

HPV VACCINATION AMONG YOUNG ADULTS:

A National Survey of University Students in Canada

Jessica Wood¹, Jocelyn J. Wentland¹, Alex McKay¹, & William Fisher²
¹ Sex Information and Education Council of Canada ² Western University

BACKGROUND

- The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against the most common types of HPV that cause cancer and genital warts.
- Without the HPV vaccine, it is estimated that up to 75% of sexually active people will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime.¹
- Understanding young adults' reasons for receiving/not receiving the HPV vaccine is key to improving educational efforts and vaccination rates.

OBJECTIVE

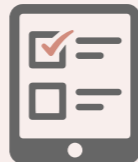
1. Examine self-reported rates of HPV vaccination among a national sample of young adults.
2. Identify the most common reasons for getting the HPV vaccine/not getting the HPV vaccine.
3. Determine the self-reported likelihood of participants getting the HPV vaccine within the next year.

METHODS

1500 university students across Canada

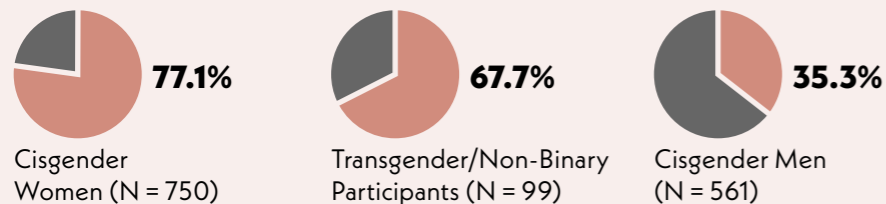


Online survey assessing self-reported rates of HPV vaccination, reasons for receiving/not receiving the HPV vaccine, and likelihood of getting the HPV vaccine in the next year



RESULTS

PERCENTAGE WHO RECEIVED THE HPV VACCINE



MOST FREQUENTLY ENDORSED REASONS FOR GETTING VACCINATED

REASON	GENDER % (n)		
	Cisgender Women	Transgender/ Non-Binary Participants	Cisgender Men
The HPV vaccine was offered at my school	81.3 (505)	68.5 (50)	56.4 (136)
My parents wanted me to	34.6 (215)	27.4 (20)	24.5 (59)
To reduce my risk of certain types of cancer	28.7 (178)	24.7 (18)	20.3 (49)

MOST FREQUENTLY ENDORSED REASONS FOR **NOT** GETTING VACCINATED

REASON	GENDER % (n)		
	Cisgender Women	Transgender/ Non-Binary Participants	Cisgender Men
I'm not currently sexually active	25.0 (43)	12.5 (4)	22.0 (80)
I'm in a steady relationship	21.5 (37)	12.5 (4)	18.2 (66)
My parents did not want me to get the HPV vaccine	14.5 (25)	6.3 (2)	3.3 (12)
The HPV vaccine is not necessary for me	14.0 (24)	28.1 (9)	24.0 (87)
I use condoms 100% of the time	10.5 (18)	40.6 (13)	27.5 (100)
The HPV vaccine was not offered at my school	10.5 (18)	25.0 (8)	11.3 (41)

SELF-REPORTED LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING THE HPV VACCINE WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR

Amongst unvaccinated participants:

- 82% were uncertain or unlikely to get the HPV vaccine within the next year
- Transgender and non-binary students were significantly more likely to report that they would get the HPV vaccine within the following year, compared to cisgender women and men.

IMPLICATIONS

- School-based HPV vaccine access is critical and should be prioritized as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To increase vaccination rates, education targeting misconceptions about HPV and the benefits of HPV vaccination, particularly among cisgender men, is necessary.

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REFERENCES:

1. Government of Canada. (2017). Human papillomavirus (HPV). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/human-papillomavirus-hpv.html>