



# College Students' Perception of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

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### Program Description or Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to assess college students' perceptions and knowledge about the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).
- The study measured students' perceived knowledge and attitudes toward the HPV vaccine.

### Method

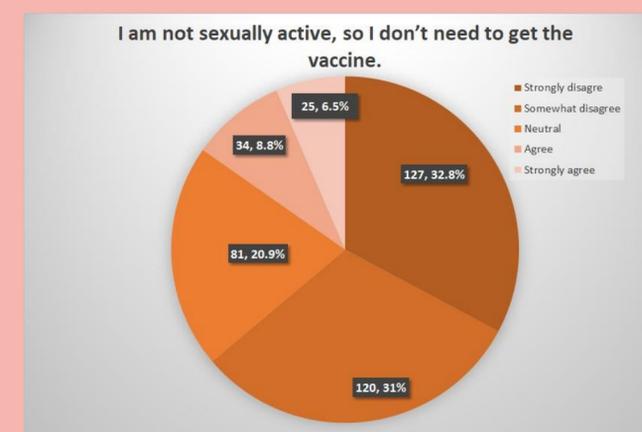
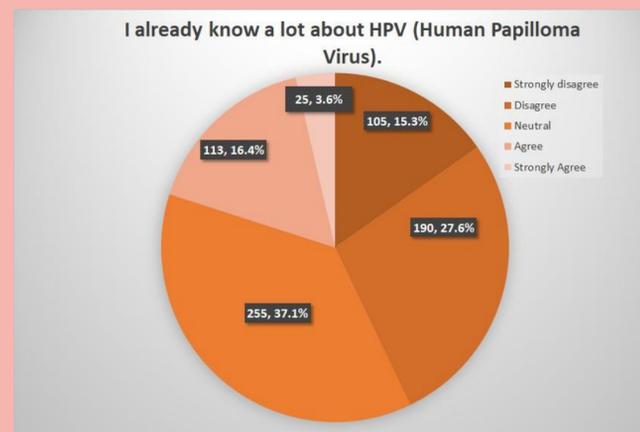
- A 4-page, close-ended survey was used to explore students' perceived knowledge about HPV after IRB approval.
- Surveys were handed to students in high traffic areas to complete and return to a research team.
- The research team visited the classrooms of faculty who had agreed to the request to collect data. Aggregate data were reported with no identifiers.
- Frequencies, means and standard deviations were used to describe the responses.

### Discussion/Conclusion

- While just about one-fifth of respondents have some knowledge about HPV, majority believed they were at risk for the infection even with their young age.
- Young people across America are not aware of the severity of HPV due to the lack of education.
- It is imperative for family, primary care physicians and health education courses to educate college students on HPV.
- Young people across America are not aware of the severity of HPV due to lack of awareness.
- HPV vaccinations should be encouraged during the early years to help protect lives.

### Background

- The Human Papilloma Virus infection (HPV) is sexually transmitted and a public health issue in the United States (CDC, 2019; Grace- Leitch et. al.).
- This disease cause several different types of cancer such as cervical, vaginal, and oropharyngeal, and genital warts.
- HPV is a leading cause of cervical cancer in women with about 91% of cases caused by HPV (CDC, 2019).
- Some college students have not heard of the infection or been vaccinated.
- Many do not believe that HPV is serious and that obtaining the vaccine is necessary.
- Vaccinations are highly recommended to help reduce spread of the infection.



### Results

- A total of 705 participants completed the survey.
- 184 (26.6%) identified as male, 507 (73.1%) identified as female, two (0.3%) respondents identified as transgender.
- Majority of the respondents were 20 years old or younger (44.4%), 42.3% were between 21 and 25 years old, 6.7% and 6.6% were between 26 and 30 years old and older than 31 years old.
- Only about 20% of respondents indicated they have some knowledge about HPV.
- Majority of respondents (482; 69.4%) did not believe they were too young to be infected by the virus.
- 56.3% (319) of respondents indicated that females had a higher risk for HPV compared to males (232; 40.9%).
- Students had high confidence about discussing HPV with other people and the confidence about the safety of the vaccine. Identified groups include: family members (85%); sexual partners (89%); roommates or friends (89%); and health care providers (97%).
- 85% of students were confident that the vaccine was safe; 90% were confident that getting the vaccine would reduce their chances of getting cancer.

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