It is estimated that 79 million individuals are infected with human papilloma virus (HPV). 14 million more Americans become infected with HPV each year. HPV is responsible for 28,000 cancer diagnoses annually (approximately 17,000 cases in women and 9,000 cases in men). Although these statistics are alarming, finding a solution is problematic. Vaccination recommendations for HPV remain controversial because of the intimate nature of the spread of the disease, knowledge and awareness of the disease, and health care barriers. HPV vaccination has been included in the vaccination schedule in the United States (U.S.) since 2006. However, because it is a sexually transmitted infection (STI), promotion of the vaccine is fraught with negative undertones due to cultural expectations, religious beliefs, and societal norms. It remains the most prevalent STI in males and females in the U.S. The vaccine is currently recommended for females (age 9-26) and males (age 11-26).

The convenience sample included a total of 842 ethnically diverse male (N=318) and female (N=524) students, with 840 eligible results.

55% of this sample reported being of Hispanic origin.

Ages ranged from 18-64, 68% of the male and 70% of the female participants were between the ages of 18-24.

Sources: about 61% of the total sample have received information on HPV from varying sources.

This study found that despite current efforts to educate individuals about HPV, participants in this study had low vaccination rates and believed that condoms prevented the spread of HPV, that HPV is not caused by cancer, and that men cannot acquire HPV. This confirms that health care providers must continue to disseminate HPV education to this vulnerable population.