



HPV Cancer Prevention Program

Preventing HPV Cancers with Rural Communities: Quarterly Updates Meeting

Summary

May 22, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 PM ET / 1:00 – 2:00 PM CT

Access the recording of the Rural HPV Vaccination Quarterly Updates Meeting at: <https://sjr-redesign.stjude.org/content/dam/research-redesign/videos/rural-roundtable-update-05222024.mp4>

Presenters:

- Cristóbal Valdebenito, MA, Coordinator, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Dr. Jason Semprini, Postdoctoral Scholar College of Public Health University of Iowa
- Dr. Ha Ngan (Milkie) Vu, Assistant Professor at Northwestern University
- Kiara Long, Program Manager, American Cancer Society National Roundtable on Cervical Cancer
- Dr. Shillpa Naavaal, Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University

Updates on the Priorities for Improving Rural HPV Vaccination Coverage – Cristóbal Valdebenito, MA

Progress continues to be made on the [six priority action steps](#) to increase HPV vaccination with rural communities. During this meeting updates were provided for all action steps.

Rural Priority Action Steps: Start at Age 9

- The goal is to find and disseminate resources to start vaccinations at age 9 in rural communities.
- The [ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable](#) provides a variety of resources to initiate HPV vaccination at age 9.
- The [Kentucky Public Health](#) includes toolkits for providers, health systems, and parents, as well as shareable graphics.

Rural Priority Action Steps: Existing Resources and Training Providers

- The goal is to assess and feature resources on the St. Jude rural webpage and in rural communications. The process involves identifying, evaluating, and promoting existing resources that can improve HPV vaccination in rural communities.
- Examples of education and training resources for providers serving rural communities include:
 - Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Women's Health: [Improving Cervical Cancer Prevention, Screening, and Management: A Toolkit to Build Provider Capacity](#)
 - WV Rural Health Association: [HPV Resources for Health Care Providers](#)
 - HealthyChildren: [Addressing HPV Vaccination in Rural Communities](#)
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): [HPV Campaign and Toolkit](#)
- If you know of relevant resources, please share those to PreventHPV@StJude.org

Rural Priority Action Steps: Communication

- The St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program is working extensively on communication resources that include:
 - [Rural webpage](#).
 - Quarterly communications, [May 14](#).
 - Monthly newsletter, [Wide Open Spaces, May edition](#).
 - International HPV Awareness Day 2024 Seminar Series – [Rural Reach: Accelerating HPV Vaccination Coverage](#).

Rural Priority Action Steps: Advocacy and Policy

- There is a need to examine the regulation of provider reimbursement for HPV vaccination.
- The hypothesis is that lower reimbursement rates for family physicians in rural areas might lead to higher long-term healthcare costs due to HPV-related diseases. A cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to support this hypothesis.

Rural Priority Action Steps: Data

- Current estimates for rural HPV vaccination coverage and HPV-related cancers are being updated in collaboration with an external consultant. This includes peer-reviewed publications, reports, infographics, and virtual seminars to review and share data and results.

Understanding HPV Cancer Rural Disparities - Dr. Jason Semprini

- Historically, urban areas had higher HPV-associated cancer rates, but recent trends indicate that rural rates have now surpassed those in urban areas, with the gap continuing to widen.
- HPV cervical cancer in females is the most prevalent. However, oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) is the fastest-growing HPV-associated cancer in the US.
- For females, the disparity is mainly driven by cervical cancer, where rural areas show stagnant declines compared to urban areas. In males, the incidents of HPV-associated cancers, especially OPC, have overtaken those in urban areas, suggesting a continued widening disparity.
- There is an urgent need for targeted interventions to address these growing rural-urban disparities in HPV-associated cancer rates.

Best Practices, Challenges, and Solutions to HPV Vaccination in Rural Areas: A Qualitative Study from Three States – Dr. Milkie Vu, Dr. Shillpa Naavaal, and Kiara Long

- The study examined HPV vaccination challenges and solutions in rural areas across Virginia, Illinois, and South Carolina.
- It aims to identify barriers, document policy activities, and highlight best practices for increasing HPV vaccination rates. The study involved semi-structured interviews with key informants and an analysis of state cancer control plans and existing literature.
- Findings reveal significant challenges in rural areas, including lower vaccination rates and healthcare access issues.
- Promising strategies identified include engaging trusted community leaders, expanding vaccination locations beyond primary care, and utilizing peer education.
- The study underscores the importance of tailored interventions to improve HPV vaccination coverage in rural communities.

Next Preventing HPV Cancers with Rural Communities: Updates and Opportunities

August 21, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET / 11:00 – 12:00 PM CT.

You can register by following our [link in the HPV Rural Website](#) or at <https://stjude.webex.com/weblink/register/radcc593b2294f7c2679142bf3611b03d>

Visit the rural HPV vaccination website at stjude.org/HPVrural.

Email PreventHPV@stjude.org with any questions.