Title: Interest in HPV vaccination following survey of rural Arkansas male knowledge and attitudes about human papillomavirus and genital warts.

Type of Poster: Descriptive Report

Purpose:
Due to the significant incidence of cervical cancer in White County, Arkansas, a group of research students at Harding University College of Pharmacy undertook a program to determine the educational awareness of community leaders, health care providers and specifically the young men and women ages 18-26 living in the county. Population surveys were conducted to better understand current knowledge of human papillomavirus (HPV) infections, vaccines, cervical cancer, and genital warts. Survey results from young men living in the county are reported.

Methods:
A Harding University College of Pharmacy student research group developed and conducted a survey of males between the ages of 18 and 26 residing in White County, Arkansas as a subsequent study to one previously reported for young women of the same age group. The survey consisted of twenty-four questions that covered HPV awareness, vaccine information, willingness to receive vaccination, and patient demographics. Surveys were administered at several locations including barbershops, community college campus, and local bookstores or video game rental stores. The targeted male population were known to frequent these locations. Survey results were analyzed with multi variable analysis and other statistical analysis.

Results:
Eighty-five surveys were completed. Fifty-five percent of the participants were unaware of the role HPV infection plays in cervical cancer and genital warts. Although 86% of the participants thought HPV vaccination would be effective in preventing genital warts in men, 61% of the participants were not willing to be vaccinated. Of the 61% participants who objected, 56% were interested in vaccination if HPV vaccine was given at no cost. Forty-four percent of participants who were unwilling to be vaccinated had limited knowledge about HPV and/or the HPV vaccine. Forty-five percent of participants had some college level education and the majority of participants’ household incomes were less than $25,000. Vaccine cost was the most significant predictor of willingness to be vaccinated among lower income males in White County.

Conclusion:
In White County, Arkansas there is a need for an increase in awareness of HPV and its prevention by vaccination. Public programs may be necessary to vaccinate under served populations.

This team’s strategy to increase HPV awareness and its prevention, by developing educational tools, using different media resources such as informative articles in local
magazines, newspapers, radio advertisement, and creating educational programs for local healthcare providers and the community. Additionally, the research team plans on collaborating with White County Public Health officials in an effort to improve HPV vaccination rates. The overarching goal for the project is to create a positive impact on community health in White County, Arkansas.