

Pediatric HPV Vaccination: Increasing Parental Intent to Vaccinate

Authors: Corri Stearnes BSN, RN, Catherine O'Keefe DNP, CPNP-PC

Background: In 2014 there were about 79 million Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) -infected Americans (CDC, 2014). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that children ages 11 and 12 be vaccinated against HPV. The Healthy People 2020 goal is 80% vaccination rate.

Methods: A CDC fact sheet about HPV and the vaccine along with a link to an anonymous survey was sent to 300 school nurses through email by the DHHS School Health Program Manager. The survey sought to determine the intent of parents of 7th graders to vaccinate their child against HPV before and after reviewing the Fact Sheet.

Evaluation: Findings were very limited. Follow up revealed that most did not send the link to the survey. Reasons being administrative non-approval and forgetting to do it. However, 4 school nurses agreed to resend the Fact Sheet with a link for the survey with spring midterm report cards or end of the year school physical packets. This data is pending at the time of submission.

Implications: Studies have demonstrated that increasing awareness and education has a positive effect on HPV vaccination rates. This project revealed that using the school system has its limitations. However, working with school nurses on a small scale may be more successful.