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Today, according to many public health experts, public confidence in vaccines is waning. The term “vaccine hesitancy” (VH) has been built to capture this phenomenon. It is not a unique concept,vh is a way to describe how people respond to or manage various health-related issues. It is not fully satisfactory to define VH as a behaviour, as it is associated with various and non-visible actions such as attitude traits in the public's response to vaccination. The term is used to describe the complexity of the public's response to vaccination, which can be influenced by various contextual factors (including “local vaccination cultures”).

The article is part of the PLOS Currents Outbreaks. It discusses the importance of understanding the factors that influence people's decisions regarding vaccination. The authors argue that despite the complexity of the issue, it is essential to understand the factors that contribute to vaccine hesitancy. They suggest that vaccine hesitancy is characterized by a mix of factors, including: 1) a lack of trust in the information provided by healthcare professionals, 2) a lack of confidence in the effectiveness of vaccines, and 3) a lack of willingness to accept the risks associated with vaccination.

VH is an attribute ascribed to a large and heterogeneous category of people/things that are not under our direct scrutiny or not fully understandable to us. It is not a specific behaviour, but rather a general term used to describe people's attitudes towards vaccination. It is a reflection of the public's response to various health-related issues, and it is influenced by various contextual factors.

Aims & Scope

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.