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HPV VACCINE HESITANCY AMONG UNVACCINATED FOREIGN-BORN AND US-BORN MEXICAN AMERICAN YOUNG ADULT WOMEN

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### Authors

Garcia, Samantha

Hopfer, Suellen

Tanjasiri, Sora

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POSTER SESSION D: HPV VACCINE HESITANCY AMONG  
UNVACCINATED FOREIGN-BORN AND US-BORN MEXICAN  
AMERICAN YOUNG ADULT WOMEN

Samantha Garcia, MPH<sup>1</sup>, Suellen Hopfer, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Sora Tanjasiri, DrPH, MPH<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of California, Irvine, Whittier, CA; <sup>2</sup>University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

**Background:** Low HPV vaccination rates among Latina young adults perpetuate HPV-associated cancer disparities. Using the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Framework and narrative engagement theory, this study explored individual, interpersonal and community factors that influence HPV vaccine hesitancy among foreign- and US-born Mexican American young adult women through their HPV vaccine decision narratives.

**Methods:** Participants were unvaccinated Mexican foreign- (n=15) and US-born (n=15) women between the ages of 18 and 26, who were purposively sampled from two Federally Qualified Health Centers in Orange County, California. Interviews were coded inductively for emergent ideas and deductively coding the data for theory guided individual, interpersonal, and community levels factors relating to HPV vaccine hesitancy.

**Results:** Participants primarily attributed vaccine status to low HPV vaccine knowledge; insufficient provider communication; perceptions about HPV and the vaccine, motherhood responsibilities, their mother's influence, cultural family norms, healthcare access and misinformation. Foreign-born participants expressed the need to break away from traditional cultural beliefs by avoiding healthcare discussions with family. Foreign-born women also discussed difficulty they had navigating the healthcare system alone for the first time as insured adults and learning about preventive services like the HPV vaccine.

**Discussion:** Many participants were open to vaccination after acquiring additional information. HPV vaccination can protect an individual's health which may lead to a healthier and stronger life to support their family, a core cultural value identified by participants. Findings suggest that HPV vaccine recommendations for young adult Mexican American women should include socioculturally tailored messages. Foreign-born women may benefit from HPV information delivered outside of the clinic setting and help navigating healthcare resources.

**CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:** Samantha Garcia, MPH, University of California, Irvine, Whittier, CA; samantg4@uci.edu