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Transforming Caregiver Barriers to HPV Vaccinations in African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans: A Cultural Collaboration

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Purpose: The purpose of this systematic review and implementation project is to transform caregiver barriers to Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans. This knowledge will guide the development of strategies to increase awareness, cultural collaboration, and immunization rates; thereby reducing disease incidence and/or comorbidities. HPV is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection (STI), causing around 79 million people in the United States (U.S.) to be currently infected with it, and an estimated new additional 14 million cases per year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). Despite recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for vaccinating both girls and boys against HPV, there are still many challenges to reach appropriate immunization rates, particularly among minorities such as the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population. Furthermore, racial minorities such as African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans have been found to have higher risks for HPV and HPV-associated cancers when compared to their white counterparts (Hull et al., 2014).

Methods: A search was conducted on CINAHL and Medline, and a total 38 records were identified, eight of which met the inclusion criteria. An assessment of the full-text manuscripts was performed, leaving seven manuscripts to be included in this systematic review. The implementation project will be carried out at a local school-based community clinic, and consist of a demographic questionnaire, a knowledge pre-test, followed by an educational intervention provided to caregivers, and a post-test to evaluate learning.

Results: The literature has revealed that the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population has a broad spectrum of caregiver concerns regarding HPV vaccination that need to be addressed, including: insufficient knowledge about HPV and HPV vaccines, and desire for more guidance from healthcare providers; apprehension about promoting earlier and/or riskier sexual practices; vaccine safety concerns and distrust; and financial difficulties.

Conclusion: Important health disparities exist among African-Americans' and Afro-Caribbeans' HPV immunization rates, HPV infection incidence, and HPV-associated cancer rates, which are inequities that all nurses around the globe dealing with these populations should address. These health disparities should be confronted partly

through ensuring that nurses are providing appropriate recommendations for the HPV vaccine to patients and their caregivers as a means to address caregiver fears or doubts, and to promote earlier and complete HPV immunization; as well as through the development of educational interventions to advocate for HPV vaccine uptake increase, targeted to African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans. If the educational intervention is shown to effectively increase caregiver knowledge, as evidenced by higher post-test values than pre-test scores, it will be suggested to the clinic's stakeholders that the intervention be implemented as part of the clinic's health care provider training in efforts to increase their HPV vaccination rates. Further research will then be needed to determine if such educational programs tailored to educating caregivers in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population about all of the identified topics that prevent them from vaccinating their children with the HPV vaccines are effective in increasing HPV immunization rates.

Title:

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Keywords:

African-American and Afro-Caribbean, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and vaccination barriers

Abstract Summary:

The purpose of this systematic review and implementation project is to transform caregiver barriers to Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans. This knowledge will guide the development of strategies to increase awareness, cultural collaboration, and immunization rates; thereby reducing disease incidence and/or comorbidities.

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