Practice- and Community-Based Interventions to Increase Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Coverage

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What is the research about?

Vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) are recommended for adolescents aged 11 to 12 years in the United States, but many eligible youth have not been vaccinated. To address this issue, we did a thorough review of the literature on the effectiveness of programs designed to increase HPV vaccination rates among adolescents in the United States.

Why is this important for HIV prevention and treatment?

HPV infection can increase the risk of acquiring HIV. And people with HIV who acquire HPV may suffer more severe consequences including higher rates of some types of cancer caused by HPV (cervical, anal and others).

What did the researchers do?

Our literature review identified 14 published studies that described the results of different programs in community and health care settings including physician counseling and reminder/recall systems, school-based programs, and social marketing. Thirteen studies included girls, and two studies included boys. Studies covered a variety of groups and geographic locations.

What did the researchers find?

Twelve studies reported that the programs under review resulted in more youth receiving one or more shots in the 3 dose HPV vaccine series. One study reported a non-significant increase, and one reported mixed effects. Increases in immunization rates were generally in the range of 10% to 60%. This finding is quite different from another recent review that did not support widespread implementation for any educational programs targeted to parents or teens.

How can you use this research?

To increase rates of HPV vaccination in the United States, health care providers, policy makers, and public health professionals should focus on programs that can be implemented within health care settings using physician-directed approaches or programs conducted in community-based locations, such as schools. Educating parents and teens about the vaccine may be necessary for acceptance but does not appear sufficient to significantly change behavior. Broader programs within communities are needed to improve vaccine coverage and prevention of HPV-associated diseases.

Original Research Article:

Niccolai LM, Hansen CE. Practice- and community-based interventions to increase human papillomavirus vaccine coverage: A systematic review. JAMA Pediatrics. 2015;169(7):686-692. PubMed

Other References:

Fu LY, Bonhomme L-A, Cooper SC, Joseph JG, Zimet GD. Educational interventions to increase HPV vaccination acceptance: a systematic review. Vaccine. 2014;32(17):1901-1920.

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