

MINORITY COLLEGE STUDENTS’ HPV KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS, AND VACCINATION HISTORY

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Background

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 26,000 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).

Purpose

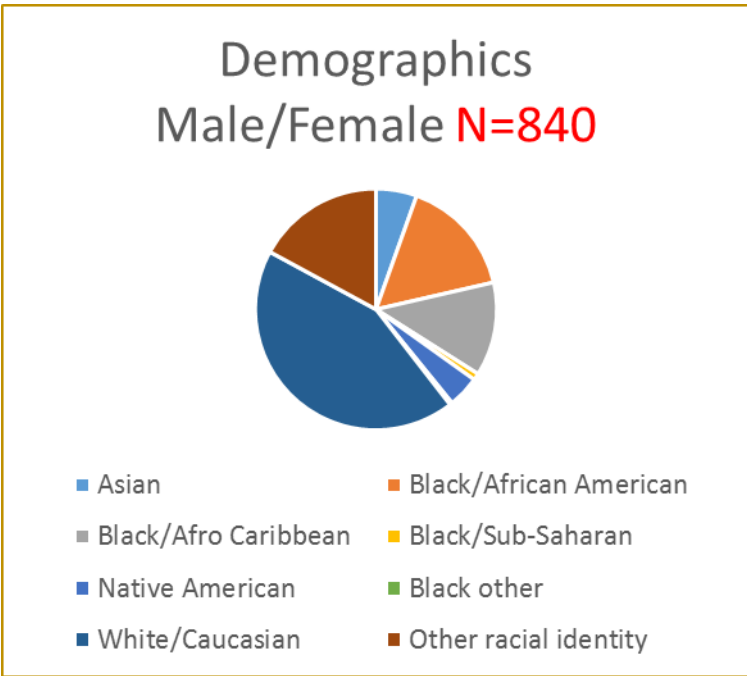
- The aims of this cross sectional study are threefold:
- ❖ To explore HPV knowledge and awareness
 - ❖ To identify sources of information received on HPV
 - ❖ To identify HPV vaccination rates in ethnically diverse male and female college students ages 18-24

Methods

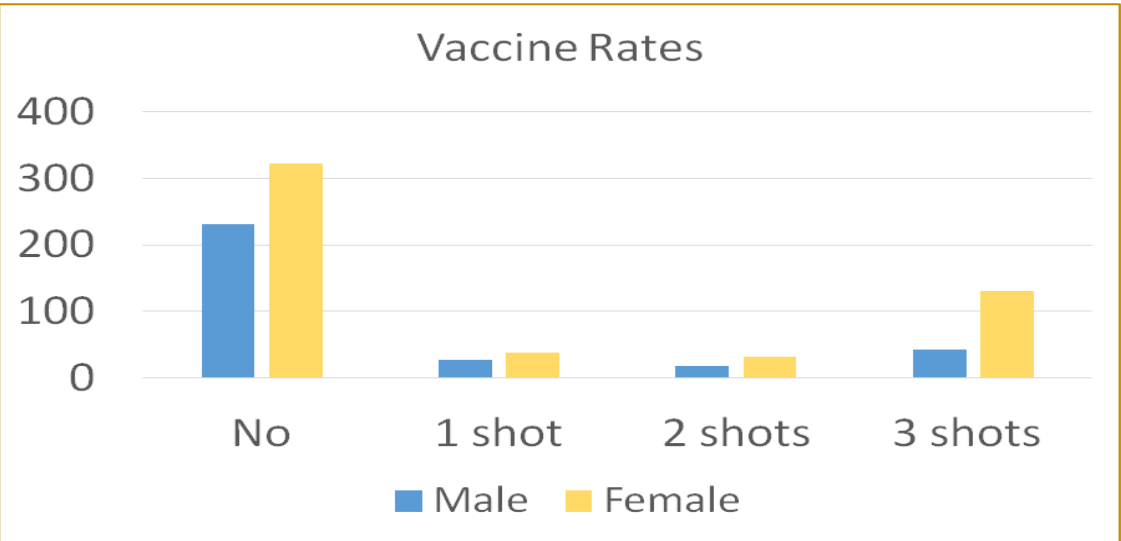
After IRB approval, male and female students were recruited from a South Florida university campus, a community college campus, and an LGBT venue from February-August 2014. Inclusion criteria for the study were age 18-24, enrollment as a student, and the ability to read and write English. Upon attainment of verbal consent, participants completed a self administered survey. The survey is a modified version of the Health Department Community Health survey. The survey elicited data on demographics, and was adapted to include eight items on awareness and knowledge of HPV, information received on HPV, and history of HPV vaccination.

Results

- ❖ 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.



Results



Knowledge & Awareness Questions	Male N= 317		Female N= 523	
	True/Yes	False/No	True/Yes	False/No
Concerned HPV Exposure	43.4	56.3	47.1	52.5
Have you had genital warts	1.9	97.8	5.7	94.3
HPV most Common STI	63.2	36.5	68.9	30.5
Warts are caused by HPV	67.6	32.1	73.7	25.4
HPV can cause Cancer	73	26.7	84.7	14.7
Condoms prevent HPV	71.4	28.6	71.2	28.6
Men cannot get HPV	27.4	72.3	23.3	76.3

*Correct answer choices are red and bolded

Implications

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.

Acknowledgement

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