

Analyzing the Influence of Cancer, Government Trust, and Education on Parental HPV Vaccine Hesitancy

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Vaccine hesitancy has become a significant public health problem, posing a threat to herd immunity. I use data from the Health Information Data Trends Survey to analyze whether (1) a past history of cancer, (2) trust in health-related governmental information, and (3) education influence individuals' hesitancy towards the HPV vaccine.

Based on past literature, I hypothesize that 1) a previous cancer diagnosis corresponds with decreased hesitancy, 2) deteriorating governmental trust is associated with increased hesitancy, and 3) higher education levels are attributed to increased hesitancy.

ANOVA results reveal that a past cancer experience is not associated with HPV vaccine hesitancy. However, respondents with more trust in the government and higher education had significantly lower hesitancy rates. For example, 63.47% of respondents who reported having "a lot" of trust in the government said they would administer the HPV vaccine to their daughter, compared to only 43.56% among those who had no trust in the government.

This shows that vaccine beliefs may be based more on varying ideologies rather than past medical experiences. Understanding vaccine hesitancy sources has important implications for public health researchers and practitioners. This impacts how vaccine messages are conveyed regarding government vaccine programs, community health efforts, and patient education.