Do Health Beliefs, Health Care System Distrust, and Racial Pride Influence HPV Vaccine Acceptability among African American College Females?

Background

• Genital human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common STI in the United States that can cause cancer (Parkin, 2006)

• Women aged 20-24 years have the highest rate of HPV infection (Dunne et al., 2007)

• There are currently two HPV vaccines available: Gardasil® and Cervarix® (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007)
Background

• African American women have a higher prevalence of HPV than Caucasian women (Dunne et al., 2007) and are less likely to complete the vaccine series (Dempsey et al., 2010)

• There are several reasons for the disparities in HPV vaccination, including health beliefs (Hsu et al., 2009) and distrust of the government and medical community (Marlow et al., 2007)

• Racial pride enhances acceptance of health promotion efforts (Thompson, 1991)

(Bynum et al., 2012)
Women who are more likely to report HPV vaccine acceptability will have:

– Higher perceived susceptibility to HPV infection
– Higher perceived severity of HPV-associated health outcomes
– Higher perceived benefit of vaccination
– Higher racial pride
– More cues to action
– Lower perceived barriers to vaccination
– Lower health care distrust

(Bynum et al., 2012)
Methods

• Cross-sectional sample of African American college students at three historically black colleges in the southeastern US
  – 215 African American women
  – 18-26 years old
  – fluent in English
  – previous knowledge of HPV

• 52-item self-administered questionnaire

(Bynum et al., 2012)
• Measures
  – HPV vaccine acceptability
  – Knowledge: HPV and Pap Test
  – HPV and HPV vaccine health beliefs: Perceived susceptibility to HPV infection, perceived severity of HPV health outcomes, perceived benefit of HPV vaccination, perceived barriers to HPV vaccination, cues to HPV vaccine accessibility and uptake
  – Health care system distrust
  – Racial pride
  – Sexual history
  – Sociodemographics

(Bynum et al., 2012)
Results

- 19% reported alcohol/drug use during last sexual experience
- 33% reported no condom use during last sexual experience
- 24.7% had previous STI diagnosis
- 7% had prior HPV diagnosis

- 75.8% reported HPV vaccine acceptability
  - These participants reported greater agreement to HPV vaccination benefit, more cues to action, and more likely to have had a prior STI diagnosis

(Bynum et al., 2012)
Results (cont.)

- Racial pride was negatively associated with vaccine acceptability

- Perceived benefit of vaccination was the strongest predictor of vaccine acceptability

- Health care distrust and sexual history were not predictive of HPV vaccine acceptability

(Bynum et al., 2012)
Implications for Practice

- Health initiatives need to focus on facilitators of behavioral engagement and need to address barriers
- For vaccine promotion efforts targeting young African American women, professionals need to promote benefits of vaccination
- Increased efforts should focus on promoting safer sex practices among all populations, especially African American women

(Bynum et al., 2012)
References


Prepared by H Goldstein (2014)