Community Collaborative to Prevent Cancer in the South Coastal Area: 
Promoting HPV Vaccination in School Settings

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History
Over the past two years, researchers from the University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio Regional Campus (UTSPH-SARC) have worked with the South Coastal Area partners to build the Community Collaborative to Prevent Cancer in the South Coastal Area.

Partners include:
• UTSPH-SARC
• South Coastal Area Health Education Center (SC-AHEC)
• Amistad Community Health Center
• Local school districts
• Rural Economic Assistance League, Inc. (REAL)
• Transportation Coordination Network of the Coastal Bend
• Multiple area churches

The Collaborative identified addressing HPV and HPV vaccination in the 4-county area of Kleberg, Nueces, Jim Wells and San Patricio Counties as a priority.

Significance
• Across the US, HPV vaccination rates continue to be far below the Healthy People 2020 target of 80%
• Vaccine rates are even lower in the 4-county area
• Completion of all 3 doses is needed for full effectiveness
• Completion rates are low in rural Texas areas

2014 Rates of Initiation (1-dose) and Completion (3-doses) of the HPV Vaccine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Females 1-dose</th>
<th>Females 3-doses</th>
<th>Males 1-dose</th>
<th>Males 3-doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kleberg Co.</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nueces Co.</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Wells Co.</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Patricio Co.</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: National and statewide data from 2014 National Immunization Survey (NIS) – Teen.  County data is from the Texas Department of State Health Services from ImmTrac, the Texas Immunization Registry

Findings
Among the 40 parents surveyed, we found that:
• HPV awareness was low
  • Only about half had heard of HPV or the HPV vaccine
• Of those with an age eligible child
  • 70% reported that their daughter had not received or that they did not know whether she received the HPV vaccine
  • 80% reported that their son had not received or that they did not know whether he received the HPV vaccine
• The most common reasons given for their child not having received the HPV vaccine were
  • Parent had never heard of the vaccine
  • Not receiving a doctor’s recommendation
  • Being worried about side effects

Conclusions
• We found parents to be eager to learn more about the vaccine and had many questions about where they could get it for their child.
• Parents were open to discussing HPV vaccine in a school setting.
• As a partnership, the Community Collaborative to Prevent Cancer in the South Coastal Area has applied for Cancer Prevention Research in Texas (CPRIT) funding to evaluate a school-based program in the 4-county area.
• We will continue to work as a collaborative partnership to improve awareness and uptake of HPV vaccine in the area.

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