**The Effect of Health Disparities on Herd Immunity Against COVID-19 in the USA: A Systematic Literature Review.**

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**Objective**: To analyze how health disparities and other factors prevented successful herd immunity in the United States. The Mayo Clinic states herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease, either through prior infection or vaccination, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community is protected.

**Methods**: The primary databases used were Medline (via Pubmed), EMBASE, and the Cochrane Central Register of Clinical Trials (CENTRAL). Keywords used were COVID-19 [tiab] AND SARS-CoV-2 [tiab] AND Health Disparities [tiab] AND Herd Immunity [tiab]. Timeline of interest was February 2020 to January 2022. Only articles in English and U.S. published were included. There was no direct patient or public involvement in the design/conduct of this study.

**Results**: sixty-five articles were obtained originally; however, nine articles addressed herd immunity in the U.S. against COVID-19. Herd immunity was suggested as a solution for COVID-19 before vaccines were available. Theories about herd immunity were developed but not implemented in the community due to disagreement from opposing parties. After vaccination was available, herd immunity remains unattained due to multiple factors. Current data states 68% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated. Health disparities such as source of income, inability to properly isolate, lack of insurance, and other inequities disproportionately affect minorities and serve as barriers towards herd immunity.

**Conclusion**: Vaccines remain the most reliable source of immunity against COVID-19. A study suggests that for a highly contagious illness such as Measles, a vaccination rate of 94% is necessary to reach stable herd immunity. Variables such as rapidly evolving variants, the politicization of the pandemic and vaccinations, and population changes in susceptibility to the variants make it hard to predict herd immunity.