

The role of community-clinical linkages in HPV vaccination uptake in Oregon's rural population

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ABSTRACT: Due to improved screening methods and increased availability of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, incidence and prevalence of HPV-related cancer has been decreasing in the United States. However, this reduction is not of equal magnitude across all racial, ethnic, and geographic groups; thus, we hypothesize that coordinated partnerships between community and clinical organizations in rural areas may increase vaccination rates. We are determining the presence and type of community-clinical linkages (CCLs) in five rural Oregon regions and whether these affect regional HPV vaccination uptake. A qualitative case study approach is being used to assess the involvement of a community organization and clinic in each region around HPV vaccination promotion, education, and administration. Each organization's existing HPV program and potential partnership are being evaluated through interviews covering descriptive information, type of integration, impetus, facilitators, barriers, and evaluation.

Results indicate little representation of formal CCLs in rural Oregon regions. However, formalizing bidirectional linkages, providing necessary resources to a partnership, and increasing community involvement could further the development of CCLs as a resource to increase convenience, accessibility, and presentation of the HPV vaccine in local rural regions.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe the presence and type of community-clinical linkages in five rural Oregon regions.
- Assess the role of community-clinical linkages in increasing HPV vaccine convenience, accessibility, and presentation on a local level.

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