BACKGROUND

The University of Wisconsin—Madison (UW) University Health Services (UHS) monitors vaccine coverage of UW students, including the HPV vaccine. HPV vaccine coverage for entering students mirrors National Immunization Survey (NIS) Teen Coverage for 17-year-olds (an age cohort similar to entering freshmen). International students had significantly lower HPV vaccine coverage. HPV vaccines are not yet part of national immunization programs in 129 countries, including China and much of Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, and most Middle Eastern countries. In the United States, 74.7% of international students are US citizens, 37.5% are legal residents of the US, and 22.1% are international students who are not US citizens. In the survey results, the perceived susceptibility of HPV and HPV related cancers is high with 91% aware and 9% unaware. There also is high self-efficacy (90.8%) to obtain or maybe obtain the HPV vaccine among students who are not HPV-vaccinated or not sure about their HPV vaccine status (Table 4). In addition, perceived barriers do not seem to deter survey participants from intending to obtain or maybe obtaining the HPV vaccine.

METHODS

The intervention engaged members of three student organizations to approach students in line for flu shots to complete a survey. The survey instrument, which was based on the Health Belief Model (HBM) served as an entree to discuss the HPV vaccine. HPV vaccines were administered by UHS nurses to interested, insurance-eligible students.

• Implemented through five off-site flu shot clinics.

• Members of the student organizations were trained to provide education and outreach about the HPV virus, disease, and vaccine.

• Provided business card-sized “palm card” that outlined options for obtaining the HPV vaccine.

• Provided CDC-authored HPV information and answered questions.

The theme “HPV: It’s Not Rocket Science—Get Vaccinated!” complemented the 2015 UHS flu shot theme of “Boost your Immunity.”

The following were the key takeaways of this project:

1. We can increase HPV vaccination as a result of peer-to-peer outreach and education.

2. International students, especially Chinese students, are interested in HPV vaccination.

3. 18–26-year-olds, if not yet vaccinated, have high self-efficacy to seek HPV vaccination.

4. The flu shot clinic environment is a conducive place for health-related outreach and research.

REFERENCES


CONCLUSIONS

This program was highly successful in increasing HPV vaccination as a result of peer-to-peer outreach and education, especially among the international and Chinese student populations. We recommend that colleges and universities consider offering HPV vaccines as a routine part of flu shot clinics. We also recommend specific HPV-related educational campaigns targeted to the international student population attending U.S. universities, delivered in key native languages (e.g., Chinese, Spanish, others) by knowledgeable language-speaking students who can serve as role models to other students.