Thank you so much for your time first. And as you know, we are working on vaccine hesitancy in some remote areas all around the world and in the U. S. We are working on Alaska. Uh, so can you please tell me a little more about yourself, your age, occupation, educational background, and how long have you lived in this city?

Um, I was born in Kodiak and, um, I just turned 40 this year and, um, right now I just work at, um, at a merchandising company, but I mean, I've had quite a few jobs, you know? Um, but yeah, right now, I mean, I'm kind of like a vendor. Um, and, um, what were the other questions? Your major, your educational background.

Oh, um, yeah, I, um, just did, you know, high school and then I did a dental office training. Um, I didn't do any college. You know, but I just did a course that, um, gave us a certificate, you know. Yeah. Great. So you, you didn't get COVID vaccine, right? Um, no. Okay. So, uh, how do you think about vaccines generally, for example, other kinds of vaccines, vaccines that you may get from your childhood until now, how do you Those, I, I definitely got all of those and, um, you know, um, I have two kids and they got all of theirs and, um, you know, like, in general, yeah, I'm, I'm, like, all for them.

And my, my little sister, actually, she had gotten shingles when she worked at a daycare center. And, you know, she was, like, 17 or something at the time, I think, and it scarred up her whole back, you know? And then, um, the, like, She had a hard time getting the vaccine because they're like, it's only for old people.

And she's like, I need it. I already had it. You know, she got like a tattoo to cover up her whole back. Cause it was just all scarred up. But, um, in general, yeah, I'm, I'm all about, I don't necessarily get my flu one, you know, I think I've gotten flu in like every couple of years, but I don't usually get it.

So what was your reason not to get COVID vaccine? Um, I just felt like it was kind of new, you know, and I just didn't know that much about it. And I don't know. I just, um, Just, I just wasn't really all that worried about the COVID thing because it seems like the people that I knew that had gotten COVID, they, um, you know, it was kind of like a cold.

much. I see. And did you see anybody around you that after getting covid vaccine had some side effects or more disease? Um, well, I think, I mean, not specifically. I mean, that's not necessarily my reason. I think that I might have heard somebody say something like that. But then again, it could have been something that I read online.

So, I mean, personally, I would say no, because I can't even remember like to verify if that's the case, you know what I mean? Yeah, and um, um, how much, how many people around you, uh, get COVID vaccines? I mean, I want to know most of people around you, uh, are against COVID vaccine or into COVID vaccine? Um, well, like my, my mom, my mom got it.

My mom. told me that I could get it because, um, well, my kids were out of town visiting their dad in Montana, and, um, they were coming back. And I think that my daughter at least, um, was, you know, of the age that, you know, she couldn't get the vaccine herself. So my mom is like, you should get it because she can't get it.

And so I was contemplating getting it, and I almost did. But Then I did it. I see. I think there's more things that I read online, you know, that I was like, I don't really want to do that. Yeah, sure, yeah. And, um, what do you think about health care system in Alaska totally? Are you satisfied with the health care system?

Sorry, I'm going to go outside because it's really loud in here. Okay. I'll be back. Okay. I believe you. Okay. Okay, sorry. Oh, that's fine. That's absolutely fine. Um, how do you think about, um, healthcare system generally in Alaska? Do you think is it affordable for you and most of the people? Is it accessible?

Um, well, yeah, I mean, I have Medicaid and so it seems like most of the, most of the people that I know have, you know, are able to get Medicaid or some sort of insurance, you know. . So, I mean, for me, it's never been expensive. I just have to pay a copay, so. Mm-Hmm. . Okay. So, um, how do you trust healthcare system, inco?

Do you trust it? Do you think it's good? Um, yeah. Yeah, for the most part. Mm-Hmm, . Mm-Hmm. . Yeah. Just with the covid thing, I was like a little, you know, unsure about, you know, it just seemed like. This huge thing that there, you know, I, I don't know. I just didn't like how it just seemed like a lot of people that I knew about COVID and they just said it was like no worse than like a cold, but then, you know, there's all these places that are like, um, you know, even people's jobs that were requiring it at the time, you know, and then that made it to me like, kind of weird, like why?

I mean, I guess for some people that's like, Oh, we better do it. But for me, I was like, I don't know, you know, like, if you're going to fire you for not getting it, I feel like there's something weird going on, but I mean, I, I get it though. Like if you're around people that are like a high risk, that's like what my mom said that I had to get it if I wanted, you know, to be in her car or anything like that, pretty much.

So, yeah. I see. And, uh, if you're a, for example, decision maker in health care system in Alaska and you have a single budget, you want to put it in one of these two parts. Which one do you prefer to put? The first one is, um, like putting that budget on infrastructures, building more hospitals, bringing more specialists to Alaska.

And the other part is some social works, community based activities and trust making activities. Which one do you think is more needed for Alaskan people? Probably second one. So you think My mom said the first one. I'm like, I think second one. We have like a big hospital here and there's like nice Doctors offices here, but I don't think we need another doctor office for another hospital Well, it's my serving And, uh, as I understand from other interviewees that I talked until now from Alaska, I understand that there are two kinds of communities in Alaska, urban communities and tribal communities.

And, um, some, some people told me that even, uh, some educated people, um, they, they get, they got vaccine, COVID vaccine only because they're like tribal. their tribe leaders or elderly people in their tribes told them to get vaccines. I want to, yeah, I want to ask you, uh, most of Alaskan people, do you think they, they are emotionally affected, affected by leaders, for example, religious leaders, tribal leaders, or they may more need.

Some, for example, scientific, um, papers or academic results from some universities or academic organizations. Well, that was kind of me, like, I mean, I don't know how it is in like a tribal thing, but I could see that because there are a lot of like elderly people and like, you know, the native situation maybe, but, um, I just felt like, yeah, there wasn't enough, like people were, you know, and there was almost like conflicting things, you know, about it.

And I'm like, I'm just not sold yet. So I'm not going to get it yet, you know, until, you know, there's not so much weird stuff about it, you know, being said all the time and online. So, um, yeah, I, I mean, there's a lot of like, Uh, you know, like, um, native, Alaska native stuff in my town. But, I mean, there's also a lot of people that just don't fall into that.

So, I mean, um, I know quite a few people that didn't get it just because they were like, nope. You know, they just didn't feel like it was, you know, necessary. Mm hmm. I see. What do you think about the role of social media in this topic? For example, social, we saw lots of, uh, information, some sometimes crazy misinformation about COVID, uh, in social media.

What do you think about it? Um, what is, what can be the real role of social media? Oh yeah, I don't really believe anything that I see on there. I mean, for the most part, I mean, it could be like a screenshot of an article, but I, I mean, I would take, like, my, it's so hard, um, I would take my information, like, if I saw it on Facebook or something like that, then I would, you know, definitely, like, Google it and, like, do my own research, not just believe what is said on some group or anything like that.

Hopefully people know not to do that, but you know, and, um, what other reasons do you think people had for not getting vaccine vaccine, COVID vaccine? I mean, except your reason, what other reasons people may have? I mean, a lot of people, you know, I think it's like some conspiracy thing, you know, and like, you know, like trackers or, you know, dumb stuff like that, but I mean, like.

Or just, um, um, you know, almost like, I feel like I heard a lot of people saying that, you know, like they, you know, like that COVID was like, um, you know, created by the government, you know, and then, you know, they're trying to, you know, pretty much make everybody like, have to get this vaccine, you know, so, you know, and then if you don't, you know, he's like, You know, some sort of like control from the government, I guess, you know, it's like a lot of what I heard people saying online or, you know, some people here too that I know, but I mean, I never really thought about it like in a conspiracy kind of way.

I just didn't know for sure if the, you know, if the vaccine was, you know, going to have some side effects that, you know, hadn't been found out yet. I see. Yeah, I see. Thank you. Is there anything else you want to add? Any experience? Anything from that era that was interesting to hear or you want to mention to reflect in our research?

Um, I mean, I guess technically, like, looking back, I, yeah, I don't think that really anybody that I know that got the COVID vaccine had any kind of, you know, bad results from it, honestly. But, I mean, at the same time, a lot of people that I know that got COVID didn't really have, like, any bad results either.

But, I mean, you know, like, looking back, I don't, I personally don't know anybody that had, you know, something horrible happen to them after they got the vaccine. So, you know, but at the time, I was like, you never know. I see. Yeah. Okay, thank you so much for your time and have a good day. Okay, thanks YouTube.

Bye. Okay, bye. Oh crap, wait, mom, I gotta go back.