



# Spread the Word

## Attitudes and Awareness of Human Papillomavirus and Vaccinations

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### BACKGROUND

The Human Papillomavirus, one of the most prevalent diseases transmitted through sexual contact, is often silent and produces few symptoms to the infected person. There is no cure for the virus, but there are preventative measures and treatments that can be taken. Using a convenience sample, the attitudes and awareness of Waynesburg University students were researched, and it was found that there is an overall need to address awareness of the vaccination, the disease, the risks and prevention measures.

### OBJECTIVE

- Identify and examine the factors associated with the acceptance and declination of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations.
- Identify and examine the awareness of HPV and risks
- Determine source of information regarding Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and vaccination

### METHODS

A cross-sectional electronic survey was distributed on a small rural Pennsylvania college campus from March 2011 to May 2011. The sample size was 165 undergraduate students.

### RESULTS

Gender

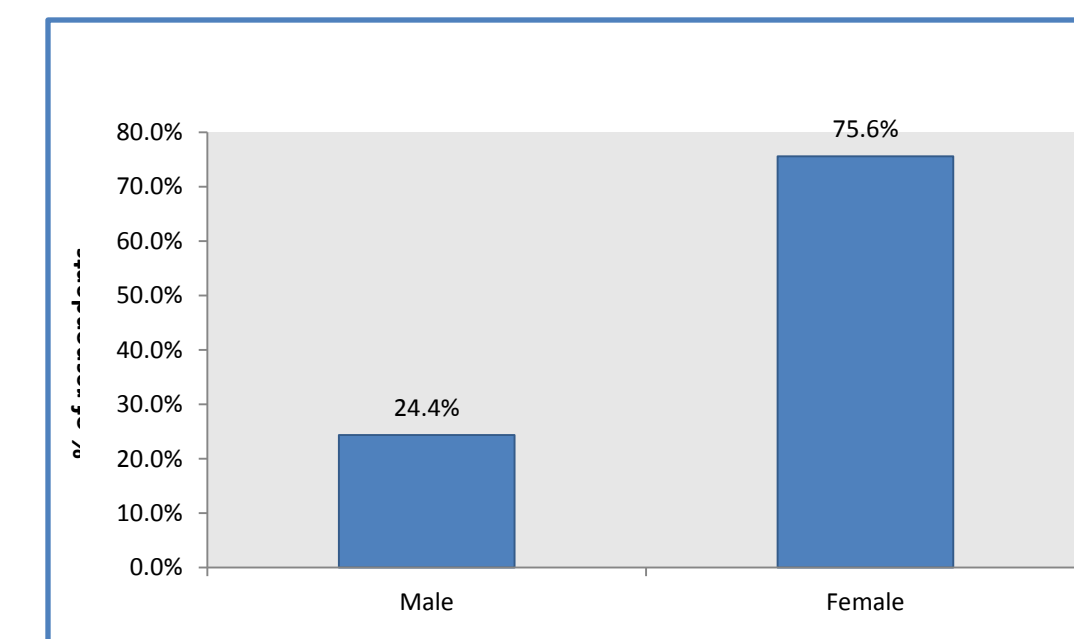


Figure 1.

Did you receive the HPV vaccination?

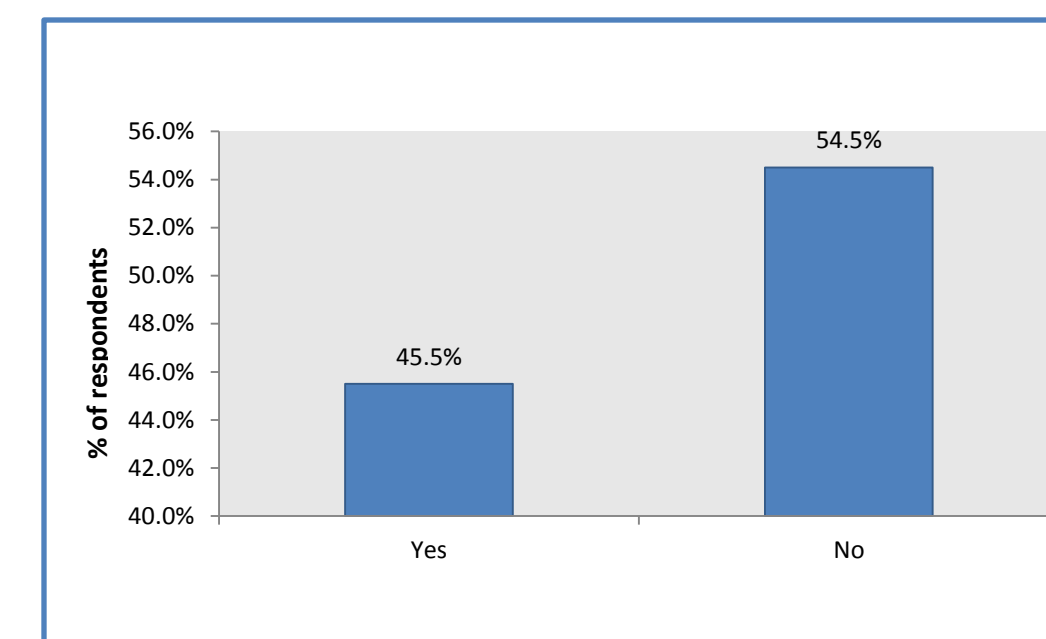


Figure 2.

What motivated you the most to receive the HPV vaccination?

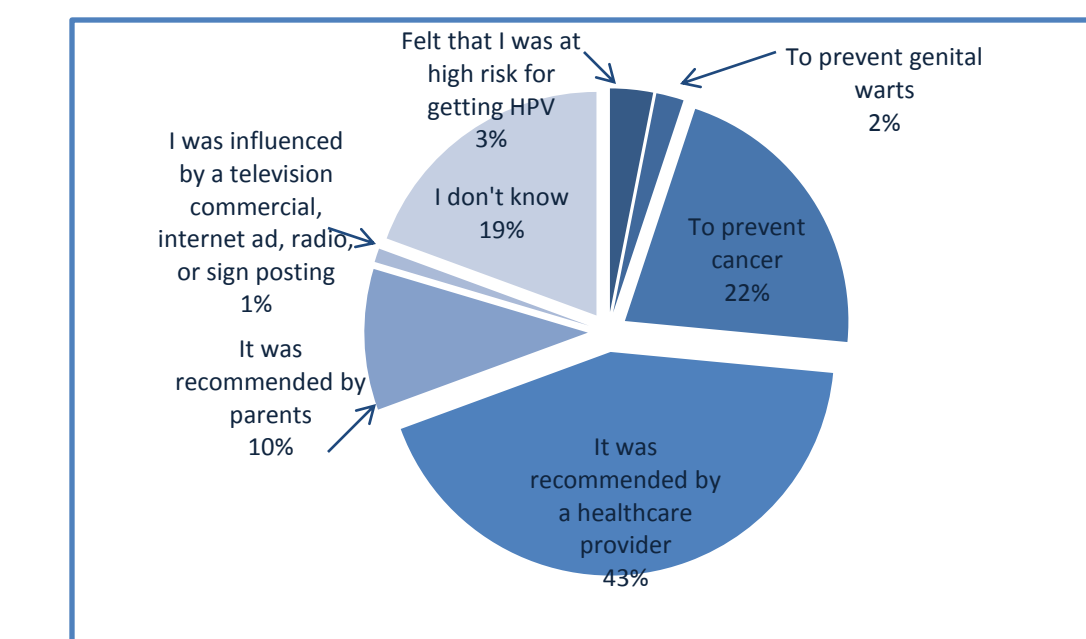


Figure 3.

From what source have you heard the most information about HPV and vaccine?

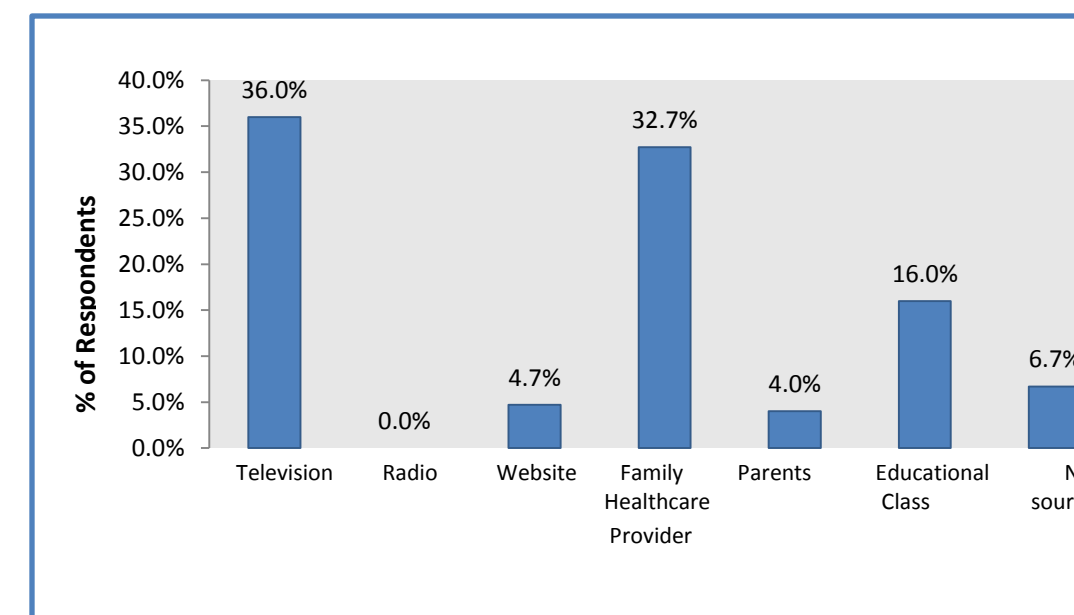


Figure 4.

What motivated you to NOT receive the vaccination?

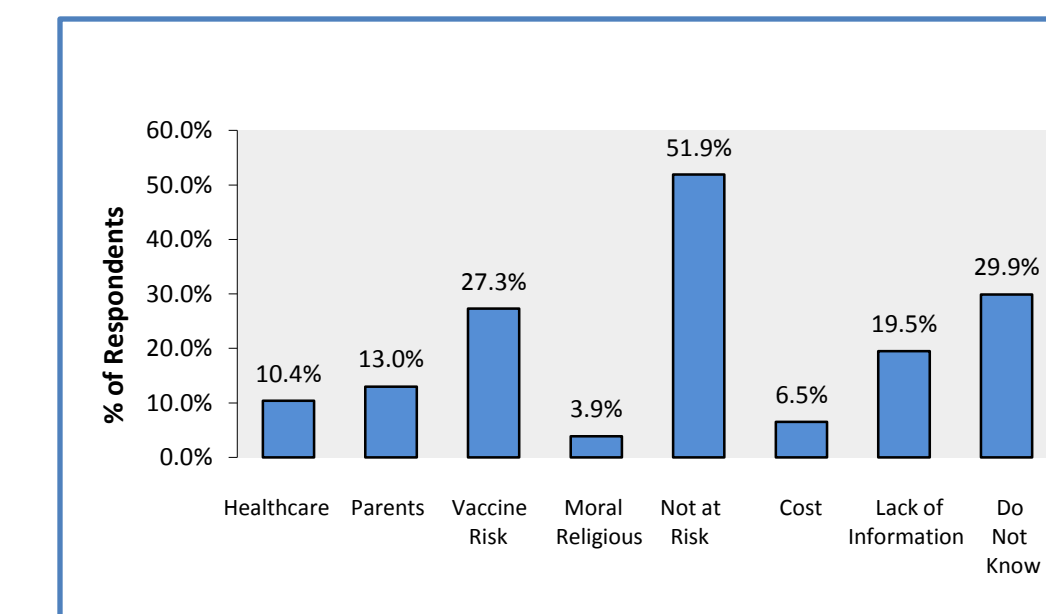


Figure 5.

By receiving the HPV vaccine do you feel that you would be ...

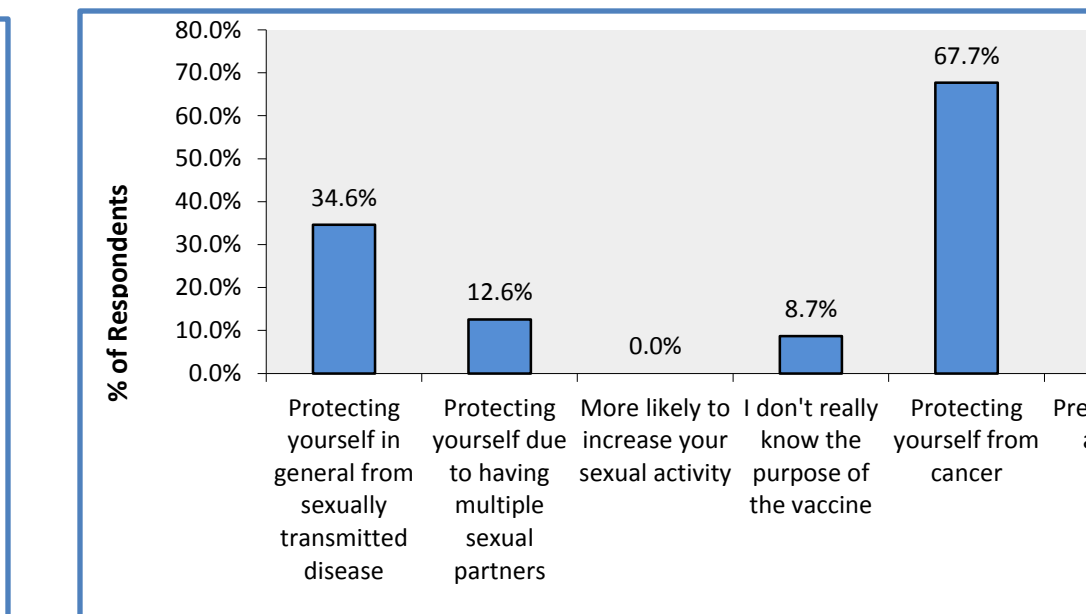


Figure 6.

Those that are sexually active and received the HPV vaccine

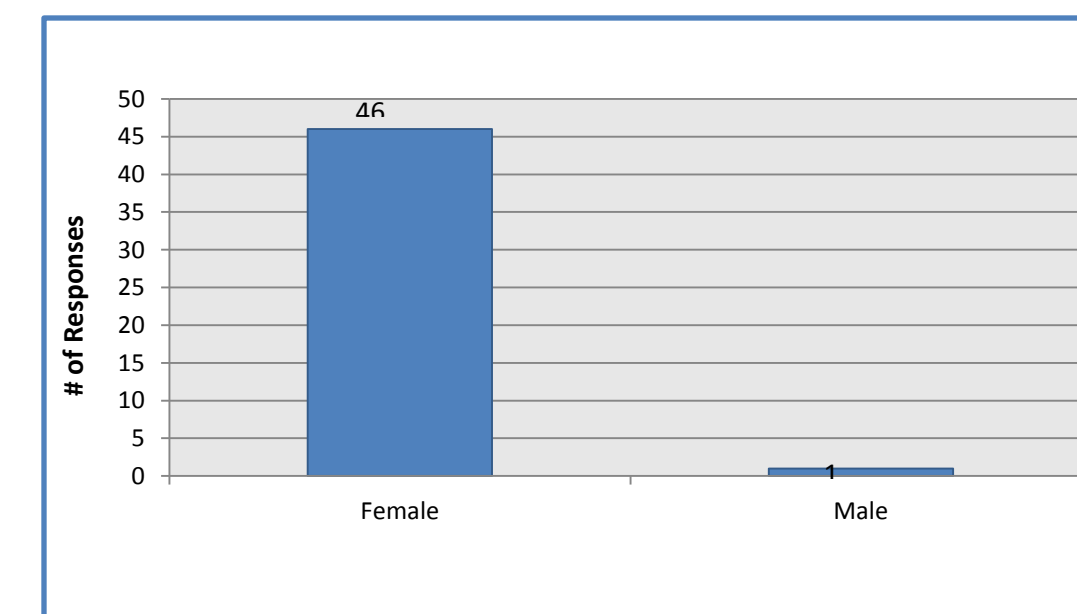


Figure 7.

What motivated you the most to receive the HPV vaccine?

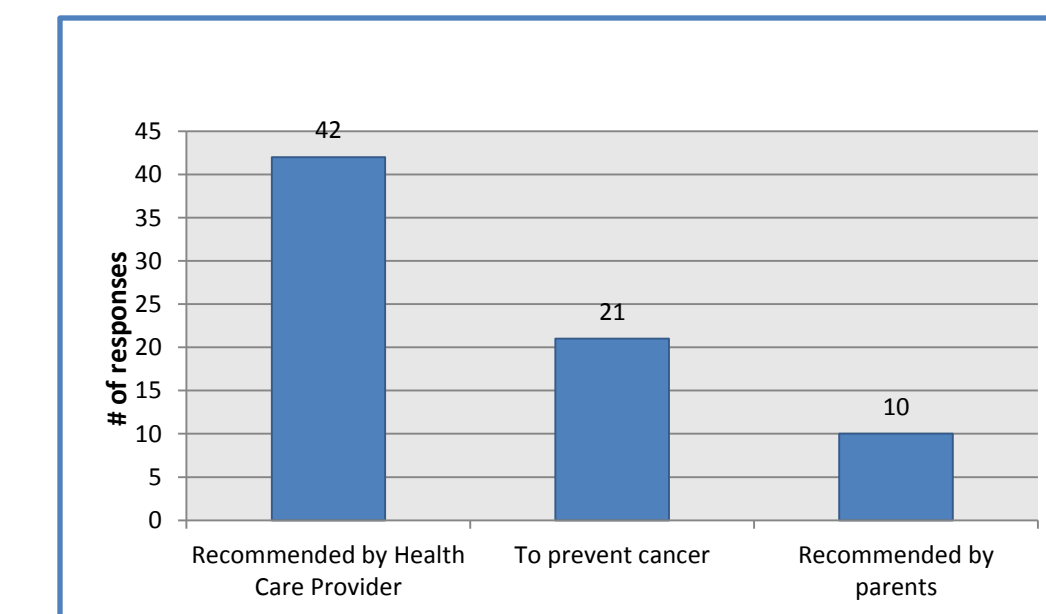


Figure 8.

Of those of who fully understand what HPV protects you from, what did you feel you were more likely to get?

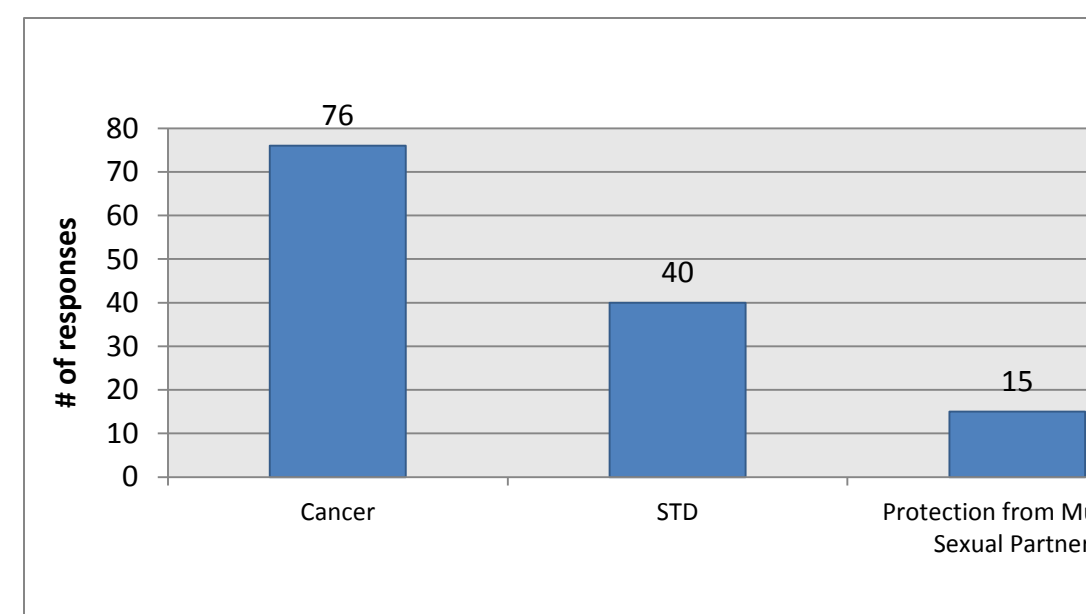


Figure 9.

### CONCLUSIONS

This study has shown that there is an increased need for awareness of the disease and vaccinations especially among males. By receiving the HPV vaccine, respondents felt that they were protecting themselves the most from cancer. Respondents felt more susceptible to cancer rather than a sexually transmitted infection, which could be responsible for the cancer. Of those who did not receive the vaccine they felt that they were not at risk for the disease, but more than half of the respondents were sexually active. The vaccination was recommended most by the primary care provider, but respondents found most of their information about the disease and vaccinations from sources other than their primary care provider. Only one male from the survey received the HPV vaccine, which demonstrates a significant need for awareness. The data shows contradicting statements that can be addressed through education and awareness.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increased awareness of the safety and efficacy of vaccinations in younger adults
- Increase awareness and risk of contracting the disease
- Target the male population for increased awareness of HPV risks and vaccinations
- Encourage primary care provider to provide more information to patients and families
- Expand study to other colleges and universities

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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