

Vaccine Intervention on a College Campus to Increase HPV Vaccination Rates

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Background: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexual transmitted infection in the United States. Many HPV types cause anogenital warts and cancers, oropharyngeal cancers. It is estimated that one in four people in the United States are infected with the virus. It is reported that 99.7% of cervical cancer cases contain HPV DNA. HPV vaccine is safe and 96% effective in preventing HPV related warts and cancers. The objective of our study was to increase vaccination rates across University's campus.

Method: Following IRB approval, we conducted a prospective study to evaluate the HPV vaccination rate of all students across the campus from Jan 2017 to Feb 2018. We assessed the baseline vaccination rate in January 2017 from the database of Student Health Services. From February 2017 to February 2018, we educated the students about the HPV vaccine through posters, dining hall table information sheets and electronic posters. We collected the data at three-month intervals.

Results: 1. Prior to the intervention, 53% of the student body had received at least one dose; compared to 54% of the student body following the intervention. 2. 65% of women on campus have at least one dose, compared to 38% of men. 3. Vaccination rates for initial doses for the individual colleges are: Arts and Sciences 73%, Business 73%, Dentistry 49%, Graduate 1.24%, Law 31%, Medicine 78%, Nursing 71%, Pharmacy 59%.

Conclusion: Our study shows that HPV vaccination rates of female students are higher than male students, like the national data. There is no statistically significant increase in the HPV vaccination rates among all students across the campus. More active education and interventions to engage the students is required. Causes for low vaccination rates may include proximity of student health services to each college, insurance and personal beliefs need to be explored.