

HPV Vaccination Fair: prevent cancer in the community

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Abstract

HPV vaccination rates have been low compared to other childhood vaccinations. Literature search has proven reminder phone calls to be an effective method to increasing vaccination rate. Holding community fairs have also been shown to improve patient awareness of certain medical conditions and health screenings. By combining both approaches, the aim of the study was to increase vaccination rates at the Family Medical Center by inviting unvaccinated patients for a vaccination fair.

Introduction

Human Papillomavirus is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and persistent HPV infection is strongly associated with risk of cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile cancers and genital warts.¹ Vaccination against HPV has been recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on immunization practice (ACIP) since 2006 for females and 2011 for males.² FDA approved 9 valent vaccine for use in a 2 dose series at 0 and 6-12 months for boys/girls between 9-14 years old. 3 dose series were recommended for those who start the series after their 15th birthday up to the age of 26 for women and 21 for men. Historically, HPV vaccination rates have been low compared to other childhood vaccinations: 49% of adolescents were up to date vs 94% were up to date on MMR per CDC reports (2017).

Literature search has proven that patient reminder and recall systems have been effective to improve vaccination rates.³ Also holding community fairs have been shown to improve patient awareness of certain medical conditions and health screenings.⁴ By combining both approaches, the aim of the study was to increase vaccination rates at the Family Medical Center by inviting unvaccinated patients for a vaccination fair.

Methods

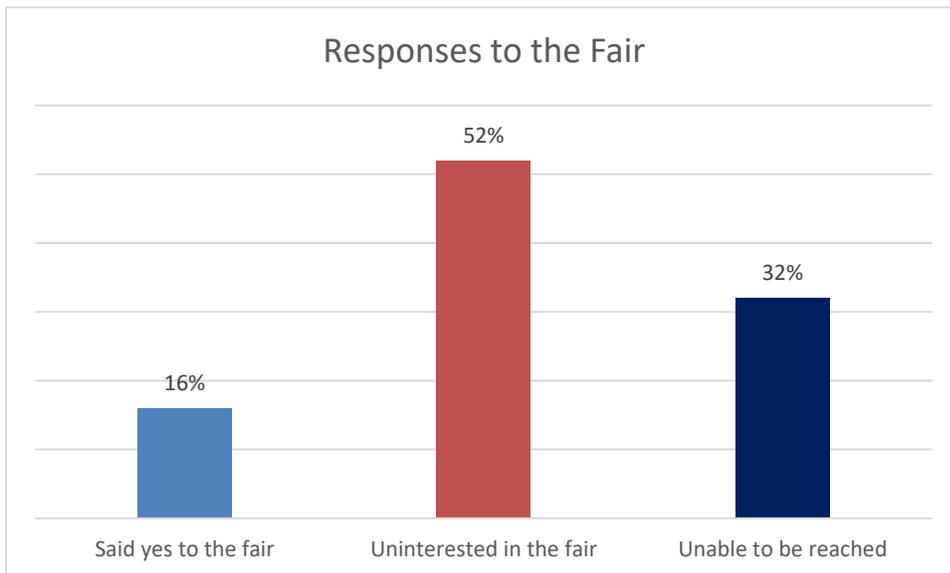
This was an IRB approved prospective study. Initial report of vaccination status of FMC patients was pulled by clinic administrator, broken down by providers at FMC. The report was data from Epic's Performance Compensation Quality Measure on HPV male and female adolescents between 10/10/2017 - 10/09/2018 (One year period). The principal investigators chart reviewed each patient to confirm HPV vaccination status and date of last office visit at FMC. Due to clinic policy, only the patients seen by a provider within the last 1 year were eligible for the vaccination fair. We then sent out invitation for the fair along with pamphlets provided by American Cancer Society regarding importance of HPV vaccination. Follow up phone calls were made by the investigators and nursing staff to schedule interested patients for a nurse's visit

and reiterate importance of vaccination in preventing cancer. Patients and family were notified of incentives including free snacks.

- Total subject population: 64.
- Total subjects who were seen in the last year in the clinic (eligible for the study): 38.
- Total people invited to fair (unvaccinated and seen at FMC in the last 1 year): 19.

Results

- The rate of HPV vaccination at FMC before intervention was 40.6% with 95% confidence interval [28.57%, 52.63%].
- Total people invited to fair (unvaccinated & seen in the FMC in the last 1 year): 19
- Total people who came to the fair: 0.



The low response to the fair can be attributed to certain limiting factors for example, clinic policies that stated the patient had to be seen by a provider in the past 1 year to be eligible to attend the vaccination fair. The patient had to schedule an appointment for that day, instead of a walk-in visit as per patient's convenience.

Conclusions

The rate of HPV vaccination at FMC post vaccination fair did not change.

For a better outcome in the future, these are some of the recommendations that can help in increasing patient awareness and vaccination rates.

- Each provider can contribute to increasing the community vaccination rate by discussing benefits of HPV vaccine at individual office visits.
- Advertise the vaccination fair using different forums.
- Consider school/office holidays to hold the fair.

References

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4. Hamilton KC., Henderson MRJ. And Higginbotham JC. Using a Community-based Participatory Research Approach to Implement a Health Fair for Children.