

Southern Appalachia is plagued with an increased incidence and mortality rate of cervical cancer; human papillomavirus (HPV) is the leading cause. The purpose of this presentation is to elucidate the state of the science regarding factors affecting parental HPV vaccine acceptability for their children. PubMed was used to identify literature using keywords: “HPV,” “knowledge,” “Appalachia,” “parents,” and “vaccination.” Results revealed that parents were affected by several factors when choosing to accept or decline the HPV vaccine such as, knowledge of the disease and vaccine, susceptibility to and severity of the virus, and vaccine barriers/benefits. Overall, mothers were more involved in health care decisions including vaccination decisions; however, fathers were underrepresented in studies. Knowledge and perceived risk of HPV were low; parents worried about safety, efficacy, and newness of the vaccine. To address a gap, future studies must incorporate mothers’ and fathers’ knowledge, attitudes, and opinions of HPV and the vaccine using more effective data collection methods. Further, assessing specific groups known to have higher cervical cancer incidence and mortality may contribute to a regional perspective of needs. Future research will be conducted to assess mother-father dyad’s awareness, knowledge, attitudes and opinions related to HPV and the vaccine for male children.