

## Abstract

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is so common that nearly every person will at one point become infected with at least one type of HPV. Despite HPV being the most common sexually transmitted infection, low vaccination rates are a huge concern to the public in the United States of America as there are nearly 35,000 new cancer cases in both men and women every year due to HPV infection. In the fourth quarter in 2019, only 66.6% of females completed the vaccination series in North Dakota. This falls far below Healthy People 2020s goal to vaccinate 80% of adolescents. The objective of this project was to increase HPV vaccination rates among adolescent females between the ages of 9 and 26 in a primary care setting through enhanced patient education in the form of a curated handout, asking about HPV vaccination at sick visits, and same day recommendation of vaccination administration as other vaccinations (such as Tdap, MMR, and etc.). Methods to increase HPV vaccination rates were researched from the literature and a project plan to improve those rates was formulated using a multi-method approach. This project occurred in a rural setting in North Dakota where HPV vaccination rates are low. It improved patient care and provided evidence-based practices that may serve as resources for other healthcare providers on how to increase HPV vaccination rates. This project can shape the future for increasing HPV vaccination rates and for decreasing HPV infection rates.

*Keywords:* HPV, vaccination, immunization, adolescents, sexually transmitted infections, infection, cancer, females, sick visits, education