

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

UM Graduate Student Research Conference (GradCon)

Mar 4th, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Nurses' Practices, Attitudes, and Beliefs regarding Human papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine: a Cross-sectional State-wide Survey of Montana Nurses

Juthika J. Thaker

University of Montana, Missoula, jt152484@umconnect.umt.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/gsrc>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Thaker, Juthika J., "Nurses' Practices, Attitudes, and Beliefs regarding Human papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine: a Cross-sectional State-wide Survey of Montana Nurses" (2022). *UM Graduate Student Research Conference (GradCon)*. 11.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/gsrc/2022/posters/11>

This Poster Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in UM Graduate Student Research Conference (GradCon) by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Knowledge, Practices, Attitudes, and Beliefs among Nurses in Montana: A Cross-Sectional Study



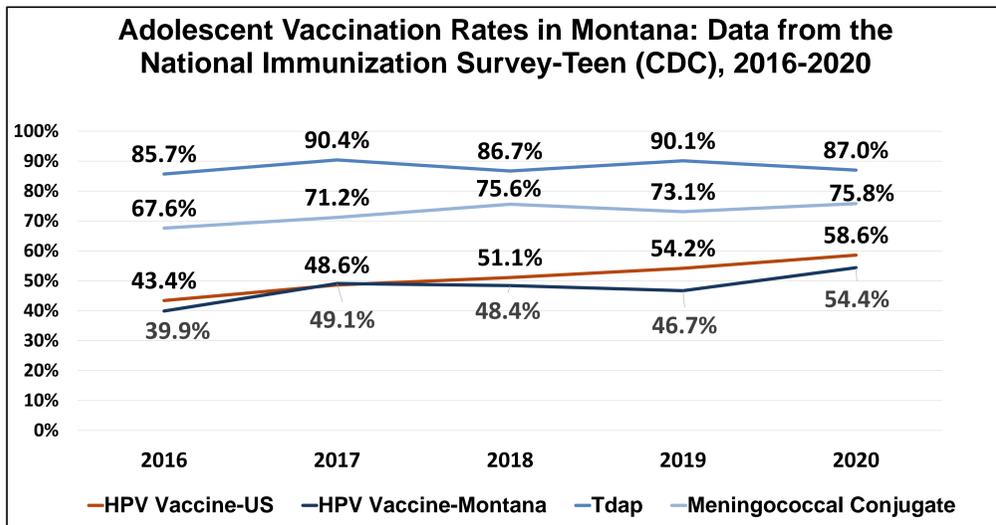
Juthika Thaker, MHA¹; Alexandria N. Albers, MS¹
 Bekki K. Wehner, BA²; Annie Rechlin, MHA²; Sophia R. Newcomer, PhD, MPH¹



- Center for Population Health Research, School of Public and Community Health Sciences, University of Montana
- Montana Immunization Program, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Helena, Montana

BACKGROUND

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, with 13 million new infections every year, is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the US
- In Montana, the HPV vaccine series completion remained at considerably low rates of 60.3% and 48.8% among girls and boys respectively in 2020, far below the Healthy People 2030 goal of 80%
- Nurses and medical assistants play a key role in adolescent immunization services. Understanding their perceptions toward current barriers to HPV vaccine is crucial in designing strategies to improve HPV vaccine uptake in Montana



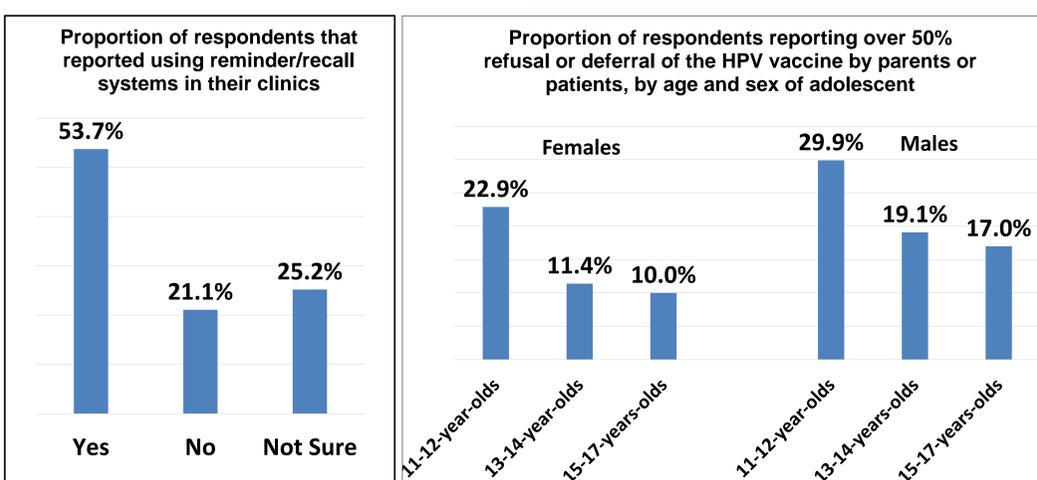
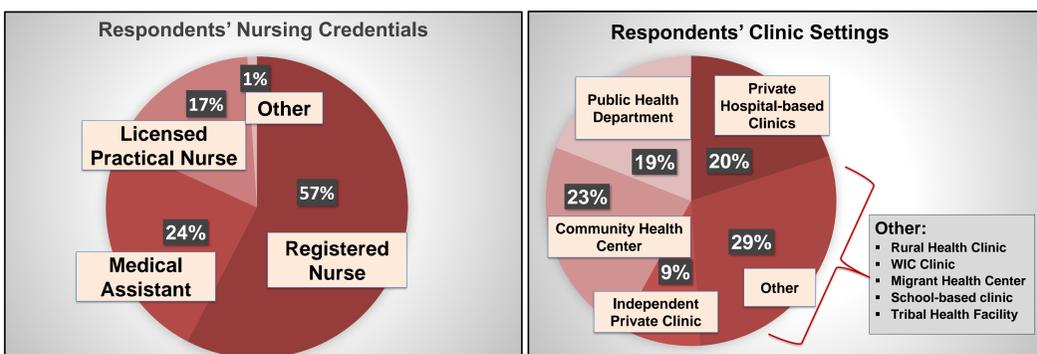
PURPOSE

- Our aim was to identify nurses' attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and current practices regarding adolescent immunization.
- Our long-term goal is to optimize nurses' impact in HPV vaccine promotion in Montana.

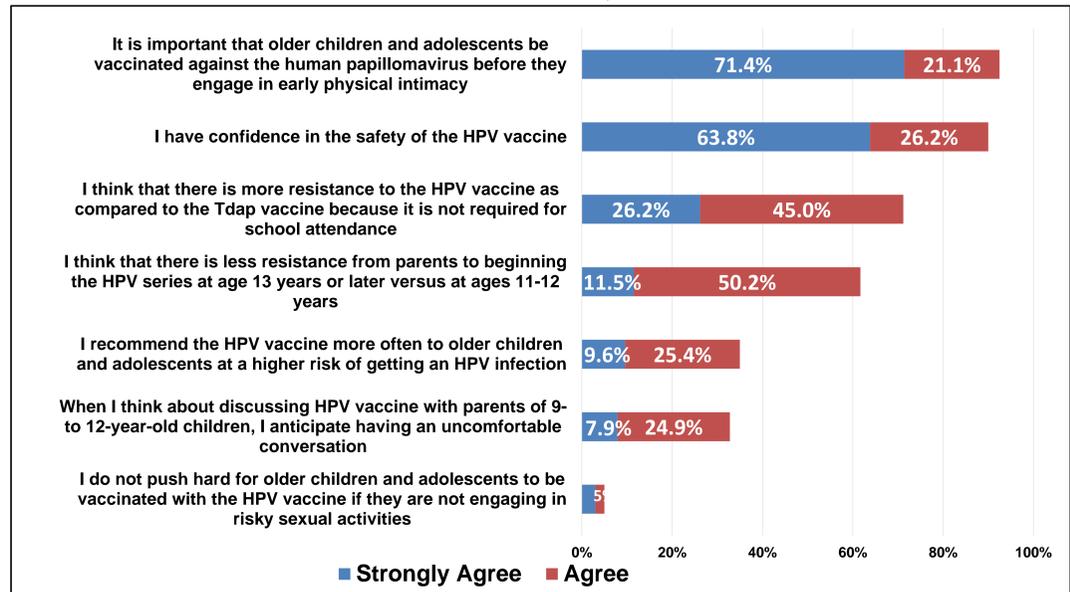
METHODS

- A survey instrument was developed based on a review of existing literature.
- We pilot tested the survey with a diverse group of 7 nurses using cognitive interviewing techniques (Think-out aloud, Probing).
- In collaboration with DPHHS, electronic surveys were administered via REDCap to a state-wide network of nurses and medical assistants working at any public, private, or Tribal facility participating in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) federal program.
- Surveys were administered from December 2020 to March 2021.

RESULTS (N = 270)



NURSES' HPV VACCINE ATTITUDES, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

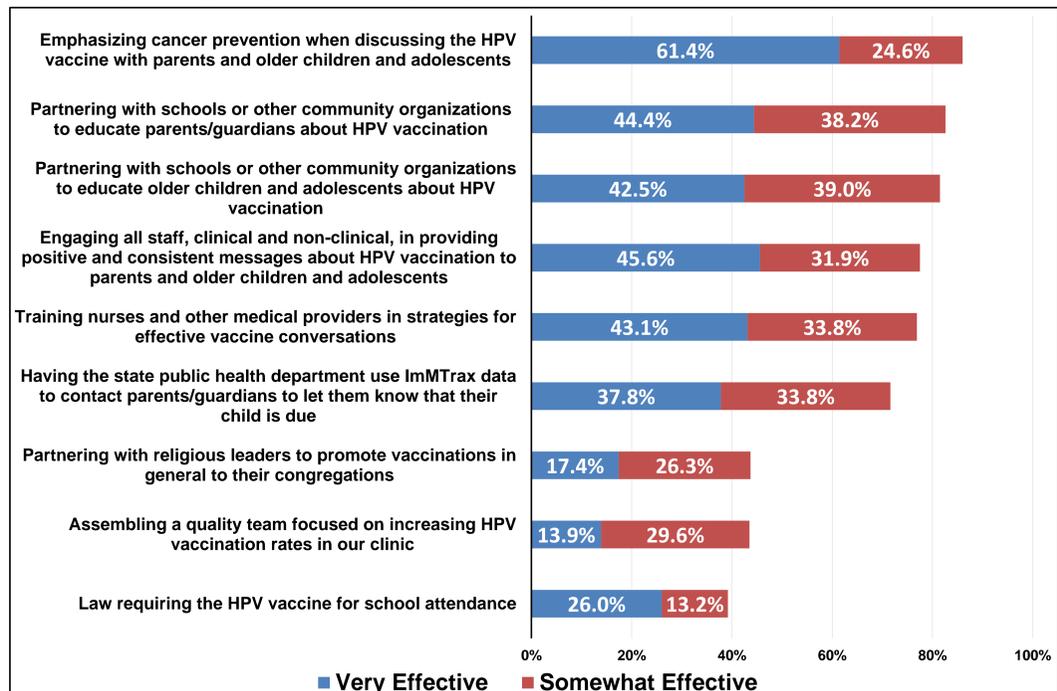


PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO HPV VACCINATION

- Respondents identified the following as major barriers to HPV vaccination:
- Parental lack of knowledge that the vaccine is necessary for boys (76%)
 - Misinformation from social media regarding the HPV vaccine (75%)
 - Parental concerns about the safety of the HPV vaccine (69%)

Open-Ended Responses	Representative Quotes
Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Resistance	"Lack of education for parents for long term efficacy of the vaccine and decrease in cancers. Parents need to understand the vaccine protects these kids for the future. "If there were a vaccine for breast cancer, would you get it? Then why not for cervical or throat cancer?"
Injection Pain	"We see a fair amount of teen girls who have received the first dose but do not return for the subsequent dose(s) because they felt the vaccine was too painful or the parents do not bring them back for doses that are not scheduled with routine yearly exams."
Parental Engagement and Consent	"The patient population we see comes in for confidential family planning services and the Parental consent is a HUGE barrier to providing this if they are not current for HPV vaccines"

SUPPORT OF STRATEGIES TO INCREASE VACCINE UPTAKE



DISCUSSION

- Training opportunities for effective communication strategies will help nurses provide stronger and effective HPV vaccine recommendations.
- Engaging parents through school or community-based education campaigns, counseling parents on vaccine safety and the importance of HPV vaccine for boys, facilitating wide-spread adoption of reminder/recall systems, and partnering with the state health department are some other strategies identified by nurses to increase HPV vaccine uptake in Montana.

FUNDING: This project was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NOFO CDC-RFA-IP19-1901), through a subaward to the UM CPHR from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The UM CPHR project team was also supported by a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (1P20GM130418)