

Abstract Title: Human Papilloma Virus (HPV): Knowledge and behaviors in a midwestern university

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Purpose: HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease that affects approximately 20 million Americans. Of this population, as many as half are young adults aged 15 through 24. HPV is linked to cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers and genital warts. As there is no cure for HPV, three vaccinations were developed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent the transmission of HPV.

As college students make up the large population at risk for developing HPV, several research studies have looked at this target population. Results of these studies demonstrate that college students need positive health promotion to increase knowledge about HPV and to improve vaccination rates.

The purpose of this study is to assess the knowledge base and provide education for HPV and its vaccine in a Midwest university population.

Design: A pre-test and post-test were developed to assess knowledge concerning HPV in the student population at Creighton university. The tests were constructed following similar concepts carried out in other studies.

Following the pre-test, participants will receive a five minute presentation covering the importance of and indications for HPV vaccination. Next, a post-test will be administered and results will be compared to the pre-test in order to assess the effectiveness of the education.

Findings: The project will be carried out at Creighton University in April and May and findings will be available for presentation at the conference.

Implications: This study will identify barriers that college students perceive to receiving the HPV vaccination and give the opportunity to provide education to ensure students understand the risks associated with HPV and benefits the vaccination affords. This can help direct future educational efforts on Creighton University and other college campuses.