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HPV Vaccination Intentions in Black Young Adults: Preliminary Data
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Background: Genital Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that has been linked to cancer in women and men. In comparison with their White counterparts, Black women had higher rates of HPV-associated vaginal cancer, but lower rates of vulvar and oropharyngeal cancer (CDC, 2016a). Black women also have a higher rate of deaths related to cervical cancer (CDC, 2016b). The population most affected by the HPV virus are individuals in their late teens and early 20s (CDC, 2017). The incidence of HPV-related cancers can be eradicated by over 90%, with the proper utilization of the HPV vaccination (CDC, 2018). Research has shown that parents in the United States have concerns regarding vaccinations in general, and particularly the HPV vaccine. Therefore, many young men and women entering college have not received the HPV vaccination. College students can receive health care, such as vaccinations, without the necessity of parental consent. However, studies have shown that college students may not even be aware that there is an HPV vaccine, and that they should get vaccinated.

The review of the literature also found that the type of institution the students studied at, positively correlated with HPV vaccine uptake; and that there is a clear distinction for HPV-related health outcomes for individuals living in rural areas.

Purpose: The purpose of this quantitative study in HPV vaccine naïve, Black college students aged 18-24, enrolled in a minority serving institution (MSI) or historically black college/university (HBCU), is to assess perceived vulnerability, perceived severity, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, and risk behavior factors (trust/mistrust, social influence, and prior sexual behavior) regarding intent to initiate and complete the HPV vaccination series.

Research question(s): The four questions: explore the relationship between HPV awareness and intent to be vaccinated; and explore whether the new policy decreasing the vaccine from 3 to 2 doses will affect vaccination intentions.

Design: A non-experimental cross-sectional.

Method(s): This proposed research study is a descriptive study to determine HPV vaccine intentions in vaccine naïve young Black college students. After IRB approval, male and female participants will be recruited from urban and rural HBCUs and MSIs. Participants will complete a demographic tool and 4 questionnaires. Preliminary data from the research dissertation will be presented in this study.

Analysis: Preliminary data analysis for this study will include descriptive analysis, chi square test, and logistic regression.
Abstract Summary:
The purpose of this quantitative study in HPV vaccine naïve, Black college students aged 18-24, is to assess perceived vulnerability, perceived severity, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, and risk behavior factors (trust/mistrust, social influence, and prior sexual behavior) regarding intent to initiate and complete the HPV vaccination series.

Content Outline:
**Background:** The HPV vaccine is currently recommended for females and males (ages 9-26). In 2018, the HPV vaccine received approval for men and women 27-45 years old (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), 2018). CDC (2010) reported that among adolescents aged 13-17, 44.3% reported receiving at least 1 dose and 26.7% reported receiving 3 doses of the vaccine. However, the CDC (2018) noted that among girls and boys aged 13-17, 65% and 56% reported receiving at least 1 dose of the vaccine.

Although the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended the utilization of the HPV vaccine, college age individuals have demonstrated a less than optimal uptake of the vaccine (Barnard et al, 2017). The majority of studies in the HPV body of literature have focused on women. The benefits of vaccinating males and females will also help to equalize the burden of protection to both genders and not just females alone (Kim, 2011). Fenkl, Hughes, and Jones (2016) conducted a study at a minority serving institution and found that 60% (n=79 of 131) of the male participants didn’t know that the HPV vaccine was available.

A finding that became evident during this review is that the type of institution the students studied at, positively correlated with vaccine uptake (Lee, Lust, Vang, and Desai, 2018). Research that explores gender and racial diversity is warranted in future studies involving HPV. In summary, several studies found that there is a clear distinction for health outcomes for individuals living in rural areas. There is also a majority of black Americans that live in the Southern areas of the United States. Thomas, DiClemente, and Snell (2014), noted that to develop impartial and beneficial health promotion programs, geographic factors must be taken into consideration.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this quantitative study in HPV vaccine naïve, Black college students aged 18-24, enrolled in a minority serving institution (MSI) or historically black college/university (HBCU) and/or a, is to assess perceived vulnerability, perceived severity, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, and risk behavior factors (trust/mistrust, social influence, and prior sexual behavior) regarding intent to initiate and complete the HPV vaccination series.

**Methods:** IRB approval has been received data collection is in progress at two Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and two Minority Serving Institutions (MSI).

**Results:** Data presented in this poster will consist of the preliminary data that is in the process of being collected

**Implications:** This study will explore the link between black male and female college students’ intentions to receive the HPV vaccination and behaviors that affect that decision. It will inform health care providers and researchers about strategies that will help these students decide to empower themselves to care for their reproductive health.

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Author Summary: Kayla Mathis-Gamble, PhD(c), MSN, ARNP-BC, PNP is an Assistant Professor in Nursing at Broward College in South Florida. She is currently a student and PhD candidate in Nursing at Florida International University. Her research interest include prevention strategies and interventions for STIs infections in vulnerable populations.