

# Opinions on HPV Vaccinations Among Students

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## Study Question and Background

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is a sexually transmitted infection with many strains, 15 of which can cause cancer of the cervix and other areas. Currently, there is a quadrivalent vaccine against HPV that has been shown to be effective in preventing cervical and other cancers caused by HPV (Lei et. al, 2020). With current vaccination guidelines indicating adults above age 26 may benefit HPV vaccination, are medical students and current medical professionals up to date on current vaccine guidelines? (Meites et. al, 2019). Do medical students have adequate knowledge of HPV, including the method of transmission and the scope of diseases it may cause? Where do medical students get their information about HPV, and how confident are they in their knowledge about HPV?

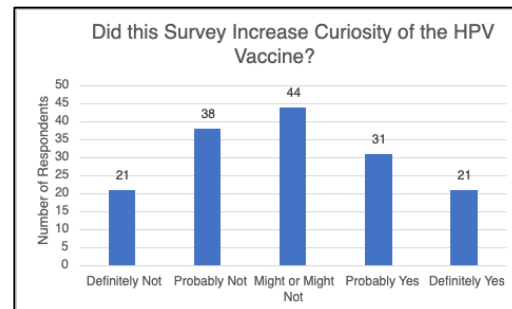
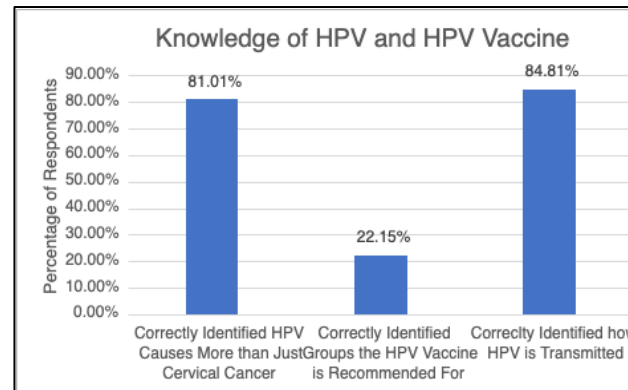
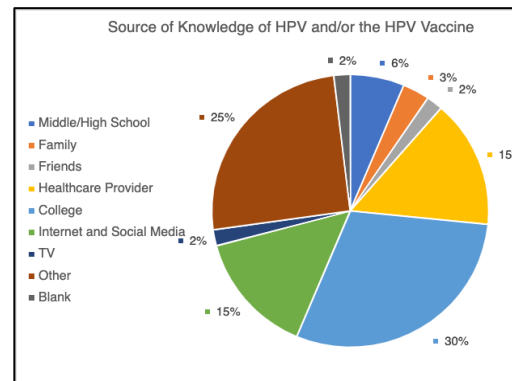
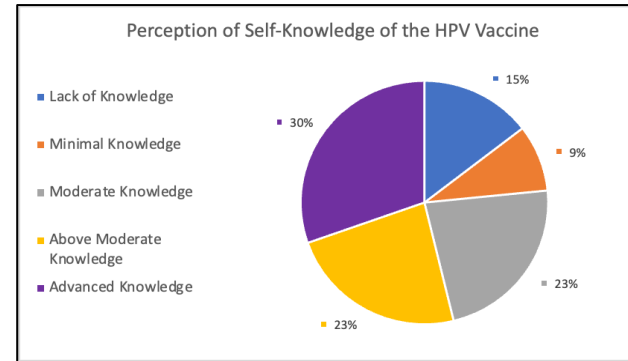
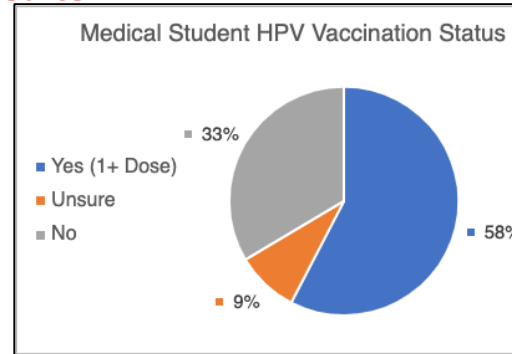
## Study Population

Our study, which consisted of medical students at the TTUHSC School of Medicine had 158 respondents with the majority aged 21-30.

## Data Collection Methods

Data was collected using a survey including sliding scale, multiple choice, and check all that apply (CATA) questions. Our survey questions were included as part of an omnibus survey sent to the entire TTUHSC School of Medicine.

## Results



## Next Steps

- Create a learning module on HPV and current vaccination guidelines
- Implement said module among current medical students at TTUHSC
- Explore the reality of hosting a vaccination clinic for TTUHSC students

## Conclusions

Though 58% of current medical students at TTUHSC have at least one dose of the HPV vaccine, most are not aware of updated guidelines to HPV vaccination. Only 15% of medical students are getting their knowledge about HPV from medical professionals, potentially indicating the disconnect between vaccine administration and education. Though 150 respondents indicated vaccines are important, 22.15% are up to date on current vaccine guidelines, and 47% rated their own knowledge of the vaccine as being moderate or less. Furthermore, with the rate of vaccine importance being so high, it should follow that medical students would be curious about vaccines, but only 32.9% had increased curiosity about the vaccine after completing our survey.

## References

Meites E, Szilagyi PG, Chesson HW, Unger ER, Romero JR, Markowitz LE. Human Papillomavirus Vaccination for Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2019 Aug 16;68(32):698-702. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6832a3. PMID: 31415491; PMCID: PMC6818701.

Lei, J., Ploner, A., Elfström, K. M., Wang, J., Roth, A., Fang, F., ... & Sparén, P. (2020). HPV vaccination and the risk of invasive cervical cancer. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 383(14), 1340-1348.