

Who Are We?

Guard Ur Self: HPV Education

As a student-pharmacist run initiative, Guard Ur Self is our vision to improve community knowledge and access to HPV education. We aspire to reach kids throughout the New Mexico community, providing them with the self-empowering tools to participate in their own health care. With the social stigma that can often be associated with HPV and the available vaccinations, we hope to provide interactive experiences to children, as well as their caregivers, in hopes to provide them with resources to make the most informed health care decisions possible. Education is our short-term goal, however we see the potential to continue to expand in future years as a sustainable initiative within our organization.

The national HPV vaccination goal set by Healthy People 2020 is 80%. Previously in New Mexico, less than 50% of boys and girls were being vaccinated for HPV. Based on these statistics, it has been the goal of our initiative to help boost these statistics and to educate the New Mexican population about HPV prevention and the vaccine. Not only do we intend to educate the population on HPV, but we also provide lists of VFC (federally funded vaccines for children) sites throughout the state where patients can obtain free vaccines for kids age 0 to 19 years old, including but not limited to the HPV vaccine.

While the initiative is still being expanded, it has already made very significant strides. So far, the initiative has already accomplished the development of a children's interactive brochure, several interactive HPV and vaccine education games, and providing a parent handout in addition to a list of VFC sites. To this point, we have attended several health fair events to hand out and educate both children and adults. We have also previously developed an interactive educational program and implemented it within one of the public middle schools, to play interactive games about vaccine and HPV education and to expose the children and teenagers to the field of Pharmacy at a young age. In this upcoming year, we intend to continue to expand this initiative into underserved public schools and community centers throughout Albuquerque and potentially some rural cities. To this point, we have reached approximately 500 Albuquerque teenagers and adults and anticipate this number to grow quickly with all of the plans for the upcoming year.

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