

An Analysis of the Efficacy of Communication on the Human Papillomavirus In a Community Outreach Setting

Saswat K. Kabisatpathy, Mohammad Dahrouj, Janna Cone, William Duke, Lauren Hayes, Veronica Sue, Danny Vo, Jasmine Wyman

Medical University of South Carolina – Presidential Scholars Program

INTRODUCTION

- The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection.
- Nearly 79 million individuals in the US are currently infected HPV¹
- According to a recent article by the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, HPV-related cancers are on the rise over the last two years while most other cancer rates have declined²
- Many experts recommend that adolescents get the HPV vaccine before becoming sexually active

Our project is a continuation of last year's Presidential Scholars group where the goal was to inform the local community about HPV and the opportunity to vaccinate young adolescents in an effort to reduce the incidence of HPV-related cancers. Informational presentations were evaluated by community participants.

METHODS

The project involved outreach to the local community on presenting information on HPV and the HPV Vaccine. Three members of the team presented to two local schools attending each school at least once. The following information was utilized at each presentation:

- An IRB-approved 24 question "Pre-survey" was provided to parents to evaluate their knowledge before the presentation
- A 15 – 20 min overview of HPV and the HPV vaccine was provided to the parents
- An IRB approved "Post-survey" consisting of the same questions was provided to the parents to determine the efficacy of the presentations

Information from the surveys allowed researchers to determine whether or not parents were willing to provide their children with the HPV vaccine before and after the presentation.

RESULTS

Pre- and post-survey data was analyzed. Questions 1 – 11 of the survey were utilized for quantitative assessment.

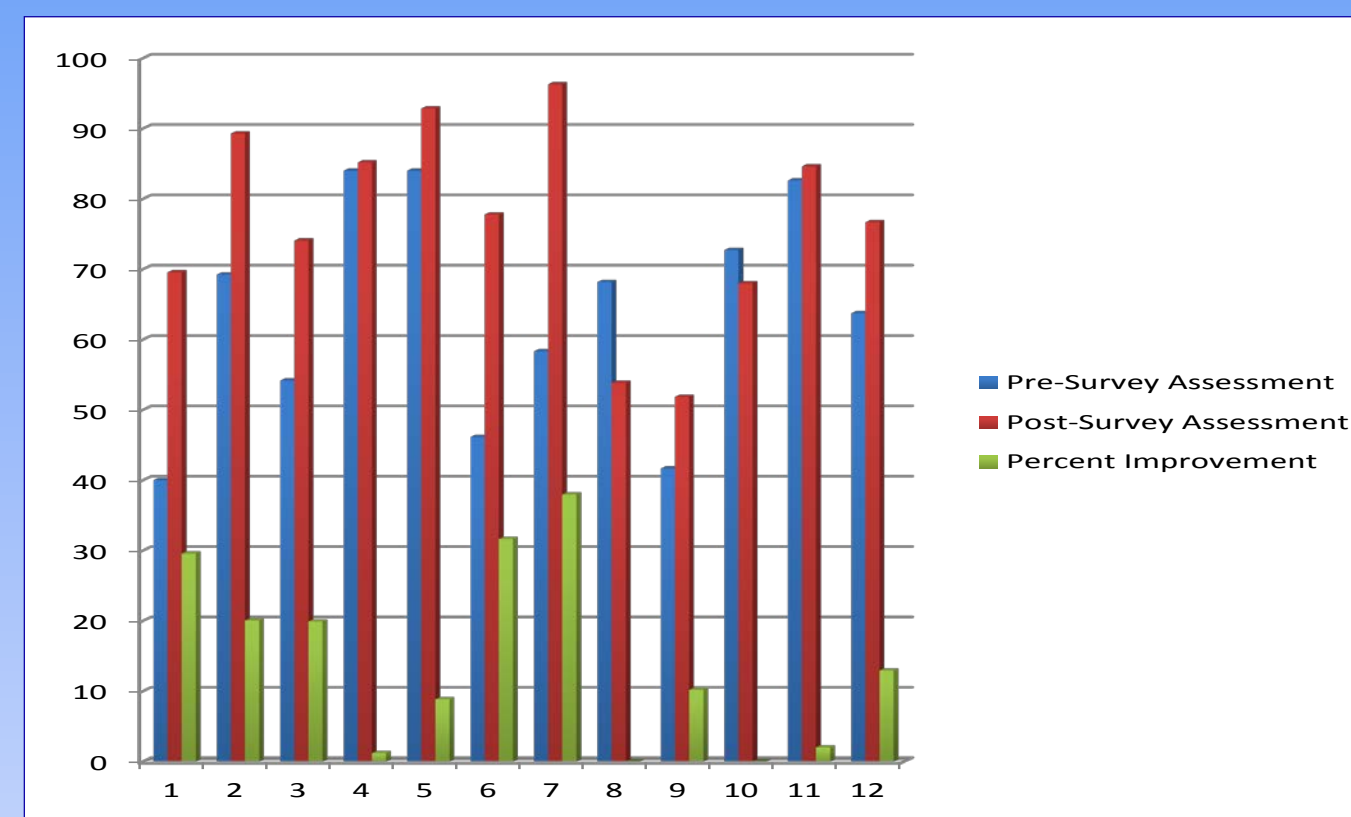


Figure 1. Pre- and Post-Survey Analysis: Questions 1 - 11.

- Pre-survey data showed that 63.7% of the assessment was answered correctly, while post-survey data demonstrated an improved assessment score of 76.7%
- The greatest improvement was found in question 7 regarding HPV causing genital warts
- The lowest score was related to the effects of HPV on babies born to mothers with HPV
- Further analysis identified a minimal change in the number of parents willing to have their child receive the HPV vaccine (pre-survey = 19 "yes" and post-survey = 18 "yes" responses)

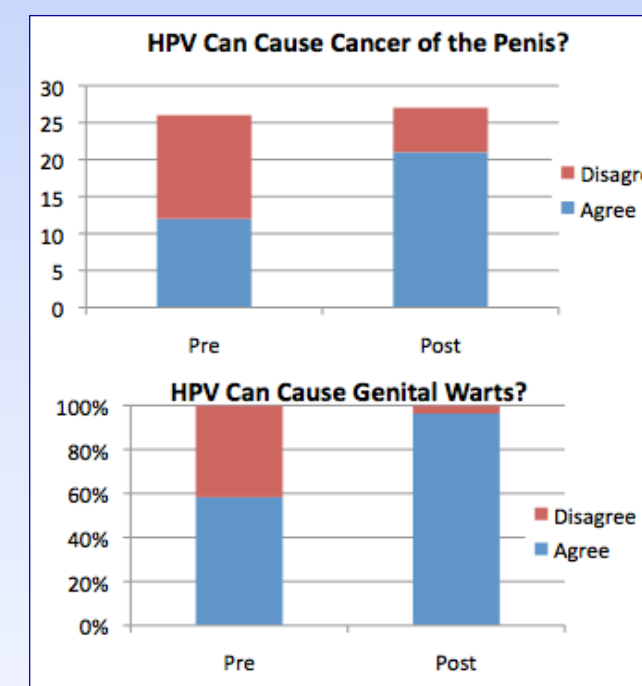


Figure 2 - 3. Pre- and Post-Survey Analysis Results from questions 6 and 7

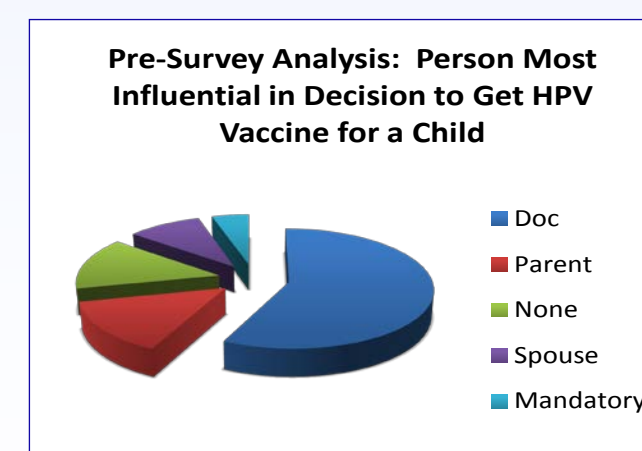


Figure 4. Pre- and Post-Survey Analysis Results from question 17

DISCUSSION

The purpose of our Presidential Scholars project was to inform parents in the community about the HPV Vaccine and measure the efficacy of the presentation given.

Results showed a marked improvement in knowledge after the HPV presentation was given as previously discussed. Many parents were very receptive to the idea of getting their child vaccinated against HPV. However, cost was a significant concern that parents expressed during the Q & A session of the presentation.

Through the efforts of the Scholars, this project has laid a foundation for future Scholars and established relationships between our community and the MUSC Family.



Presidential Scholars at Sanders-Clyde Elementary

SUMMARY OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Interprofessionalism was a vital component to the achievement of this research
- Each represented institution had an integral part in developing the project
- Communication was effective as each individual utilized their background and skills to achieve the various tasks needed to complete this research
- Presenting to the community also demonstrated our willingness to come together from various backgrounds and areas of study to achieve the ultimate goal of health and wellness for all

REFERENCES

1. Genital HPV Fact Sheet – Center for Disease Control. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm>
2. Jemal A., Simard, E., Dorrell, C., et al. Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975–2009, Featuring the Burden and Trends in Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-Associated Cancers and HPV Vaccination Coverage Levels. JNCI J Natl Cancer Inst (2013) 105 (3): 175-201.

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