Title: Efforts to decreasing the incidence of human papillomavirus (HPV) related disease in an underserved population in White County, Arkansas through a program implementation of education and vaccination

Type of Poster: Research in Progress

Purpose: As of October 28, 2011, the immunization committee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded HPV vaccine recommendations beyond advising vaccination of women ages 9-26 to include recommending vaccination of boys ages 9-21 to reduce HPV transmission and incidence of genital warts. Despite available vaccines, the national incidence of HPV-related cervical cancer is 8.3 per 100,000 people. In White County, Arkansas, the cervical cancer incidence is substantially higher at 13.9 per 100,000 individuals, which is ranked as the second highest incidence observed in the state despite the current availability of HPV vaccines. This is a multi-staged study in the purpose to develop programs to raise awareness, educate, and ultimately vaccinate the underserved female and male population of White County. To carry out this initiative with the objective to decrease HPV related disease, the purpose is to utilize a directed local community approach.

Methods: Following IRB approval, 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. Surveys specific for males were also developed to be administered to the “underserved” males in the local community of White County, AR. The surveys will provide the male community’s extent of their knowledge and awareness of HPV related infections and vaccinations. These surveys will also help the research group to develop programs to reach out to the males in receiving HPV education and vaccinations. 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 healthcare 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 18-26 years. Student pharmacists will develop education tools and arrange HPV vaccination administration dates. Working in conjunction with the department of public health, 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.