

# Papanicolaou (Pap) Test and Human Papillomavirus (HPV)



## Pap Testing, Awareness, and Rates of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

There is a lack of research on the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine on Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) women. A survey was administrated at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in Fall 2013 to add to the research on rates of HPV and Pap test awareness on campus. The data was analyzed to better understand campus awareness and preventative measures taken to prevent cervical cancer through pap testing and HPV vaccination.

### Factors that prevent AAPI women from getting the HPV vaccine

Figure 1 shows a comparison of the top five reasons why AAPI women chose not to get the HPV vaccine: cost of services, don't know of the HPV vaccine, not a priority, I am healthy, and not sexually active. These factors were analyzed to gain a better understanding of the reasons why AAPI women do not get the vaccine, which is a preventative measure against developing cancer.

Figure 1

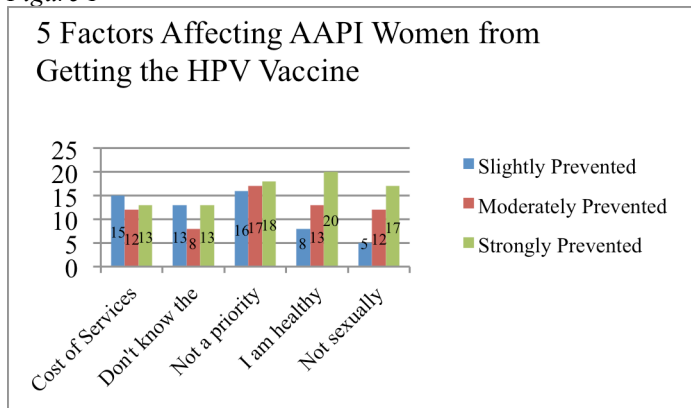
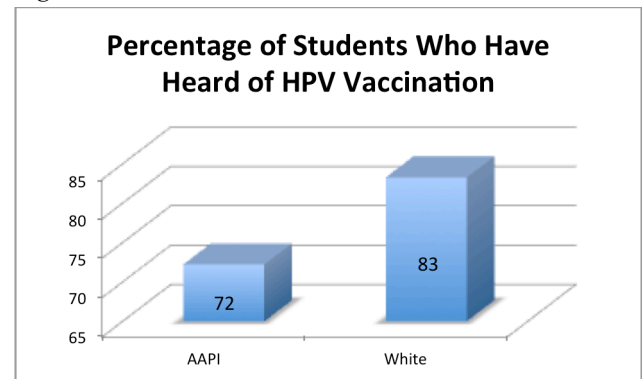


Figure 2



According to Clinaero (2006), Gardasil® is a vaccine used to resist several strains of HPV; precancerous lesions of the cervix, vagina, or vulva, and genital warts. The vaccine is not a solution to cure these pre-existing conditions attributed to HPV, but it does protect against specific common HPV strains including types 6, 11, 16, and 18. Many girls and boys between the ages of 9-26 are encouraged by the Minnesota Department of Health to use Gardasil®. [MDH, 2014]

### Cervical Cancer Cells

Figure 3

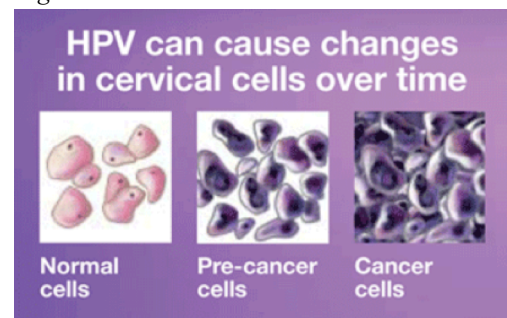


Figure 3 from CDC, 2012

**Only 18% of AAPI women at the University of Minnesota have ever heard of the HPV vaccination**

### Campus Awareness on HPV vaccine

This study analyzes the number of AAPI and whites that have heard about the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. (See Figure 2)

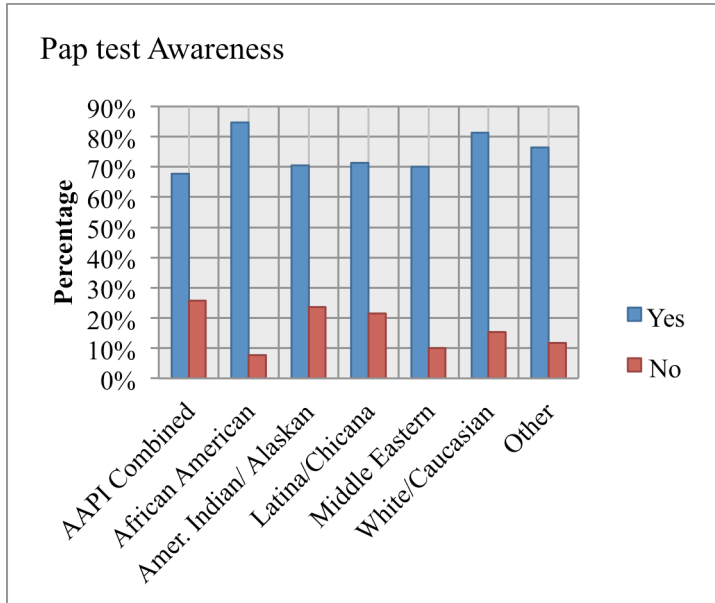
### Ethnicity and Pap Test Awareness

In the survey, participants were asked to identify if they had heard of the Pap test. Survey responses indicate that AAPI ethnicities have low rates of pap awareness. (See Figure 4)

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Figure 4



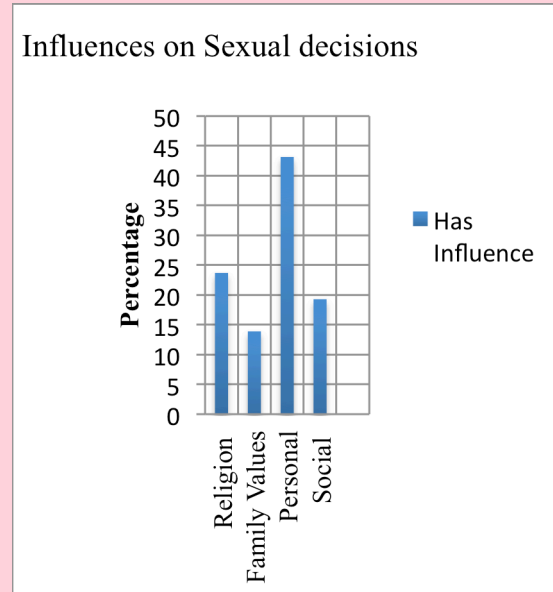
## Influences on Sexual Decisions

As part of the data we analyzed, the survey asked students to briefly discuss what influences their sexual decisions. This open ended question gave students the opportunity to express their sexual influences. The themes in which influenced the sexual decisions of college students fall in the categories of social, religion, personal, and family/cultural experiences. Social influences were considered to be influences from the media, pop culture and friends. Personal influences were considered to be sexual orientation, personal decisions or experiences. Divorced parents and cultural beliefs or traditions were considered to be family/cultural experiences. Personal experiences were the theme with the highest influence on sexual decisions at 43%. (See Figure 5)

## References/Endnotes:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2012). HPV. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/sTd/hpv/pap/default.htm>  
 Clinaero (2006). Gardasil. Retrieved from <http://cervical-cancer.emedtv.com/gardasil/gardasil.html>  
 Minnesota Department of Health (2014). Human Papillomavirus Vaccine. Retrieved from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/vpds/hpv/>

Figure 5



## Influences on sexual decisions:

- FAMILY:** "I have no religious background and my family has a tendency to get pregnant at a young age. I have always been careful with sex because I would like to have a child within wedlock and with someone I love."
- SOCIAL:** "I am definitely influenced by the sex culture of college. Random hook-ups seem less detrimental and more common."
- RELIGION:** "My religious background has changed my sexual behavior to be abstinent."
- PERSONAL:** "I was treated very badly by a boy (2 years older than me) in high school and that made me very cautious about dating."