety response, including conflicting information about vaccination safety, uncertainty about its efficacy, side effects, mistrust of vaccines, and religious convictions. Feelings of uncertainty, anxiety and even fear about vaccination are brought on by a variety of factors, including the

widespread belief that vaccines are a project, the lack of public awareness that COVID-19 can be prevented by immunizations, and numerous other factors (Halpin & Reid, 2019). Some of the factors mentioned are also the reason why residents of Muhammadiyah who will receive immunizations start to have a moderate anxiety reaction. So that even when the situation appears precarious, accurate and trustworthy information can assist people in planning the right course of action. On the other hand, false information can cause stress and anxiety, which might prevent someone from responding appropriately (Sallam et al., 2020). In addition, the public has rejected the COVID-19 vaccine due to a lack of information and the government's negligence in spreading vaccination awareness (Puji Astuti et al., n.d.)

Anxiety is a normal stress reaction and can be beneficial in some situations. It can alert us to dangers and help us prepare and pay attention. Anxiety responds to feelings of fear, worry, discomfort, and other unclear feelings (Hasanah et al., 2021). Anxiety disorders differ from normal feelings of nervousness or anxiousness and involve excessive fear or anxiety. Anxiety disorders are the most common of mental disorders and affect nearly 30% of adults at some point in their lives. Anxiety disorders can cause people to try to avoid situations that trigger or worsen their symptoms. Job performance, school work, and personal relationships can be affected. In general, for a person to be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, the fear or anxiety must be out of proportion to the situation or age-inappropriate, hindering the ability to function normally. There are several types of anxiety disorders, including generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, specific phobias, agoraphobia, social anxiety disorder and separation anxiety disorder (Muskin, 2021).



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The signs of anxiousness can include feeling uneasy, having a dry mouth, being restless, and lacking the motivation to do anything since they will administer the COVID-19 immunization. According to Lee's research (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic caused a distinct expression of a certain type of anxiety. Particularly, there are cognitive elements (repeatedly thinking about certain issues, worrying, being unable to think, daydreaming, and being overly preoccupied with planning), behavioral elements (activity dysfunction, avoidance, compulsive behavior), emotional elements (fear, anxiety, and anger), and physiological elements (sleep disturbance, somatic stress, tonic immobility).

Many of the respondents who were interviewed acknowledged that they were able to manage their concerns as a result of the increasing availability of clear information regarding the COVID-19 vaccination, including information about its efficacy, halal status, safety, and confidence. In terms of achieving the immunization goal, it can lessen the growth in COVID-19 dissemination. This is consistent with research findings that show those who are willing to get vaccinated say they do so because they think it will protect them, their families, and others from the COVID-19 sickness (Bendau et al., 2021). The patient's willingness to receive the vaccination will rise with better knowledge.

The Muhammadiyah Central Executive's circular expressing support and pleas for the implementation of vaccination is one of the causes in lowering the degree of worry among inhabitants of Muhammadiyah, in addition to providing clear information. The presence of a statement or direct appeal from the organization's leadership can serve as an assurance of safety and members' compliance with immunization requirements. Pabbajah et al., (2020) said that in addition to the government, the presence of respected

community leaders is the basis for carrying out work, in this case, the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccinations. In addition, the approach with the guidance of the ulama as individuals who have authority in religion and organizations tends to be the right opportunity (Telhalia & Natalia, 2022) for a project's or work's success. According to findings from a different study, the role of religious leaders, as well as the organization's overall leadership, has an impact on how its members participate in and respond to the COVID-19 epidemic (Sondakh, 2019). Moreover, comprehensive health education for the community will also be able to boost knowledge, motivation to be immunized, and anxiety levels.

## CONCLUSION

Most Muhammadiyah residents do not have anxiety about COVID-19 vaccination because people are starting to realize the importance and benefits of vaccination. Even though vaccination activities have been going on for a long time, there are still people who feel anxious about the COVID-19 vaccination. The anxiety experienced by respondents is a natural thing because the current pandemic is a new type of disease that has never been experienced before.

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