**Speakers**

0:01

Okay, so I will just start recording.

0:08

Okay.

0:11

As you know, we are working on vaccine hesitancy in some remote areas all around the world and in the US, we work on Alaska. So

0:22

can you please tell me a little more about yourself, your age, occupation, educational background, and how long have you lived and which which city are you living, and how long have you lived in this city?

0:37

Yes, of course. My name is Amy wells. I am 23

0:42

I am a stay at home mom at the moment, but I was working in

0:51

well. I was working at Chico traditional Council. I was a driver and also a healthcare advocate, and then I switched to being a office clerk,

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1:07

but right now, I am a stay at home mom to my almost one year old daughter.

1:15

I live in Wasilla, Alaska. I've been in Alaska my whole life, great.

1:25

So what about your educational background? You told me about your educational background? Oh, yes, I graduated from Palmer high school with my high school diploma. Okay, sure. Thank you. And did you get any

1:42

COVID vaccine?

1:44

No, I didn't trust the vaccines. They did not do research on them. They just came up with a vaccine, and people just started getting them, and I was way too hesitant. I see, I see, and what about other kind of vaccines? What do you think? What is your what are your views on vaccines in general?

2:10

Um, if it's a vaccine that has been given for, let's say,

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five years. People have been getting it for five years, like the flu vaccine, the flu vaccine people have been getting for a very long time. Now, I'll get the flu vaccine. I will trust.

2:39

You know all the vaccines that have been researched on and people have been getting for a very long time I see And did you see anyone around you that when they get COVID vaccine they get some Like

2:56

side effects or some some health problems?

3:01

Yes, actually, my grandmother, who recently just passed away, sorry, Oh, it's okay. It was, it was nothing to do with the COVID or anything, but she,

3:16

she was sick constantly after the COVID vaccine. So you saw people who get vaccine and they had some side effects, and do you think it was because of the lack of research on the vaccines? 100% they didn't do enough research on it to put it out to the public like that I see, and

3:41

didn't see anything in the social media who that discouraged you to get vaccine, or, for example, something that encouraged you to get vaccine. I mean, was any kind of information or advertisement in social media for vaccines?

4:03

No, I didn't see anything on the COVID 19 vaccine on any social media platforms. And even if I did, I would not follow them. I see or read through articles. I see, what about people around you, for your community, your friends, your family, were most of them

4:27

into vaccines, or most of them against vaccine. I mean, COVID vaccine, actually, most of them were against the COVID 19 vaccine. But

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the crazy thing is, some of my friends were in the military, and they were forced to take the COVID vaccine, or they would have to

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leave the army. Oh, so they get it. They got it, right? Yes, they were forced to get the COVID 19 vaccine. Yeah.

5:01

As you know, in some countries, actually, it was obligatory for all people.

5:07

Yeah,

5:09

and when I asked some of my American friends here, they told me, Oh, never, it shouldn't be obligatory in the US, but you know, in my my country, it was obligatory, and we had to. So what do you think about it? Do you think? How do you feel if, if something like COVID vaccine was obligatory?

5:34

I don't think that's right at all.

5:38

People should have the choice whether or whether or not they want to put something into their body, that's that's not

5:48

something they want to be injected into their their body. I think that's wrong. I see if, if somebody want to, for example, you told me that it was you were against vaccine. You didn't get that because

6:07

you believe that there were not enough research on that.

6:13

How do you think if somebody want to persuade you to get vaccine, which one of these people that I mentioned can convince you. First is, for example, university professor who is maybe informed by researchers.

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Second is a celebrity and the third one is a religious leader. Which one can be more effective for you, or for lots of people in your city,

6:46

um,

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probably the professor,

6:52

just for the simple fact that he's Being educated on it.

7:00

So mostly you need information, scientific information, and these things about the vaccine, yes, okay. Have you ever heard about any kind of vaccine tests in Alaska, for example? Have you ever heard about your parents, your older people around you, that, for example, 40 years ago, government started testing a vaccine on

7:28

people in Alaska. Have you ever heard about that?

7:33

No, I've never heard about that.

7:36

And what about in social media? Did you see anything that, for example, some people tell you or tell other people that don't believe them, they are testing this vaccine, this vaccine on us?

7:52

No, okay, I just want, I just asked this question, because I want to know if

8:00

living in Alaska, living in very unique environment in Alaska,

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if it gives you this feeling that because we are living in a remote area, so they test something on us so you don't have This kind of feeling.

8:19

No, great. And is there, have you ever seen like some NGOs or any kind of non governmental groups who've worked for vaccines in Alaska or in your city around you?

8:36

What was the question? I'm sorry,

8:39

that's okay. Is there any NGOs, I mean, non governmental organizations or groups who work for vaccine or even any kind of public health issues in your city?

8:53

No, not to my knowledge,

8:55

okay.

8:58

Are you totally generally satisfied with healthcare system in your city?

9:06

Um, no, I wouldn't say it's the best.

9:11

So can you explain more about it? How is it?

9:17

Um,

9:19

some people in my life aren't able to get health care

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just because it's too expensive.

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They're not able to get on Medicaid, so they never go to the doctor. They can never fix their problems, just for the simple fact it's too expensive to even get help.

9:44

So it's expensive. What about accessibility? Is it accessible for all?

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Yes, it is accessible. We have

9:55

an emergency room right in Wasilla, and there's very.

10:00

Who Cares Palmer

10:03

and in Anchorage, it's, it's close by.

10:06

Okay, so most of people can access but it is expensive. Do you think it's for some people? It may be a reason to not get vaccines. For, for example, they may say this, this vaccine can have lots of,

10:23

I mean, side effects, so and healthcare system is too expensive here, if I get a vaccine and I need a doctor, I need to pay a lot. Do you think, for example, trusting this healthcare system or mistrust this has healthcare system just affects the idea of getting or not getting the vaccine.

10:50

Yes,

10:52

okay,

10:54

my next question is that imagine you are a health

11:00

healthcare system or public health policy maker in Alaska, in your city, and you have a single budget, you need to put it in one of these things that one of these sites that I will tell You first of all, is infrastructures. I mean, for example, building hospitals or bringing more specialists in your city. And the second one is

11:31

putting that budget and some community based activities like trust making activities. Which one do you prefer to put the budget on

11:43

getting more specialists in the health healthcare system. So you think that bringing more infrastructure and bringing more specialists into city will help better for improving the public health in your city? Yes. Ma'am,

12:01

great. And let me see if I ask all the questions,

12:12

which social media platform do you use regularly?

12:18

I probably say Facebook, Facebook, and do you think,

12:25

for example, if governments or local governments want to give information, for example, the result of research that you want to know about COVID vaccine or anything else. Do you want? Do you think that they can put it in social media, for example? Can you trust that kind of information, that kind of very serious information, in social media,

12:54

or you want to know it or

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read it from somewhere else, for example, for you, you need to

13:05

listen to it from your TV.

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It would actually be pretty beneficial to see it on social media, just because people can click on the links, they could read the article. They can argue their opinions in the comments.

13:26

I think for younger generations it would be good to put it on social media, and for the older generations to put it on the radio or TV. I see and

13:42

the only reason that you mentioned about not getting vaccine was that you don't trust them because there were not enough research on it. Is there any other reason, for example, any

13:57

cultural or religious belief that prevent you to get vaccine.

14:05

No, ma'am,

14:06

so your only

14:09

reason was just mistrusting them or like lacking the research. Yes, okay, and

14:27

let me see if all the questions are,

14:35

did you talk about the

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vaccines? COVID vaccine with your friends, for example, did you try to persuade them not to get vaccines? Or did they try to persuade you for getting vaccine or not getting vaccine? I want to know if in your community, just you and your friends your family talk about vaccine.

15:00

And how was their ideas? Were they just, is it? It was just a personal choice for you, or you try to persuade others not getting vaccines too?

15:15

Um, I did not try to persuade anybody to get the vaccine or not or not to get the vaccine. My friends did talk to me about it because they were thinking about getting it, and asked my viewpoint on it. I gave them my viewpoint on it, and

15:38

I don't think it persuaded them to get or not to get the vaccine. My grandmother, on the other hand, really wanted me to get the vaccine.

15:49

She was on the news every single day during the COVID 19 pandemic, and she was seeing the horrific

16:00

fatalities it was doing to, you know, all the states and everybody. She was really, really scared. She wanted my whole family to get it. It was at that time when she was really trying to persuade me. Was when it was

16:19

really affecting the younger kids and the older generations,

16:28

but I did not end up getting the vaccine here.

16:32

So what about other people in your family, for example, your husband, your siblings, your parents? Did they get vaccine or not?

16:44

Um, my my sister got, I think she had a couple doses of the COVID 19 vaccine. She did not talk to me about it.

16:57

No one was really trying to persuade me

17:00

for my grandmother. Okay, so

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that is good. And what do you think about other people except yourself? You told me that you needed more information or they didn't do enough research on the vaccine. What other reasons other people had, that they didn't get vaccine. Was it just mistrusting the COVID vaccine, or any reason else?

17:30

It was the same reasons as as me? Okay,

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okay. Thank you so much. Do you have anything to add, any experience from your friends or anything that you want to add,

17:45

no but I am very happy that the COVID 19 pandemic is over. I hope so

17:54

it's here, here in vvr, getting COVID license again, and actually, because I'm working for public health school, it is obligatory for me, so I'm going to get one in Saturday.

18:09

That makes sense. I i believe that health care workers, if they if they want to, they should get it, but it's still wrong.

18:20

Okay, thank you so much for your time and take care. Of course. Thank you. Thank you. You too. Bye, bye.