

# Assessing Parents' Concerns With the HPV Vaccination: A Preliminary Survey

Evan Dressel, BS, Meera Varman, MD, Jillyn Kratochvil, MD, Debra Tomek, MD

Creighton University School of Medicine  
Children's Physicians of Omaha

## INTRODUCTION

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection with approximately 79 million individuals currently infected in the United States. HPV infection can have severe sequelae including genital warts, oropharyngeal and genitourinary cancer. Despite these risks, vaccination rates remain lower than that of other scheduled vaccines. It is the purpose of this research to better understand parental concerns among the Omaha community regarding the HPV vaccine in hopes of then being able to improve vaccination rates<sup>123</sup>.

## STUDY DESIGN

**Distribution:** An online survey was developed and emailed to participants using the Omaha Children's Physicians email listserv.

**Inclusion criteria:** Parents of children 13-18 who had not received the HPV vaccine

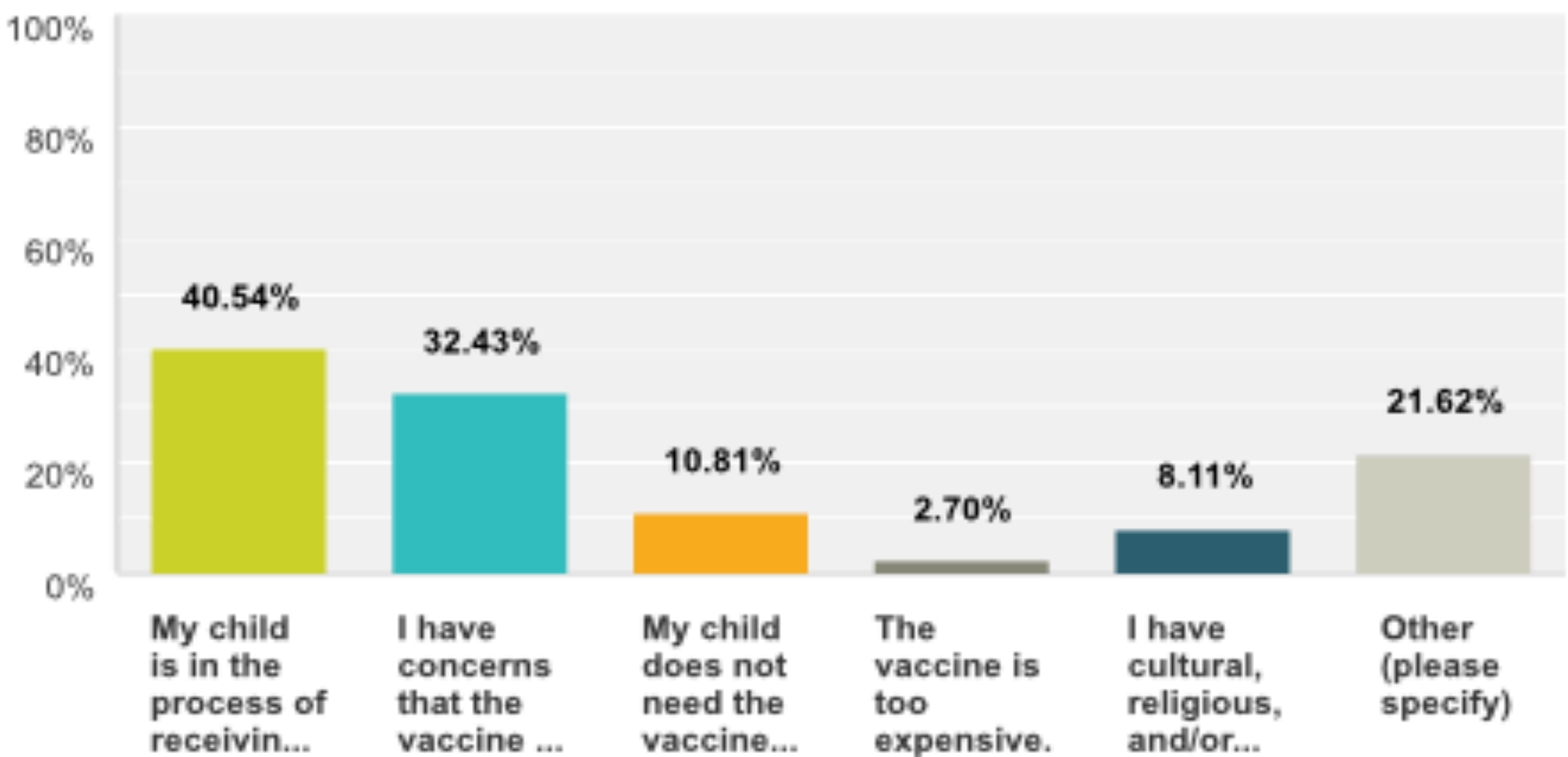
**Data collection:** Demographic information and answers to questions regarding reasons for not vaccinating and concerns with the vaccine.

**Analysis:** Assess various concerns contributing to incomplete HPV vaccination.

## SURVEY RESULTS

The following is a list of reasons for choosing to not have your child receive the HPV vaccine. Please select all of the reasons that contributed to your decision to not have your child receive the HPV vaccine. More than one answer may be selected.

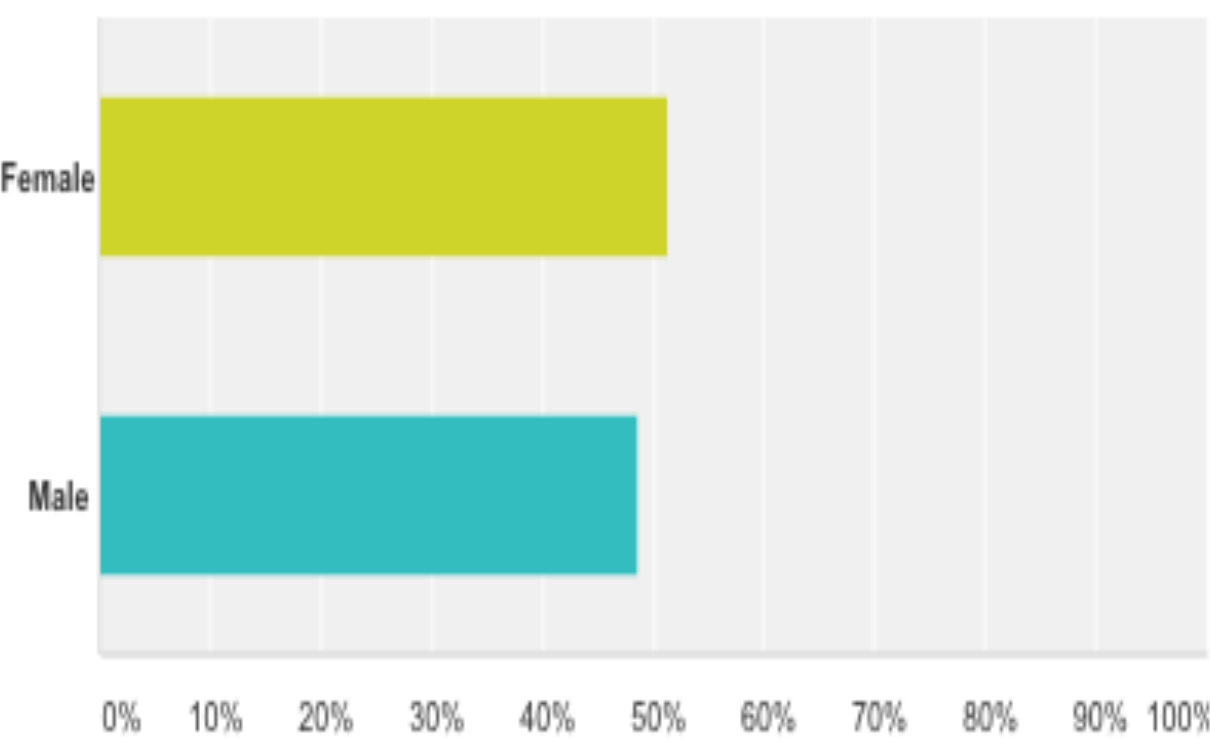
Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
My child is in the process of receiving the shots and will receive one at their next visit to the doctor.	40.54% 15
I have concerns that the vaccine is not safe for my child.	32.43% 12
My child does not need the vaccine because they are not sexually active.	10.81% 4
The vaccine is too expensive.	2.70% 1
I have cultural, religious, and/or personal beliefs that my child should not receive vaccinations.	8.11% 3
Other (please specify)	21.62% 8
Total Respondents: 37	

What is your child's gender?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



Other Concerns

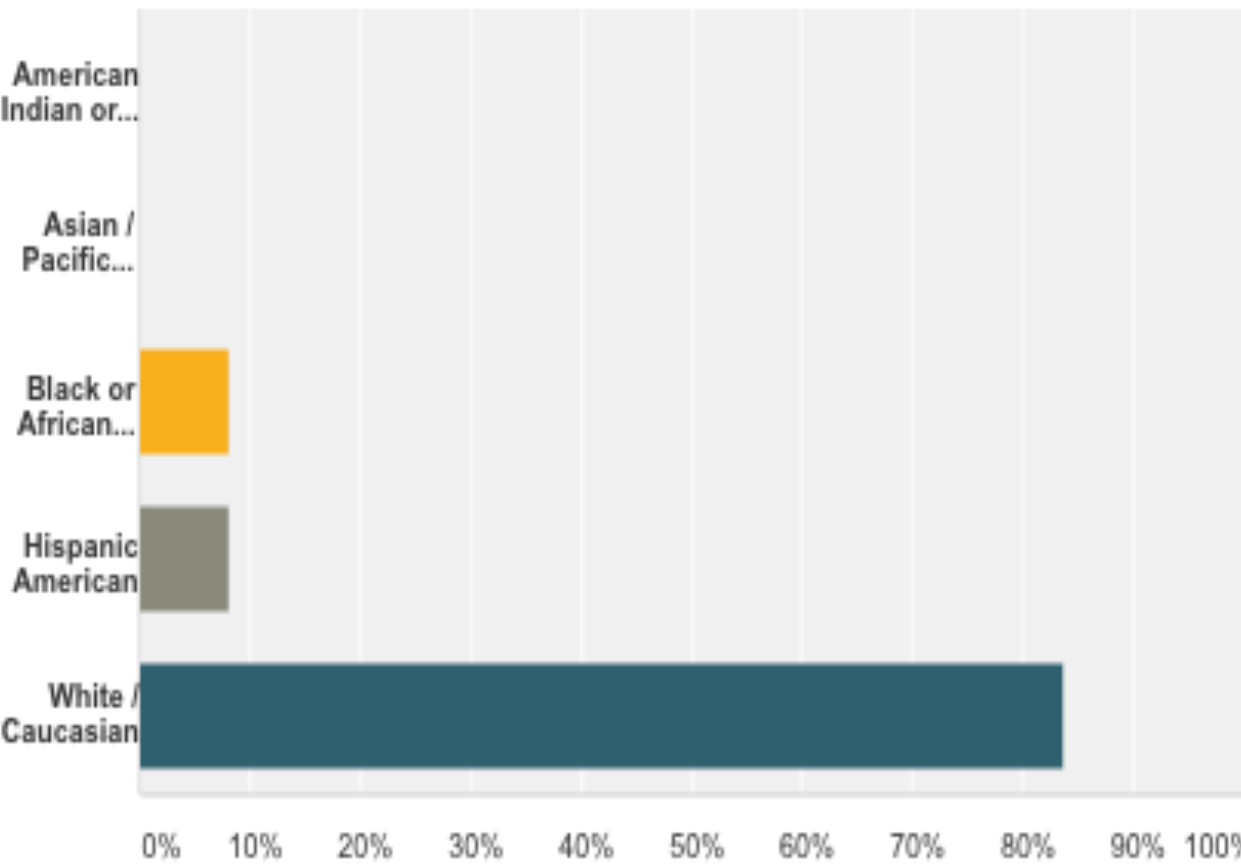
**-Novelty of vaccine:** "I'm just concerned about the newness of the vaccine and the potential side effects we have yet to learn about."

**-Insurance coverage:** "My insurance company does not cover the vaccine/injection because he is male."

**-Inadequate trials:** "I feel that the HPV vaccine was rushed through testing and is not entirely safe."

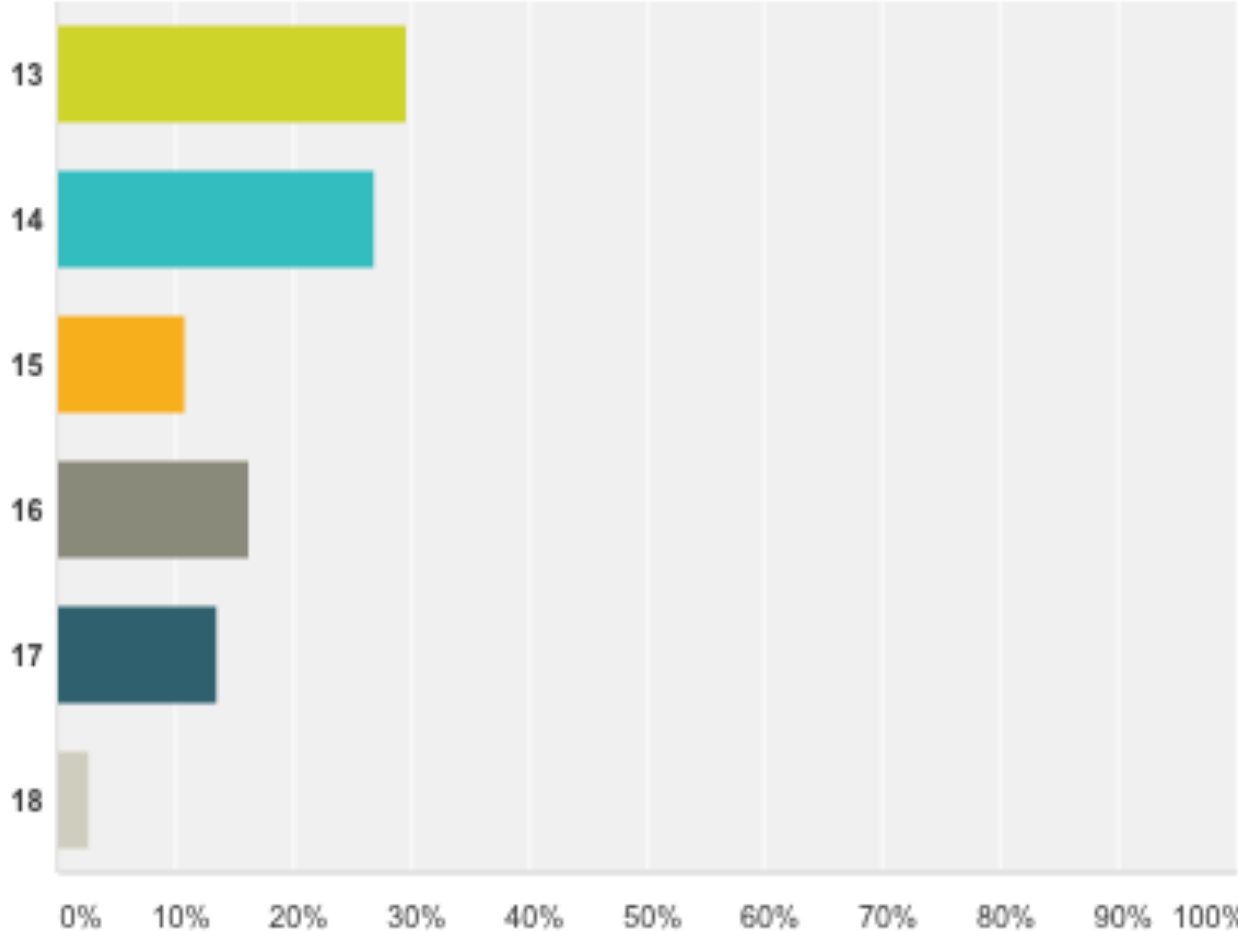
Which race/ethnicity best describes your child? (Please choose only one.)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



How old is your child?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



## DISCUSSION

### Conclusions

- Many parents are in the process of completing the series.
- Parents continue to have concerns about the safety of the vaccine, while others are hesitant because they believe their child is not sexually active.
- Concerns of cost, and misunderstandings whether the vaccine is available for both sexes, are less common in this population.
- No parents reported that their provider did not recommend the vaccine.
- This survey may be used by providers to assess concerns within their population

### Limitations

- Sample size
- Demographics of the population assessed was primarily Caucasian
- Online survey model

### Future Study

- Administration of survey in clinic may promote adherence
- Inclusion of questions regarding concerns about insurance coverage, vaccine trials, and novelty.
- Different clinics

## REFERENCES

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine. 2014; Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/Vaccines/HPV/Index.html#data>
- HPV Teen Vaccination Coverage. 2014: Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/vaccination-coverage.html>
- Lau, M., H. Lin, and G. Flores. "Factors associated with human papillomavirus vaccine-series initiation and healthcare provider recommendation in US adolescent females: 2007 National Survey of Children's Health." *Vaccine*, 2012. 30(20): p.3112-3118.