Survey about How Nurses and Nursing Students View Vaccines and Risks

Sheryl Buckner, MS, RN-BC, CNE
Beverly Bowers, PhD, RN, CNS
Loren Stein, MSN, RNC-NIC
University of Oklahoma College of Nursing Faculty

Background
Online program targeting nursing students nationwide--Nursing Initiative Promoting Immunization Training (NIP-IT.org)--voluntary poll with three questions about how nurses and nursing students view vaccinations and risks.

Method
Poll was voluntary with about 3,900 out of over 11,100 NIP-IT.org users answering questions. Poll took place at end of first module.

Conclusions
Participants overwhelmingly think that vaccines should be required and that active immunity is very important. However, responses to Question 2 are somewhat divided between those that think an outbreak may occur in the U.S. versus those that do not.

Question 1
Do you believe vaccinations against vaccine preventable diseases should be required?

- Yes 88% (n=3438)
- No 12% (n=291)

Question 2
How likely do you think it is that the U.S. will have a serious epidemic of a vaccine preventable disease in the next few years?

- Highly Likely 47% (n=1849)
- Likely 39% (n=1518)
- Unlikely 6% (n=243)
- Highly Unlikely 7% (n=291)

Question 3
Which statement best describes your beliefs about active immunity?

- It is better to take the vaccine when available than to get the disease. 59% (n=2319)
- The risks of taking the vaccine are less than the risks of complications if I get the disease. 33% (n=1308)
- Diseases can be avoided by living a healthy lifestyle which stimulates immunity. 3% (n=126)
- It is better to get the immunity naturally by having the disease than to take a vaccine. 3% (n=119)
- The risks of having the disease are less than the risks of the vaccine. 1% (n=48)