HPV VACCINE IN GRADE 6: What is going well & what can we do better?

Early findings from a qualitative study in BC schools

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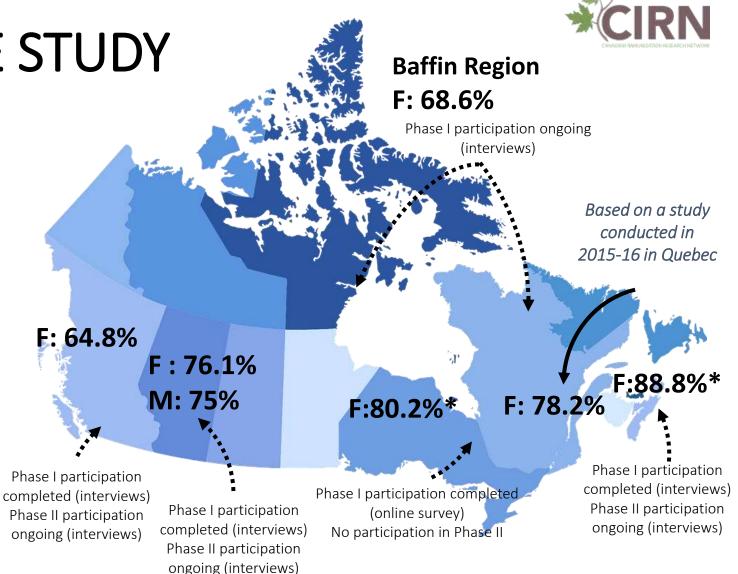
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OBJECTIVES

- Describe early findings from a qualitative study currently taking place in elementary schools in Interior, Northern, and Vancouver Coastal Health
- Contribute to the discussion on how HPV vaccine uptake can be improved through school vaccine programs



PART OF A MULTI-SITE STUDY

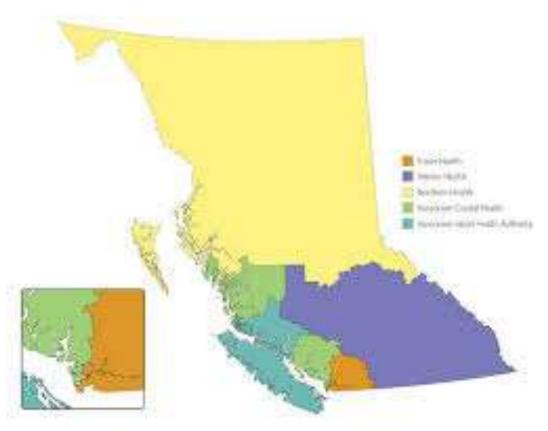
- **OBJECTIVE**: to identify **barriers** & enabling conditions of HPV vaccine acceptance and uptake
- METHODS:
 - Phase 1: interviews/survey with immunization managers/leads
 - Phase 2: interviews, focus groups at schools



% of students who completed HPV immunization series in 2014-2015 * ON 2012-2013 NS 2013-2014

BC SCHOOLS ENROLLED IN THE STUDY

- 8 schools (Interior, Northern, VCH)
 - 7 public, 1 private
- HPV vaccine uptake below/at/above BC average*
 - * Girls 66.1% and Boys 63.5% completed (2019)
 - * Additional 11% partially completed (2019)
- Small town/remote, suburban, urban
- Students from high, middle, and low-income families
- 2 schools with up to 25% First Nations children
- 2 schools with many children from families new to Canada



https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-healthcare-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities

WHO HAS PARTICIPATED SO FAR? PHONE INTERVIEWS

- 7 principals/vice-principals
- 3 teachers
- 14 parents
 - 13/14 moms
 - 13/14 consented to HPV
 - Many had questions/wished for more information about it
- 2 immunization nurses



iStock/Getty Images

WHO HAS PARTICIPATED SO FAR? STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS



- 31 students (4 focus groups)
- Boys, girls, other
- Received or did not receive HPV in October
- Focus groups in other schools being scheduled

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GRADE 6 SCHOOL VACCINATION DAYS:



2 doses HPV + catch up vaccines as needed



School Board level - MHO letter, information package



Information session for the School District/Principals



Planning for school day vaccine day started in September with the school

GRADE 6 SCHOOL VACCINATION DAYS – cont'd:

- Consent forms and information sheet(s) distributed (nurses, teachers)
- Catch up checklist indicates which vaccines the child needs

IMPORTANT: COMP	LETE	AND	Chool Immunization RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCH ase contact your local Public Health Unit	BRITISH COLUMBIA HealthLinkBC	Number 101b			
IHASYSSUPPORT102, Stixmeng 491 Larch Street, Kelowna, BC V0V 0V0	DOB: 2007 Aug 14 Client ID: 2449164 Age: 11y 0m Gender: Female Phone: (250) 555-5550(Primary home) PHN/YHCIP: 9000116047/			Human Papille	omavirus (HPV) Vaccine			
Please look at both sides of the form. PARENT / C For each question and Immunization check Yes or No, then sign						and Gardasil [®] 9 (HPV)	HealthLink <mark>BC</mark>	Traditional Chinese - Number 101b August 2019
 Has your child ever had a serious or life-threatening allergic read Is your child's immune system affected by a severe disease or m 	?		□ Yes (□ Yes	(To what?)	Health Canada, with H wexes, and HPV2 appn 人類乳頭狀瘤病毒(HPV)疫苗 Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccines			
 Has your child ever had chickenpox disease or shingles? If yes, was your child living in B.C. and seen by a health care pi Do you have an immunization record that is different from the His 	□ No	□ No □ Yes		BRITISH COLUMBIA HealthLinkBC	Number 10f	建議以下人士接種 HPV9 疫苗,但接 胞的女性		
** If you attach more information, we will review your record and only give immunizations that are still needed with your consent. Based on the BC Immunization Schedule and our records, we recommend that I understand the HealthLinkBC information for the vaccines listed.								的男孩和或年男性 上並與同性有性行為的男性
your child be immunized for the disease(s) listed below. I want my child immunized		No	and possible reactions for each vaccine and the that in the rare occurrence of anaphylaxis, eme	rgency tre iswered t	eatment will be provided. I have had to my satisfaction. I understand this	20 years that any other health measure. Vaccines are the bear way to pretect your child option transport and their complications. When you get your child immunied, you help protect others as well. The hepatitis B; childreppox (varicefla), and human pepilomovirus (HPV) vaccine are offered to all students in goode 6.	at least 3 months apart. If your child had chickenpox, before their lab highlaps, they should aill get the vaccine as they may not have developed long-lauring, immunity and they could get chickenpox again. Your child does not need the vaccine if they had chickenpox or shingles, confirmed by a lab bea, at 1 year of ege or older. For more information, see Islatific highly. File (44b; Chickenpox / Varicella) Vaccine. What is chickenpox?	至 45 歲的女孩和成年女性接種 HPV2 種需收費。
Human Papillomavirus – HPV9 Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox(Varicella)			Signature: Date (YYYY-MM-DD):		Indicate if you are the:			
			Print Name:		Legal Guardian or Representative	It is important to keep a record of all immunizations that your utilid has received. Make sure that they have had all closes of the recommended childhood viccins that they are eligible for. If you have any questions, please speak with your health are provider or wint	Chickenpox is an infection caused by the varieolia- moster virus. Influction can be very servore in newborns, trentagers, adults, programm women and those with weakened instance systems.	
• •						ImmanizeBC at www.immanizebc.co What is the hepatitis B vaccine?	Complications from chickneppex include pneumonia (lang infection), exceptualitis (influenzation of the	

tirain) and bacterial infections of the skin. Encephalitia

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GRADE 6 SCHOOL VACCINATION DAYS – cont'd:

- Consent forms collected (nurses, teachers)
- Follow-up if not received (nurses)
- School vaccination day (x 2, fall and spring)
- Vaccination rates for the current year updated via Panorama
- Catch-up Grade 9



PHOTO CREDIT: Heather Hazzan, SELF Magazine.

CONSENT FORMS & INFORMATION SHEETS

SCHOOLS (PRINCIPAL/TEACHERS)

PARENTS

• Yet another 'form to chase' Many forms/emails from school Too much information? BUT ... Generally not familiar with the Look through many info sources content Return rate lower: low-income Wish for more targeted re vaccine-day • Wish for more info re vaccine for boys households, parents separated, language barriers **NURSES STUDENTS** Paperwork is for parents, not students A lot of follow-up required • How many shots? **Relationship with school** • Interested in the content (nothing Explaining the purpose of vaccines/-• there for students!) Kids Boost Immunity game Importance of resources in different languages

When students have that information, then suddenly there's that push to the parents to not be apathetic ... it is amazing to see how it empowers these 11 year old children to actually go and have a voice at home and say, 'No, I have to have this back at school.

(SCHOOL NURSE)

SCHOOL VACCINE DAY

 PARENTS Makes getting vaccines easier Generally assume it went well 	 SCHOOLS (PRINCIPAL/TEACHERS) Logistical undertaking, "crowd control" Managing students' fears/anxiety Focus on students being comfortable Having a familiar nurse helps
STUDENTS	NURSES
Afraid of pain/needles	 Logistical undertaking, "crowd
Feel their concerns being minimized	control"
by adults	 Managing students' fears/anxiety
Don't like surprises	Relationship with the school/ support
• Would like to know what the vaccines were for	from principals and teachers helps

*My mom and dad didn't even tell me I was getting a shot ... so I was shocked when I came to school"

*My nurse said she would count to 10 but I got a shot when she was at 3 **We got to play volleyball afterwards but our arms were sore**Having a therapy dog would help

*I have autism and I was really worried about getting shots, but it went well. And it's not even true that vaccines cause autism.

*It would be nice to know what all those letters on the form actually stand for ... *(STUDENTS THOUGHTS ON SCHOOL VACCINE DAY)*

HPV VACCINE PERCEPTIONS/UNDERSTANDING

SCHOOLS (PRINCIPAL/TEACHERS)

PARENTS

appropriate level

 Primarily get information/opinions from other parents, family physicians, internet Generally know it "prevents cancer" and is linked with sexual transmission Perceived by many as a "newer" vaccine Often thought as a vaccine "mainly for girls" 	 Another vaccine in the schedule- may not realize it has been introduced for boys Generally know it "prevents cancer", linked with sexual transmission - from their own reading/research Perceive uptake is higher than it is?
 STUDENTS Generally know it "prevents cancer" May/may not link it with sexual transmission May/may not be involved in the decision to be vaccinated Feel it should be discussed (vaccine knowledge/ sexual health) in school – Grade 6 	 NURSES No HPV vaccine specific training FAQ cards developed when vaccine first introduced (not available for newer nurses?)

I was diagnosed with cancer related to the HPV virus. It made it real. And a lot of our friends, well, not a lot, but there's a couple of them that weren't going to do the HPV ... because they didn't believe their boys could get it. It was a girls' virus. Walking, living proof that no, boys can get it too. And their kids got vaccinated because I got sick.

(FATHER, SON IN GRADE 6)

I saw the WHO had put out a big push to get the HPV ... I think that that's a really good step in the right direction, to get everybody on board. But I just know that those other class actions still aren't resolved, so that's kind of what I'm waiting for. And I'll do my best to obviously keep an eye on that, and then when it's resolved or whatnot ... then I would go forward with my kids getting [HPV shots].

(MOTHER, SON IN GRADE 6)

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I think we are pretty high. I know there were a couple of children last year I believe there were two families whose children —hadn't been vaccinated at all. But other than that, I think our rates are fairly high.

(SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, LOW

UPTAKE SCHOOL)

WHO SHOULD TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT VACCINES

PARENTS

- Students care about needles more than about vaccines
- Knowing "what's going in your body"
- Should be part of general education
- Students listen to teachers > parents
- Decision to vaccinate should be left with parents

STUDENTS

- Knowing "what's going in your body"
- May or may not discuss with parents, family physician
- Would like to discuss vaccines in school
- "I Boost Immunity at home"? Screen time
- HPV talk about sexual health at Grade 6 "appropriate" level

SCHOOLS (PRINCIPAL/TEACHERS)

- May/may not perceive vaccines should be part of curriculum
- May or may not feel knowledgeable
- "Kids Boost Immunity" good idea
- Fine line schools should educate about vaccines but decision to vaccinate with parents

NURSES

- Not all nurses have relationships with school/ spend time at schools outside of vaccine days
- Talking to students about vaccine helps with getting consent forms returned

[Students] love the science behind it. And the new curriculum has created stuff for grade six classrooms. It's all about body systems, so they actually study immune system, the reproductive system, digestive system. (NURSE)

PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ... WHAT IS GOING WELL?

- Big logistical undertaking smooth communication between health authority and school
- Supportive nurses and school staff:

•••

- Better experience for the students
- More consent forms returned?
- Nurses being able to leverage relationships with schools

- **Resources** (though not necessarily utilized):
 - Kids Boost Immunity / I Boost Immunity
 - Immunization rates for each school
- Shift to cancer prevention rather than STI focus



WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?



- Engage everyone in the discussion (nurses, teachers, principals, parents, students)
- Streamline consent process so that forms easier to return (electronic forms?)
- Feedback to schools (and parents?) about immunization rates at their school
- Enable students to learn about vaccines and ask questions
- Enable schools to teach about vaccines
- Enable nurses to have relationships with schools beyond the vaccination day
- Information for parents more, less, more targeted to specific questions?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT VACCINES (SHOTS) IN GRADE 6?

