

ABSTRACT

GARDASIL VACCINE ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS SURVEY OF CENTRAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA MOTHERS OF GIRLS 14 TO 18 YEARS OLD

In 2006 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the release of the first ever cervical cancer and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, Gardasil. The Gardasil vaccine is currently available for females ages 9-26. The Gardasil Vaccine Attitudes and Opinions Survey was used to question 72 Central Valley, California mothers of girls ages 14 to 18 regarding their actions, opinions, and beliefs surrounding the use, safety, and possible mandate of this vaccine. Approximately 85% of the women surveyed had some knowledge of the Gardasil vaccine. Only 5.56% of the women surveyed had taken their daughters to a healthcare provider to receive this vaccine, while 7.36% of the remaining women had the behavioral intention of doing so within the next 6 months. Only 32% of mothers indicated they felt the Gardasil vaccine was safe, while 21% thought all young girls should be vaccinated.

The Gardasil Vaccine Attitudes and Opinions survey revealed several barriers to vaccination including lack of knowledge, questions regarding safety, beliefs prohibiting vaccination, and difficulties in communication regarding the subject matter. Unfortunately, due to the small sample size and convenience sampling methods, none of the conclusions can be generalized to the entire target population. Instead, the survey was successful in gaining information regarding general attitudes and uncovering potential barriers to widespread vaccination.

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