

## AN EXAMINATION OF HPV VACCINATIONS AMONG MINORITY YOUTHS IN MISSISSIPPI (MS): A LITERATURE REVIEW

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**Abstract:** Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most common sexually transmitted infection in men and women in the United States. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that preteens receive the HPV vaccine. About 79 million Americans are currently infected with HPV. Over 21,000 HPV-related cancers could be prevented annually with the HPV vaccine. Minorities have been disproportionately affected by HPV-associated cancers. This study will test the hypotheses that HPV vaccinations are disproportionately administered among MS youths in comparison to youths in other states and examine the association between HPV vaccinations and race. To test the stated hypotheses, a review on national, state, and local vaccination coverage among adolescents was conducted as a test model. Nationally, vaccination coverage was significantly lower in MS compared to other states in 2009 and 2012. Overall, minority youths received more vaccination coverage than their counterparts in 2012 and 2013. HPV series completion was lower among Black males in 2009 and 2012 but later increased in 2013. The results indicate HPV vaccination coverage for adolescents increased over time but remain to be an important public health issue. Enhancing HPV prevention by improving vaccination coverage through clinical practice, education, and public policy should continue to be an important public health goal.

**Key Words:** HPV vaccinations, minority youths