

Social Determinants of Health : HPV Vaccination Rates and Administration Attitudes

Bubis R, Agarwal K, Dworkin S.

Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Purpose :

- The HPV vaccine protects against 9 strains of HPV including strains 16 and 18 which cause 70% of oropharyngeal cancers ¹
- Despite 70-90% efficacy, only 62% of children were fully vaccinated in 2024²
- Social determinants of health (SDOH) play a significant role in the access to healthcare including vaccinations and relate to worse health outcomes ³
- Dentists can administer vaccines, including HPV, in 7 states ⁴
- Whether having SDOH risk factors affects vaccination rate or attitudes towards vaccine administration by dentists is not known

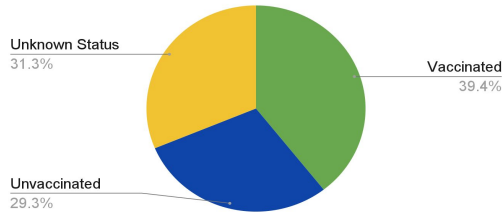
Methods :

- Surveys were provided in English or Spanish to parents of children 9-12 years.
- Survey included:
 - Questions from a validated SDOH screening tool
 - Questions assessing child and parent HPV vaccination status
 - Knowledge about HPV & relation to cancer
 - Attitudes about vaccination
 - Comfort with dentists providing the vaccine
- Information sheets with SDOH resources and HPV vaccine information were provided to all parents

Results :

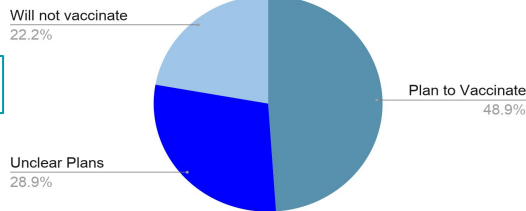
- A total of 61 families were screened with 15 screening positive for at least 1 SDOH risk factor

HPV Vaccination Status



- 16% of parents knew the correlation between HPV and oropharyngeal cancer

Intent to Vaccinate



- 36% of parents felt comfortable with dentist administered vaccines

SDOH+ was correlated with:

HPV vaccination status of parent ($P=.005$)
HPV vaccination status of patient ($P=.007$)

Parental intent to vaccinate against HPV ($P=.0003$)

Acceptance of dentist administered vaccination ($P=.005$)

No change in knowledge of HPV's oral manifestations compared to SDOH - families ($P=.8$)

Conclusion :

- Consistent with previous work, ~20% of parents in an inner city pediatric dental practice screened positive for one or more SDOH risk factors
- Paradoxically parents who screened positive were more likely to have vaccinated, or plan to vaccinate their children, and accept vaccination for HPV by a dentist
 - This might have resulted from undetermined factors, like obtaining care in medical settings with different vaccine practices
- Overall 37% of parents would accept vaccination in the dental office which represents a significant public health opportunity

Limitations :

- Sample size and convenience sample
- Bias: Recall and Response
- Limited demographic information collected to assess for confounding factors

Future Considerations :

- Increase sample to include more participants amongst different locations
- Follow participants until they are outside of 2 dose vaccination window to see whether they receive the vaccine

References:

