# An Educational Intervention to Increase Human Papillomavirus Awareness and Intent to Vaccinate

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## INTRODUCTION

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexual transmitted infection in the United States. HPV has a 80% incidence rate in the United States (US) population within their lifetime (Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), 2012). HPV is transmitted primarily through sexual contact genital-genital or oral-genital. HPV is associated with genital warts and cancers caused by persistent infection. There are many strands of HPV, however a vaccine has been developed to cover the most prevalent strands causing cancer. Vaccination rates remain low, especially in African Americans (AA) and education is critical to prevent HPV related disparities and improve vaccine uptake.

## OBJECTIVES

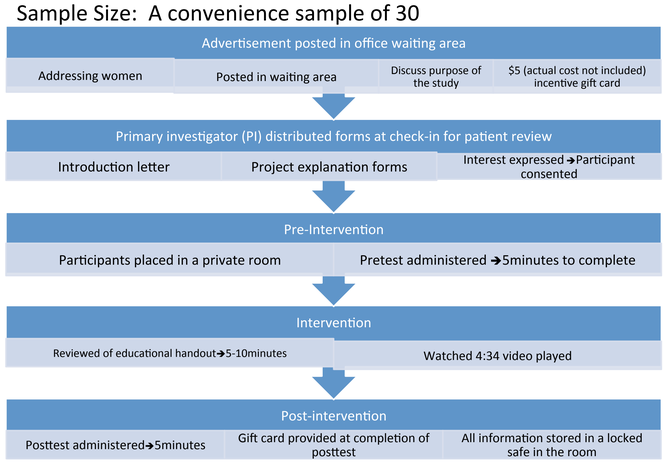
1. To describe a comprehensive communication strategy to providers for initiating and disseminating HPV and HPV vaccine education.
2. To describe the impact of a short educational intervention on participants in regards to HPV knowledge and vaccination.
3. To discuss the impact of the educational intervention on intent to vaccinate or recommend vaccine.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this health improvement project was to develop and evaluate the impact of an educational intervention on knowledge of HPV/HPV vaccine and intent to vaccinate or recommend HPV vaccination in AA women in a clinical setting.

## METHODS

Theoretical Framework: Health Belief Model
Design: Quality Improvement Project
Setting: Private internal medicine practice
Sample Size: A convenience sample of 30



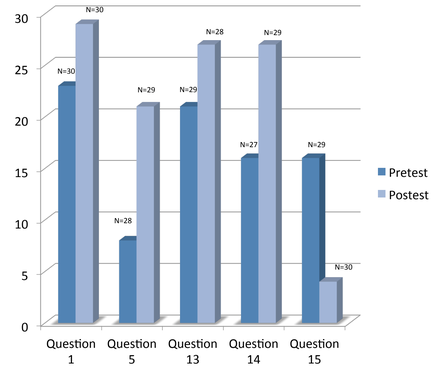

## RESULTS

**The sample population in terms of demographics and risk behaviors for HPV infection and cervical cancer**

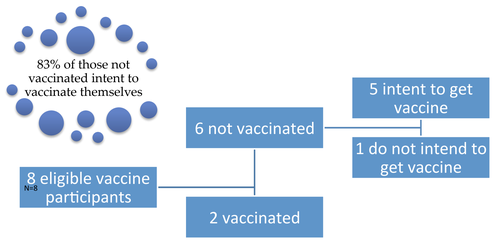
| Demographics/Risk factors snap shot |
|---|
| 75% of population 27 of age and older |
| 47 % college graduates |
| All participants reported having had sexual encounters |
| 59% use condoms at least some of the time but only 20% use condoms all the time |
| 77% of population are non smokers |
| 96% up-to-date on pap smears in this office |
| 13% with personal experience with HPV |

**The impact on a short educational intervention on participants' knowledge regarding HPV, HPV vaccinations, and cervical cancer**

This was a knowledgeable population on HPV. The intervention did not seem to have much effect on the total knowledge of the population. However, those who were less knowledgeable showed improvement on many questions.




**The impact on a short educational intervention on participants' perception of the HPV vaccination and their intent to receive or recommend the vaccination**




16.6 % of participants increase in recommending the vaccine from pre to post test. Over a 50% change from pretest to posttest in recommending vaccine

| Question 14 | Recommend Vaccine |
|---|---|
| Pretest | 66.7% (n=20) |
| Posttest | 83.3% (n=25) |

## DISCUSSION

Low national HPV vaccine rates demonstrate the need for educational intervention among the African American community to increase knowledge and intent to vaccinate. These results show an evidence-based educational intervention appeared to improve HPV vaccine acceptability at this private internal medicine practice. Although there was a ceiling effect with the knowledge of this population, many participants benefited from the intervention with some increased knowledge.

Improving perception and acceptability of the HPV vaccine is not directly correlated with increased intent to vaccinate. Among the population eligible for the HPV vaccine an 83 % increase occurred for intent to vaccinate.

Limitations in this project would include emphasizing the difference between the vaccines i.e. Cervarix does not cover genital warts. Another limitation would be to address barriers and perception portion by asking for specification on barriers if other is selected. The intent to vaccinate may increase by selecting a population vaccine is indicated for only i.e. 18-26 yrs. As the data showed an increase in this population.

## IMPLICATIONS TO PRACTICE

This project is important to women's health by demonstrating improved knowledge in the clinical setting will increase intent to vaccinate. This leads to a positive impact on HPV-related disparities and such educational interventions should be considered in clinical practice to aid in the eradication of HPV. Clinicians are often the prime source of patient education. Therefore, it is vital for healthcare providers to educate themselves with guidelines and understand barriers while utilizing appropriate opportunities to recommend the vaccine when indicated.

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