

Abstract

An ongoing community health issue is the lack of vaccination compliance among parents of young children and adolescents. A review of literature revealed that parents are hesitant to vaccinate due to lack of knowledge of how vaccines work and the safety of vaccines. With ease of access to the internet and unreliable information the vaccine debate continues. This project was designed to provide education to parents and caregivers at a community education event to empower them to make the best decision for their families. The event was advertised with flyers sent to multiple day camps, schools, day cares, posted at the health department, and given to WIC clients. There were also a newspaper article and social media posts. Despite these efforts, attendance at the event was poor (n= 5 families). The event consisted of three different tables set up with information about the vaccinations that are needed for each age group. Bradley University dietetic students were on site to cook for event goers and to talk to the families about healthy eating. Participants completed a pre and post-test regarding vaccination information. A paired-samples t-test was conducted to compare the raw scores of the pre-tests and post-tests. There was not a significant difference in the raw scores for the pre-tests (M=6.6, SD=2.6) and post-tests (M=5.2, SD=3.0) conditions; $t(4) = 1.121, p = .325$. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this data due to limited sample size (n=5).