

Title: Factors Associated with School Nurses' HPV Vaccine Attitudes for School-Aged Youth

Track: School Health: Research and Emerging Issues

First Choice Presentation: 20 minute Oral Presentation with 10 minutes for Q&As at end of presentation

Second Choice Presentation: Any Format chosen by reviewers

Topic: School Nursing Services: Policy and Best Practices

Percentage Lectured / Interactive: 80/20

Presentation Level: Introductory

Core Beliefs Addressed:

Schools are uniquely positioned to help students acquire healthy habits for a lifetime. Schools prepare students to be college and career ready, which includes being a health literate adult.

School health professionals should be highly-qualified and practice evidence-based health and education strategies. The need for undergraduate and graduate training in health education and the need for certified, licensed or state-endorsed professionals is addressed in this belief and supported through the Healthy People 2020 objectives.

Significance to School Health: Because school nurses are at the intersection of the healthcare and school communities, they can be considered opinion leaders in providing health advice—including information about the HPV vaccine—to parents and students.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to examine school nurses' attitudes toward the HPV vaccine based on age, years as a school nurse, geographic location, urban vs rural work setting, knowledge, perception of role as opinion leaders, and school district support in providing health education.

Procedures: Participants (n = 413) were randomly selected from the National Association of School Nurses' membership and completed a web-based survey. Multiple regression was used to predict positive HPV vaccine attitudes.

Findings: The model was statistically significant accounting for 50.8% of the variance ($F [9, 400] = 45.96, p < 0.001$). Positive attitudes regarding the HPV vaccine were predicted by higher HPV and vaccine knowledge ($\beta = .096, p < .001$) and stronger perceptions of role as opinion leaders for the vaccine ($\beta = .665, p < .001$). No other independent variables were found to be statistically significant. These results suggest knowledge is essential in predicting positive attitudes, but not the strongest predictor as perceptions of role as opinion leaders was more crucial in terms of predicting school nurses' positive attitudes towards HPV vaccine.

Conclusions: To engage school nurses' in the HPV vaccine uptake, HPV vaccine uptake interventions need to focus on increasing school nurses' perception of their role as opinion leaders for the vaccine and knowledge in order to increase positive attitudes towards the HPV vaccine for youth.

Lead Presenter Disclosure: Conflict: No;

Second Presenter Disclosure: Conflict: No

Student Presentation: No

Learning Objectives:

Objective 1: Describe school nurses' attitudes toward the HPV vaccine, age, years as a school nurse, geographic location, population work setting, HPV knowledge, perception of role as opinion leaders, and school district support in providing health education

Objective 2: Identify factors associated with school nurses' positive HPV vaccine attitudes

Objective 3: Describe how these factors can be utilized to increase school nurses' positive HPV vaccine attitudes

Summary

This session investigates factors associated with school nurses' positive HPV vaccine attitudes and how these findings can be used to develop programs and interventions. Implications of these findings and further research for the school health field will be discussed.