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The central graphic features a collage of images: a healthcare worker in full blue PPE, a person in a white lab coat, and a computer monitor displaying a video conference with multiple participants.

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CHILDHOOD VACCINE HESITANCY AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS

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Introduction: COVID-19 era has led to a surge in vaccine hesitancy. It is predicted that this would negatively impact the more established childhood vaccination program. We aim to summarize the prevalence of childhood vaccine hesitancy and its associated factors. This review was conducted and reported in accordance with the PRISMA-ScR checklist. **Methods:** A scoping review was conducted through Scopus®, PubMed®, and Cochrane Library databases published from January 2016 to November 2021. The results were filtered to include articles that were full-text, available in English and focused on hesitancy for childhood vaccination. The factors were then grouped into four themes (caregivers, health providers, vaccine specific, and contextual factors). **Results:** A total of 576 articles were retrieved, from which 83 articles were included in this review. 52% articles were published within the last 2 years with 49% were cross-sectional studies and 39% came from the United States, Canada and Italy. The prevalence of vaccine hesitancy ranged from 3 to 50.6% with a mean of 25.8%. Factors related to caregiver's theme were the major contributor to vaccine hesitancy: caregivers' belief, attitude and knowledge about health (78%), trust to health system (33.7%) and socio-demographic (32.5%) while the other 3 themes are less notable (3-18%). **Conclusion:** Childhood vaccine hesitancy is on the rise and is a significant issue in developed countries especially during COVID-19 pandemic. Issues among caregivers are prominent compared to other factors. A proactive and multi-interventional approach by stakeholders is critical to increase caregivers' confidence, competence, and convenience of vaccination uptake. This would ensure the sustainability of existing vaccination programmes for children.