

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

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## Introduction

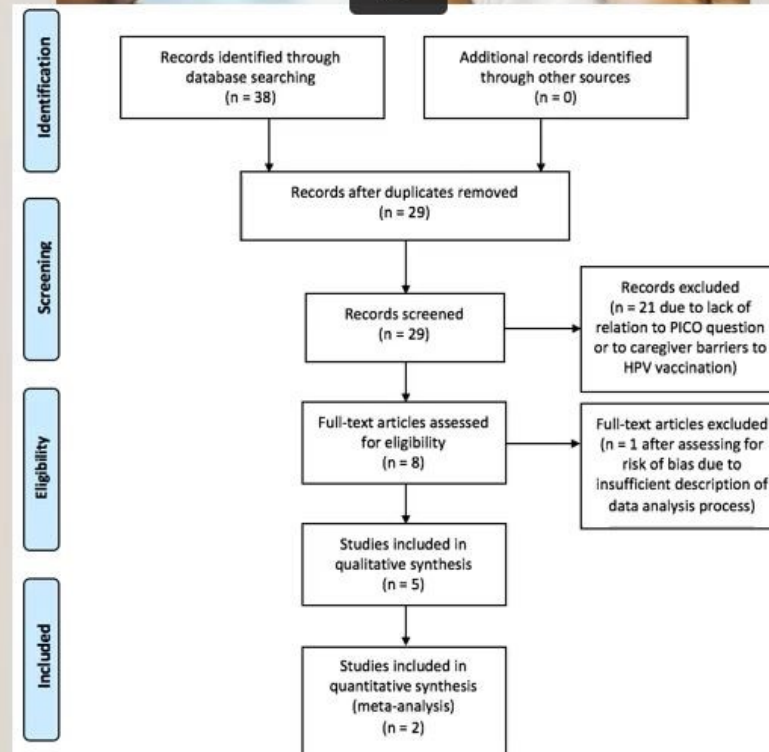
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most prevalent virus of the reproductive tract, and most sexually active individuals will become infected with it at some point in their lives (World Health Organization, 2020).
- HPV can cause genital warts, but more importantly, it can lead to multiple types of cancers (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017).
- African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans have higher risks for HPV and HPV-associated cancers than Caucasians (Cates, Ortiz, Shafer, Romocki, & Coyne-Beasley, 2012).
- Despite recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, there are still barriers for HPV vaccinations, particularly among minorities such as African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans.

## Purpose

The purpose of this systematic review and implementation project is to transform caregiver barriers to 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.

## Methods

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



## Results

This systematic review revealed that African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans have a variety of concerns regarding HPV vaccines:

- Knowledge barriers, with desire for more guidance from healthcare providers.
- Apprehension about promoting earlier and/or riskier sexual practices.
- Vaccine safety concerns and distrust.
- Financial concerns regarding these multiple-dose vaccines.

## Conclusion

- Important health disparities exist among African-Americans' and Afro-Caribbeans' HPV immunization rates and HPV's disease burden as compared to Caucasians, which are inequalities that nurses need to address.
- Nurses need to do this by recommending HPV vaccines 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 developing educational interventions to advocate for HPV vaccine uptake increase, targeted to African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans.
- If this 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 help determine if such educational programs tailored to educating caregivers in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population about the identified HPV vaccine barriers are effective in increasing HPV immunization rates.

References upon request at [gricc001@fiu.edu](mailto:gricc001@fiu.edu)