An Educational Platform for HPV Vaccination in a Diverse Urban Population

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INTRODUCTION

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States.
- HPV-related oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC) is likely a preventable illness for which the tools currently exist to achieve a reduction in incidence.
- Studies examining acceptance of HPV vaccination showed that a lack of information is a major barrier to vaccination in over 50% of patients and parents.
- Inner city populations are at high-risk for HPV related oropharyngeal cancer and are also more likely to be unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated.
- We hypothesized that the implementation of a brief educational platform might impact knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding HPV vaccination in the inner city community of New Orleans.

METHODS

Demographics: Our study had a total of 85 survey respondents. (Figure 1) Of note, a majority of survey respondents (72%) had attained a high school education or better. Participants were divided nearly evenly with regard to health insurance coverage.

Knowledge: Baseline knowledge of HPV, its causal relationship to cancer, and existence of a vaccine against cancer was extremely poor. Knowledge improved significantly following the educational session. Prior to educational session, respondents either “knew” or “did not know” with regard to government recommendation of vaccination against a sexually transmitted infection and against cancer. Attitudes did not change as a result of the educational session. While, prior to session, only 41% of respondents would have their child receive the HPV vaccine, post-session, 70% stated they would want their child vaccinated, marking a statistically significant increase.

Practices: A significant increase in participants’ intention to vaccinate their children was found as a result of the educational session. (Figure 4)

REFERENCES