

Prophylactic Promiscuity: A Comparative Analysis of Actual vs. Perceived Knowledge of HPV

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Aims and Objectives

The aim of the study is to understand if there is a correlation between knowledge of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) regarding vaccination rates and transmission, treatments, and morbidities.

Background^{1,2,3}

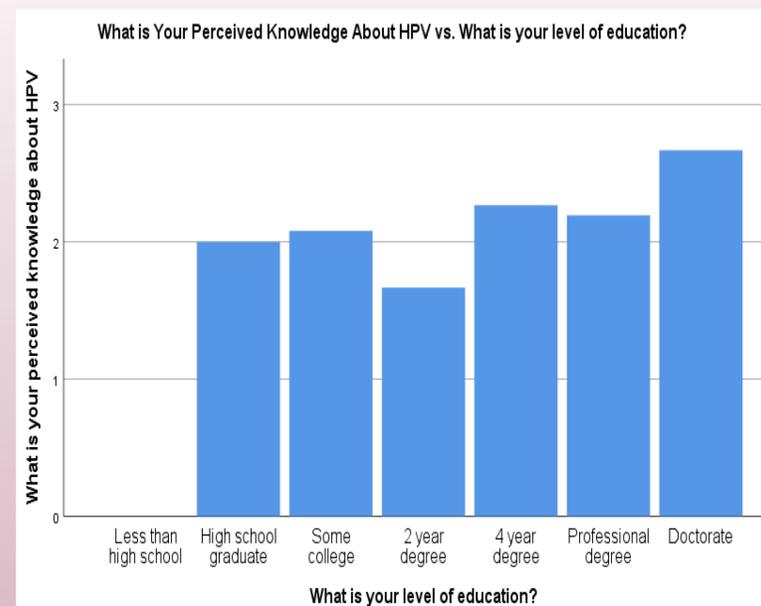
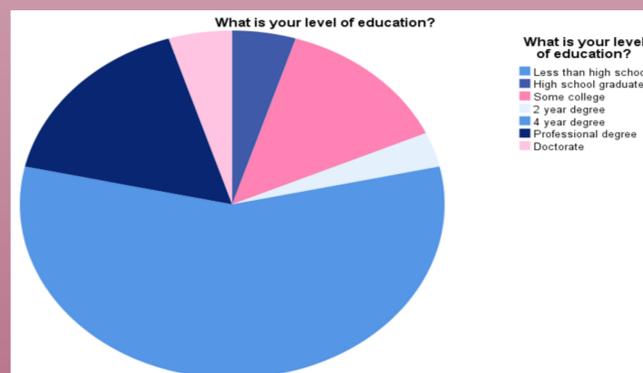
Human Papillomavirus is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections in the United States. Many who are infected are not aware that they have the virus due to the asymptomatic nature of the infection. Condoms are not effective at preventing the spread of HPV, making the vaccine one of the most effective methods at preventing the spread of a virus that leads to cervical, anal, penile, and oral cancers.

Design

The study follows a quantitative cross-sectional comparative design to determine the HPV knowledge base of individuals.

Methods^{4,5}

An anonymous survey was emailed to students, faculty, and staff at a large Southeastern US university. The survey was a combination of questions used in previous research studies evaluating the knowledge and perception of HPV. Results were collected via Qualtrics and analyzed in Statistical Package for Social Sciences.



Results

A Spearman's rank order correlation was run to assess the relationship between perceived knowledge of HPV and perceived education about HPV. There was a strong positive correlation between perceived knowledge of HPV and HPV vaccination, $r_s(98) = .587, p < .0005$. There was not a statistically significant correlation between knowledge of HPV and vaccination, $r_s(98) = -.049, p < 0.517$.

Conclusions

The study contributes to the new evidence on correlations between perceived knowledge, actual knowledge, and HPV vaccination. There is no correlation between knowledge of HPV and vaccination. However, there is a statistically significant correlation between perceived knowledge of HPV and vaccination rates.

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