Title: Program implementation to address human papillomavirus (HPV) related disease in an underserved population in White County, Arkansas

Type of Poster: Research in Progress

Purpose: The national incidence of HPV related cervical cancer is 8.3 per 100,000 people. In White County, Arkansas the incidence is substantially higher at 13.9 per 100,000 individuals, which is ranked as the second highest incidence observed in the state. Approximately, 1% of sexually active men are diagnosed with genital warts of which 90% are caused by HPV strains 6 or 11. The purpose of this multi-staged study is to develop programs to raise awareness, educate, and ultimately vaccinate the underserved female and male population of White County. A directed local community approach will be the vehicle used to carry out this initiative with the objective to decrease HPV related disease.

Methods: A Harding University College of Pharmacy student research group created surveys, the first phase, that continue to be administered to healthcare providers and local community leaders to assess the extent of HPV related infections and vaccine knowledge. Surveys provide information about leaders’ perceptions of residents’ behaviors and the standards of clinical practices specific to White County. In the second phase of this project, educational tools will be created for parents, adolescent children, and community leaders. These tools will be offered to health care providers, used for educational endeavors to raise HPV awareness. Social media will also be used to inform the public about the availability of preventative measures. Another phase of the project is projected to provide HPV vaccinations to the underserved population between the ages of 9-26 years. Student pharmacists will develop education tools and arrange HPV vaccination administration dates. Vaccination administration will be completed through collaborative efforts between students in the Harding University pharmacy, nursing, and physician assistant program under the supervision of Harding University faculty working in conjunction with the department of public health.