



Use of Teen Community Health Advisors to Increase HPV Knowledge and Awareness



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Introduction

- Trained peer educators are an effective method of delivering information to youth because they share the same communication style and they are relatable.¹
- Rates of HPV are highest in the teenage populations. Due to the high rate of HPV acquisition during first few years of sexual activity; there is an ease of sexual transmission of HPV among teenagers.²

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to train youth as Teen Community Health Advisors (CHA) to increase human papilloma virus (HPV) knowledge and awareness through typical peer interactions and specific peer-led educational programming.

Methods

- Eligibility criteria of teen CHAs included:
 - (1) Well respected by faculty/ staff and peers;
 - (2) Representative of peers in relation to sensation seeking behavior;
 - (3) Willing to give help and identify with peers.
- 19 students consented and completed training .
- Pre-test/post-test design was used to assess change in knowledge of HPV
- **Training Curriculum**
 - An evidence-based program for basic sexual health education plus an investigator-developed curriculum for HPV education.
- **Evaluation**
 - Pre-test/post-test design was used to assess change in knowledge of HPV
 - Measures included 6 HPV-related True/False statements and 1 question regarding the HPV vaccine

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Participant Characteristics

	Teen CHAs N(%) N=19	Student Body Participants N(%) N=359
Gender		
Male	9 (47.4)	217 (60.4)
Female	10 (52.6)	142 (39.6)
Race		
Black	15 (78.9)	335 (93.3)
White	3 (15.8)	6 (1.7)
Hispanic	1 (5.3)	3 (0.84)
Grade		
9 th	2 (10.5)	110 (30.6)
10 th	7 (36.8)	73 (20.3)
11 th	6 (31.6)	88 (24.5)
12 th	4 (21.1)	88 (24.5)

School Wide Exposures

Fall Semester

October: Peer Encounters
December: HIV/AIDS Skits
January: HPV Skits

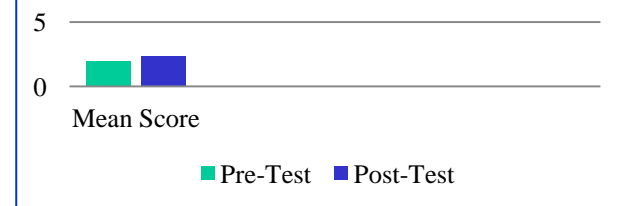
Spring Semester

February: Peer Encounters
March: Question Box
April: HPV Posters
May: Pregnancy Prevention Program

Results

Score (# correct out of 7)	Pre-Test N (%) N=359	Post-Test N(%) N=326
0	127 (35.4)	92 (28.2)
1	59 (16.4)	42 (12.9)
2	46 (12.8)	45 (13.8)
3	42 (11.7)	43(13.2)
4	38 (10.6)	48 (14.7)
5	27 (7.5)	33 (10.1)
6	12 (3.3)	13 (4.0)
7	8 (2.2)	10 (3.1)

Figure 1: Pre/Post Comparison



CHAs conducted school wide activities throughout the school year to increase knowledge. The mean score increased from pre-test to post test.

Conclusion

- The teen community health advisor model appears to have a small effect on increase in HPV knowledge .Methods to increase the effect are being evaluated.

References

1. Milburn, K., *A critical review of peer education with young people with special reference to sexual health.* Health Educ Res, 1995. **10**(4): p. 407-20.
2. www.cdc.gov/hpv/

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