Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination in Kentucky: An Environmental Scan

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Objective

The project coordinator engaged select statewide partners across the state provided invaluable information about the HPV vaccination environment in Kentucky. The following organizations were interviewed to further understand major opportunities for further partnership and research collaboration.

Methodology

Key Informant Interviews – The project coordinator engaged select statewide academic, clinical, community, and public health partners through key informant interviews. This process started with the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) Immunization Branch, one of the largest partners established during the project. Additionally, this project connects with many stakeholders to understand the major opportunities and challenges across Kentucky. Multiple stakeholders were identified and assessed for how they could inform the environment scan. During the key informant interview process, all interviewees were recorded, profiling each participant and capturing detailed information about their HPV vaccination related projects and initiatives.

Healthcare Provider Survey – A survey tool was created, piloted, and distributed to providers across Kentucky through various professional organizations. Participants (physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists) were recruited through listservs and social media to engage with providers and nurses in primary care settings and vaccine culture in their practices and across Kentucky. Barriers and facilitators to uptake and service completion among their plans, and plans for HPVv.

Healthcare Provider Interview – Providers in Kentucky that have high HPV vaccination uptake rates were identified using a Computerized Clinical Assessment & Reporting System (CCARS). The Kentucky Cancer Registry (KYCR) was used to identify providers from four providers in three projects in the state who have high HPV vaccination rates. Providers were recruited and interviewed for the following questions:

Findings

Healthcare Provider Survey Results

Providers identified the age of all of the patients. Office policies, barriers, facilitators, and common reasons for parental/patient refusal were assessed.

Healthcare Provider Survey

Six providers agreed to participate in interviews. Highlights are presented here in Common Themes and Powerful Messages/Best Practice.

Data analyses

Figure 1. Markey Cancer Center service area.

Figure 2. HPV vaccination by dose and sex, adolescents aged 13-17 (2016-17).

Figure 3. Provider survey respondents, by provider type and care setting.

Figure 4. Time with number of hits containing any of the search terms.

Figure 5. Distribution of hits per channel, with search terms: HPV, Gardasil, or STD Vaccine.

Figure 6. Table 2. HPV Vaccine Indications, (KDPH Divisions of Women’s Health).

Figure 7. Table 1. Providers' Motivation/Concerns for Refusing the HPV Vaccine.

Figure 8. Table 1. Other Findings from the Provider Survey.

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Conclusions

The environmental scan process allowed MCC to thoroughly assess the HPV vaccination environment in Kentucky.

From the Key Informant Interviews: Adequate information is in place for collaboration and coordination with multiple stakeholders. Teen vaccination in Kentucky has not had a big influence on HPV vaccination acceptance and uptake in Kentucky. Providers are diligent in determining the type of information presented and how the ‘hits’ aligned with NCI as well as national, state, and local partners in Kentucky. MCC’s HPV vaccine media strategies and is one of 18 funded cancer related projects and initiatives.

From the Healthcare Provider Survey: The HPV vaccine is the biggest focus for promoting the vaccine in the Kentucky. Respondents are responsible to take preventive steps for, otherwise influence is overestimated by family history or provider recommendations. The responses will be examined to determine the type of information presented and how the ‘hits’ aligned with NCI as well as national, state, and local partners in Kentucky. MCC’s HPV vaccine media strategies and is one of 18 funded cancer related projects and initiatives.

From the Media Scan: There were 318 mentions of HPV and/or the vaccine related to the Kentucky Department of Health from August 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. Transcripts will be examined to determine the type of information presented and how the ‘hits’ aligned with NCI as well as national, state, and local partners in Kentucky. MCC’s HPV vaccine media strategies and is one of 18 funded cancer related projects and initiatives.

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

An expected, provider-related key factor is a key element in HPV vaccine acceptance and uptake in Kentucky.

Parents who are more educated about HPV are more likely to vaccinate their children (ages 11-17) and will have higher rates of uptake. For more, physicians attribute low rates to parents’ beliefs that boys don’t need to have the vaccine. Patients are not aware of the vaccine or expect that it may be unnecessary. Providers are overwhelmingly willing to participate, offer, and collaborate on this work. There are needs to increase HPV vaccine awareness and efforts and the Kentucky Cancer Immunization Coalition will continue to coordinate the partnerships and projects.

Research Needs

In Kentucky, pharmacists have authority to administer HPV vaccines. They typically do not participate in the VFC program and require a physician’s order to bill third party plans. Providers are uncertain as to what the prices are for the vaccines.

Media Scan

Between August 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015, there were 318 hits on 20 channels that contained the words ‘HPV Gardasil’ or STD Vaccine. As shown in Figure 6, there were 318 hits on 20 channels. Of these hits, 219 were on 20 channels. Of these hits, 219 were on channels that contained the words ‘HPV Gardasil’ or STD Vaccine. As shown in Figure 6, there were 318 hits on 20 channels. Of these hits, 219 were on 20 channels.

How Moving Forward

At the end of the 1-year funding period, all information will be synthesized into a useful format and shared with NCI as well as national, state, and local partners in Kentucky. MCC’s HPV vaccine media strategies and is one of 18 funded cancer related projects and initiatives. The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) national HPV vaccine subgroup and the American Cancer Society’s National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. Other prompting research organizations and the funds will be sought for projects aimed at increasing HPV vaccination coverage in Kentucky.