



CWHS

# Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 2009 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

**H**uman papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common cause of cervical cancer. Approximately 20 million people in the United States are infected with HPV and another 6.2 million people become newly infected each year.<sup>1-2</sup> An estimated 11,070 U.S. women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2008.<sup>1</sup> An HPV vaccine that would protect against the main types of HPV associated with cervical cancer was approved for females ages 9 to 26.<sup>1</sup> Although HPV is acknowledged to be the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection (STI) in this country, less than a third of the general U.S. population has heard of HPV, and there is an even lower awareness among young women.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of this data point was to examine California women's awareness of the HPV vaccine, their vaccination rate, and the barriers to obtaining vaccination.

In 2009, respondents in the California Women's Health Survey were asked: (1) *Before today, have you ever heard of the cervical cancer vaccine or HPV shot?* Women who reported having heard about the HPV vaccine were asked the following questions: (1) *Have you ever had the HPV vaccination?;* (2) *How many HPV shots did you receive?;* and (3) *What is the MAIN reason you did not receive HPV shots?* Responses were weighted in these analyses by age and race/ethnicity to reflect the 2000 California adult female population. Analyses were limited to women ages 18 to 49. Comparisons between groups were evaluated using Chi square statistics. Finally, the rate of HPV vaccination for women in 2007 was compared with the rate reported in 2009.

## HPV Vaccine Awareness

- Among women ages 18 to 26, 81.4 percent were aware of the HPV vaccine, as were 79.3 percent of women ages 18 to 49 (Figure 1).
- Among women ages 18 to 26, a higher proportion of women with insurance reported awareness of HPV vaccines (86.6 percent) than women without insurance (61.0 percent;  $P < .0001$ ).
- For women ages 18 to 26, a lower proportion of those at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level reported awareness of the HPV vaccine (71.3 percent) than women with incomes above that level (92.3 percent;  $P < .0001$ ).
- Looking at women ages 18 to 49; there was a trend for women ages 25 to 34 to report the least awareness of HPV vaccines.
- Comparisons of HPV vaccine awareness were not performed by race/ethnicity or education levels due to small sample sizes.

## HPV Vaccine Use

- Among women ages 18 to 26 who had heard of the HPV vaccine, 25.0 percent reported that they had obtained at least one HPV vaccination in 2009, compared with 8.6 percent of women in 2007.
- No significant differences were found for women who reported HPV vaccination by poverty level or insurance.

## Human Papillomavirus Knowledge Among California Women, 2009

Department of Health Care Services  
California Department of Public Health  
Office of Women's Health

### Public Health Message:

*Although women ages 18 to 26 have a high awareness of the HPV vaccine, lower levels of awareness were found among low income and uninsured women. Educational materials on HPV and HPV vaccination containing information that addresses potential barriers to vaccination need to be targeted to improve awareness and vaccine coverage.*

## Human Papillomavirus Knowledge Among California Women, 2009

Department of Health Care Services  
California Department of Public Health  
Office of Women's Health

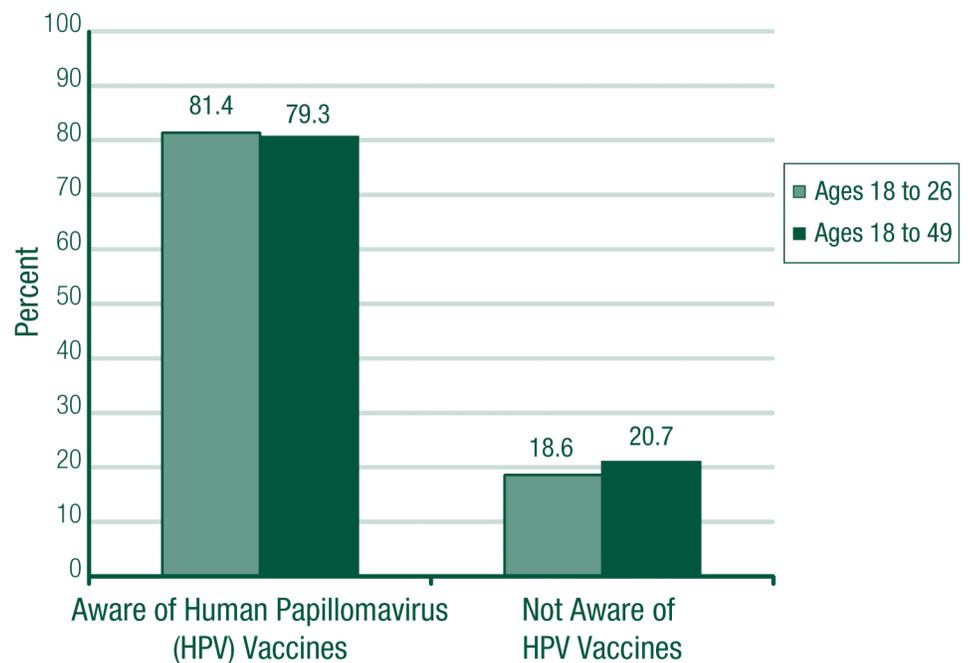
- Comparisons concerning HPV vaccine use could not be made for race/ethnicity or education levels because of small sample sizes.

### Barriers to HPV Vaccine Use

- The top three barriers to HPV vaccine use among women ages 18 to 26 who reported not being vaccinated despite having heard of it were: doctor did not recommend vaccine (24.5 percent); safety concerns (23.4 percent); and lack of need for vaccine (16.9 percent; Table 1).

Figure 1

### Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Awareness by Age, 2009



Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2009

*Human Papillomavirus  
Knowledge Among  
California Women, 2009*

Department of Health Care  
Services  
California Department of Public  
Health  
Office of Women's Health

Table 1  
**Main Reasons for Not Receiving Human Papillomavirus  
(HPV) Vaccine  
(Women Ages 18 to 26, Who had Heard of the HPV Vaccine), 2009**

<b>Reason</b>	
Doctor did not recommend vaccine	24.5%
Safety concerns (vaccine)	23.4%
Do not need vaccine	16.9%
Have not gone to the doctor	11.4%
Other	9.8%
Cost	8.2%
Plan to get vaccine soon	4.9%
Safety concerns (HPV vaccine)	1.1%

Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2009

- 1 CDC Fact Sheet, *Genital HPV*, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/hpv-fact-sheet.pdf>. Accessed December 2010.
- 2 Montañó, DE, Kasprzyk D, Carlin L, Freeman C. HPV Provider Survey: Knowledge, attitudes, and practices about genital HPV infection and related conditions. Executive summary. 2005. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/HPVProviderSurveyExecSum.pdf>. Accessed December, 2010.
- 3 Anhang R, Goodman A, Goldie SJ. HPV communication: review of existing research and recommendations for patient education. *CA Cancer J Clin*. 2004;54: 248-259.

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