

Predictors of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Intention and Uptake Among US Hispanic Parents: A Cross-Sectional Study

Madeline Fernandez-Pineda, PhD, MSN, APRN, WHNP-BC¹, Carlos R. Melendez, PhD, MPH, MS¹, Melanie Fernandez, BA², Rosina Cianelli, PhD, MPH, RN, IBCLC, FAAN³, Jessica Roman, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-C⁴, Natalia Villegas, PhD, MSN, RN, IBCLC, FAAN⁵, Yui Matsuda, PhD, APHN-BC, MPH³, and Nilda Peragallo Montano, DrPH, RN, FAAN⁵

¹ Department of Nursing Science, College of Nursing, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC; ² Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown, OH; ³ School of Nursing and Health Studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL ⁴ College of Nursing, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL; ⁵ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, Chapel Hill, NC.

Introduction

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection and the most common cause of cervical cancer and oropharyngeal cancers. HPV also causes cancers of the vagina, vulva, penis, anus, and rectum. It affects 43 million people in the US each year. The HPV Vaccine (HPVV) protects against the strains of HPV that cause these cancers. It also protects against most genital warts.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends HPVV to be administered in 2 doses at least 6 months apart starting at ages 11-12.

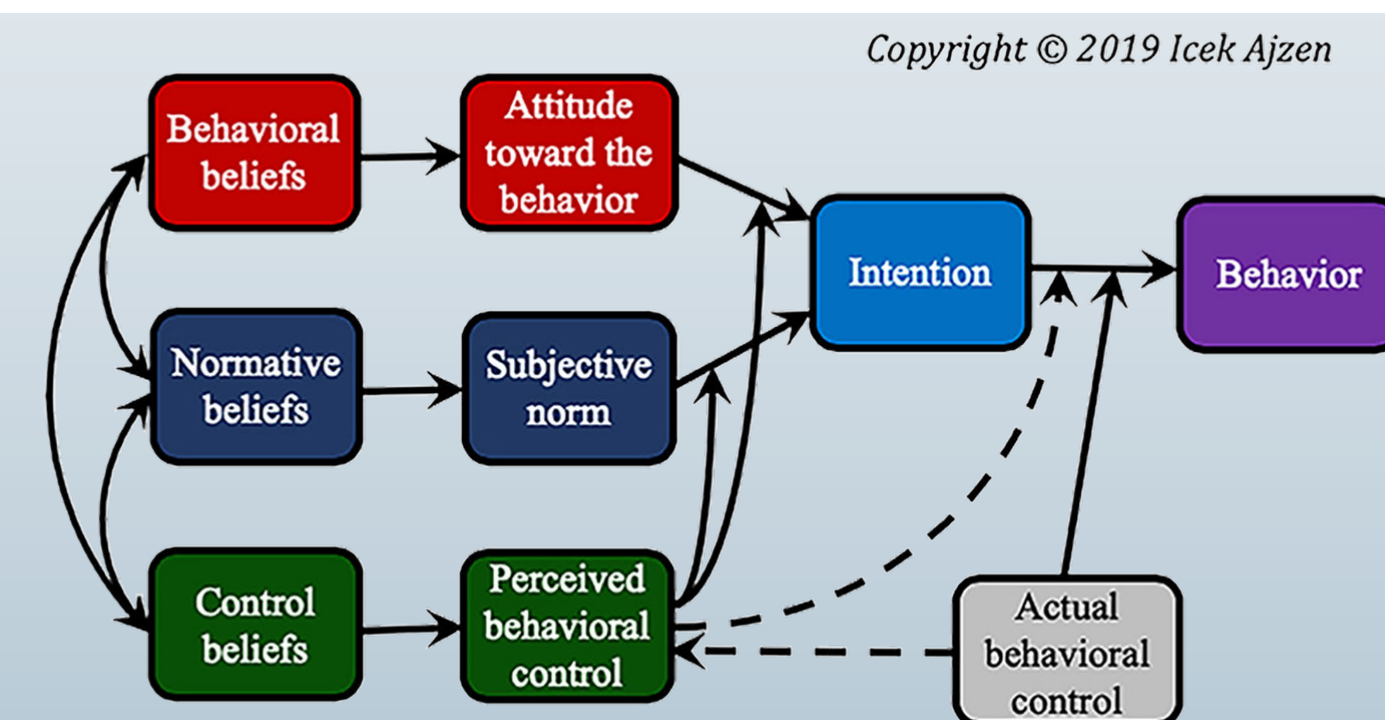
The Healthy People 2030 goal is to increase the proportion of adolescents who complete all doses of the HPVV to 80%. Hispanic youth have a lower rate of HPVV completion nearing 58%. This is troublesome as the US Hispanic population shares a high burden of HPV-related cancers and mortality.

Theoretical Framework

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) proposes that an individual's background factors (e.g., demographics, knowledge, awareness), attitudes toward the behavior, subjective norms (e.g., key influential individuals), and perceived behavioral control (e.g., self-efficacy) influence their behavioral intention¹. The TPB has been used in previous research to predict vaccine intention and uptake.

Study Aim

This study aimed to investigate which TPB constructs predict Hispanic parents' HPVV intentions and uptake for their children living in South Florida.



Methodology

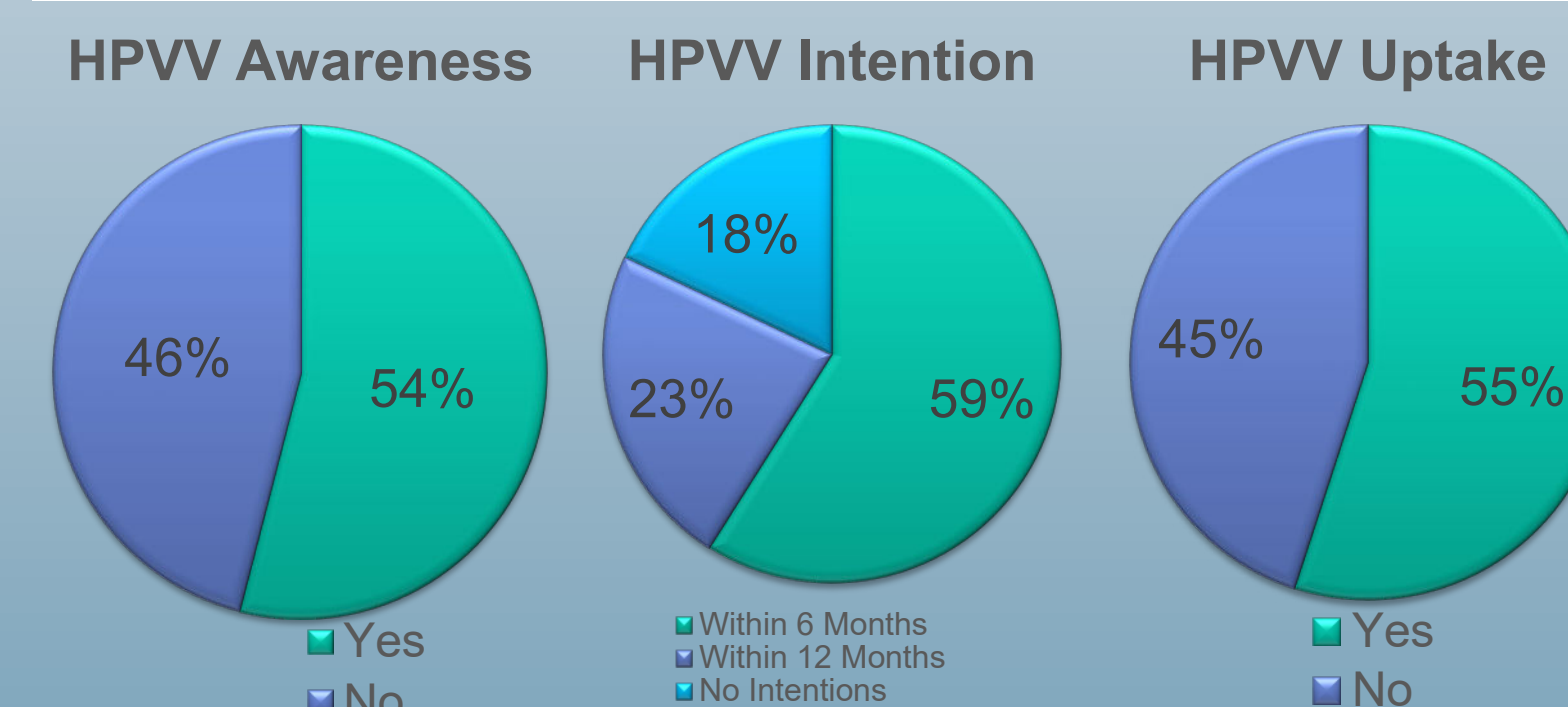
Design: A secondary analysis using a descriptive exploratory design was utilized to assess cross-sectional data from a parent study called “SEPA [Salud/ Health, Educación/Education, Prevención/Prevention, and Autocuidado/Self-care] Men and Women” (SEPA-MW).

Inclusion Criteria: Participants in the parent study self-identified as Hispanic parents between 18 and 50 years old with children between 9 and 21 years old.

Recruitment: Participants were recruited from predominantly Hispanic rural communities in South Florida using convenience and snowball sampling. The research team also partnered with local non-profit community organizations to assist with recruitment efforts.

Data Collection and Analysis:

Survey data from 39 Hispanic parents captured demographics (e.g., age, years in the U.S., language, income, employment) and TPB constructs (HPVV awareness, knowledge, subjective norms, self-efficacy, attitudes, intentions, and uptake). Univariate analyses (SAS 9.4) assessed relationships between HPVV intention, uptake, other TPB constructs, and demographics. Logistic regression models for HPVV intention and uptake included explanatory variables (HPVV attitude, awareness, and knowledge) that showed statistical significance in the univariate analysis.



Results

Most participants were female (67%), Mexican (44%), uninsured (77%), unemployed (59%), and had low acculturation (74%). While 54% were aware of the HPVV, only 40% had high HPVV knowledge, and 45% had vaccinated their child(ren). Despite this, HPVV attitudes (95%) and self-efficacy (85%) were high, with 82% intending to vaccinate their child(ren) within a year. Physicians (72%) and nurses/nurse practitioners (59%) were key decision-making influencers. HPVV intention was significantly associated with HPVV attitude, and HPVV uptake was significantly associated with HPVV awareness.

Conclusion

- This predominantly low-acculturation sample demonstrated high HPVV self-efficacy, positive attitudes, and strong intentions to vaccinate within 6–12 months.
- Parents who were aware of the vaccine had 12 times higher odds of vaccinating their children.
- Culturally and linguistically tailored strategies are essential to reaching low-acculturation parents and ensuring their children receive full HPV protection.

Recommendations

- The HPVV is a well-established cancer prevention strategy, yet disparities persist in HPV-related cancer incidence, vaccine uptake, and mortality.
- Pediatric NPs can address these gaps through culturally and linguistically tailored education and strong provider recommendations to improve HPVV awareness and confidence.
- Future research should develop effective strategies to increase HPVV awareness among low-acculturated Hispanic parents and explore barriers between vaccine intention and actual uptake to enhance intervention efforts and ensure greater HPV protection.

References

Provided Upon Request

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