

Abstract Form

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Title of abstract: HPV-RELATED CANCERS AWARENESS AMONG WOMEN AND, TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE – A COMMUNITY SURVEY

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Background:

Positive Life NSW, a peer-based organisation for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and Femfatales, the Australian National Network of Women Living with HIV (WLHIV), developed an anonymous survey investigating the awareness, knowledge and experiences of women and, trans and gender diverse (TGD) people of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and related cancers.

Aims:

Our survey aimed to

- evaluate awareness and knowledge of HPV infection and risk for cervical, vaginal, vulvar, and anal HPV-related cancers among women and, TGD people in Australia
- assess whether respondents were aware of HPV vaccination and the new national cervical screening guidelines specifically the new recommendations for PLHIV and solid organ transplant recipients
- identify any potential healthcare access barriers
- assist with the prevention of morbidity and mortality by increasing screening, early detection and treatment of HPV-related cancers and
- inform the development of educational resources to increase community and healthcare awareness of HPV and related cancers.

Method:

Women and TGD people were central to the development and implementation of the survey, which was peer-reviewed by key informants and registered with South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee. The

survey contained 48 quantitative and qualitative questions and was distributed online and in paper format from 9 March to 11 May 2018. Promotion and dissemination of the survey engaged HIV sector partners and sexual health clinics across Australia, utilising social media networks, and leveraged promotion at events and on national awareness days. Results were analysed using Microsoft Excel.

Results:

Survey results identified low levels of HPV-related cancer awareness among women and trans and gender diverse people, and demonstrated a lack of risk and screening guideline knowledge; discomfort in raising the topic with clinicians; and a lack of clinician-initiated discussion about HPV-related cancers, particularly anal cancer.

Implications that impact on your project:

Barriers and gaps in knowledge identified within the survey could contribute to low rates of vaccination and vaginal, vulvar and anal screening, subsequently increasing the likelihood of higher rates of HPV-related cancers among PLHIV. Women, and TGD PLHIV require targeted resources, engagement and communication about HPV-related cancers risk.