

Introduction

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States¹
 - The HPV vaccine protects against multiple types of cancer in men and women²
 - HPV vaccination is recommended for preteen boys and girls between 11-12²
- In Iowa, 38% of adolescents ages 13-15 have completed the HPV vaccination series³
- School nurses (SNs) are potentially ideal HPV vaccine advocates:
 - ✓ SNs are trained health professionals
 - ✓ SNs frequently interact with both parents and students
 - ✓ SNs may provide insight regarding specific barriers to vaccination in their communities

Purpose

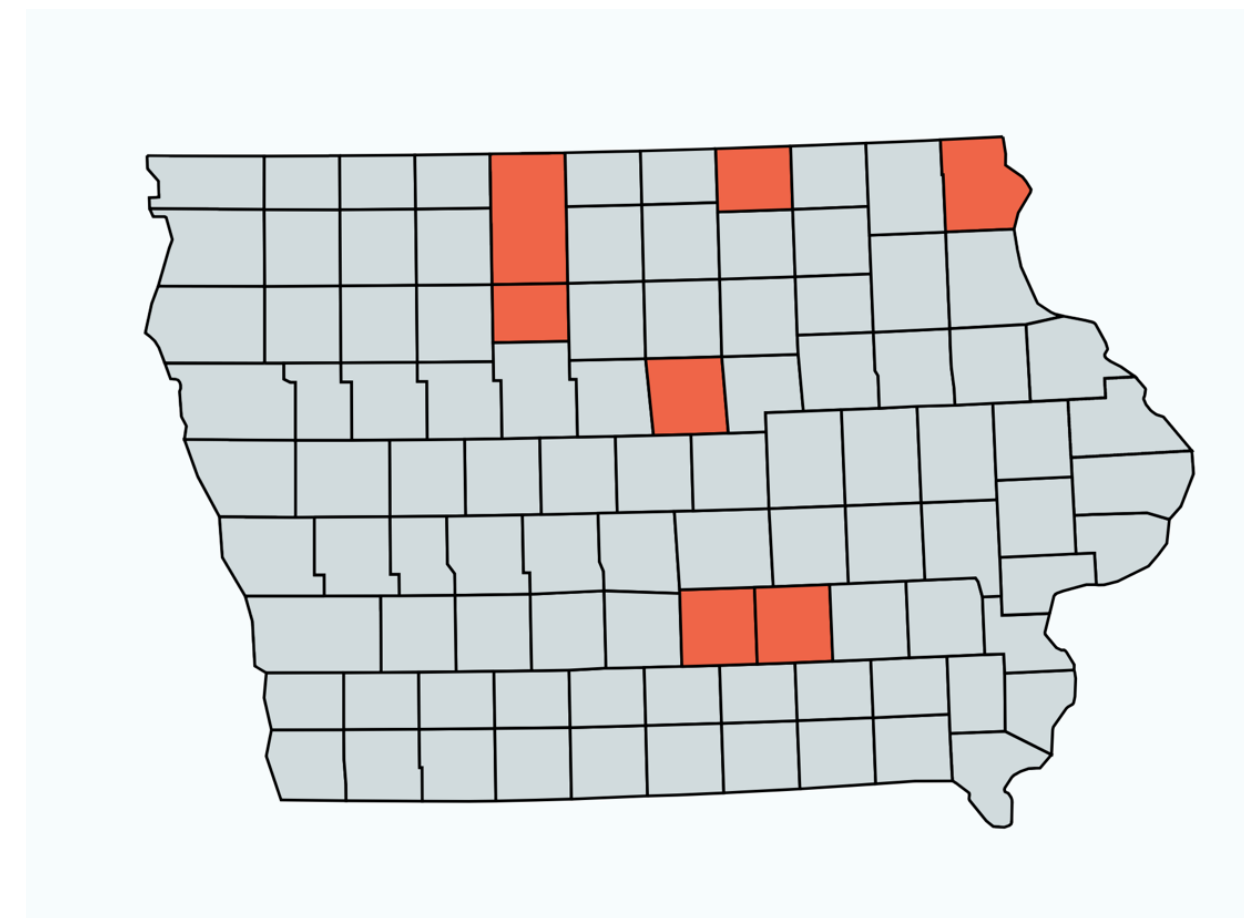
- To better understand perspectives of school nurses in rural communities and identify knowledge and barriers they have in relation to HPV vaccination uptake in their counties



Methods

- Part of a larger environmental scan assessing barriers to HPV vaccination in rural Iowa counties
- Identified 7 counties with disparities between HPV and other adolescent vaccination rates
- Online surveys administered to SNs in 7 counties
 - Response rate= 87.5% (n=14)
 - Survey questions asked about SN experience, knowledge of the HPV vaccine, and perceived duties regarding vaccine advocacy
- Descriptive statistics were calculated for close-ended questions and coded for open-response questions

Findings



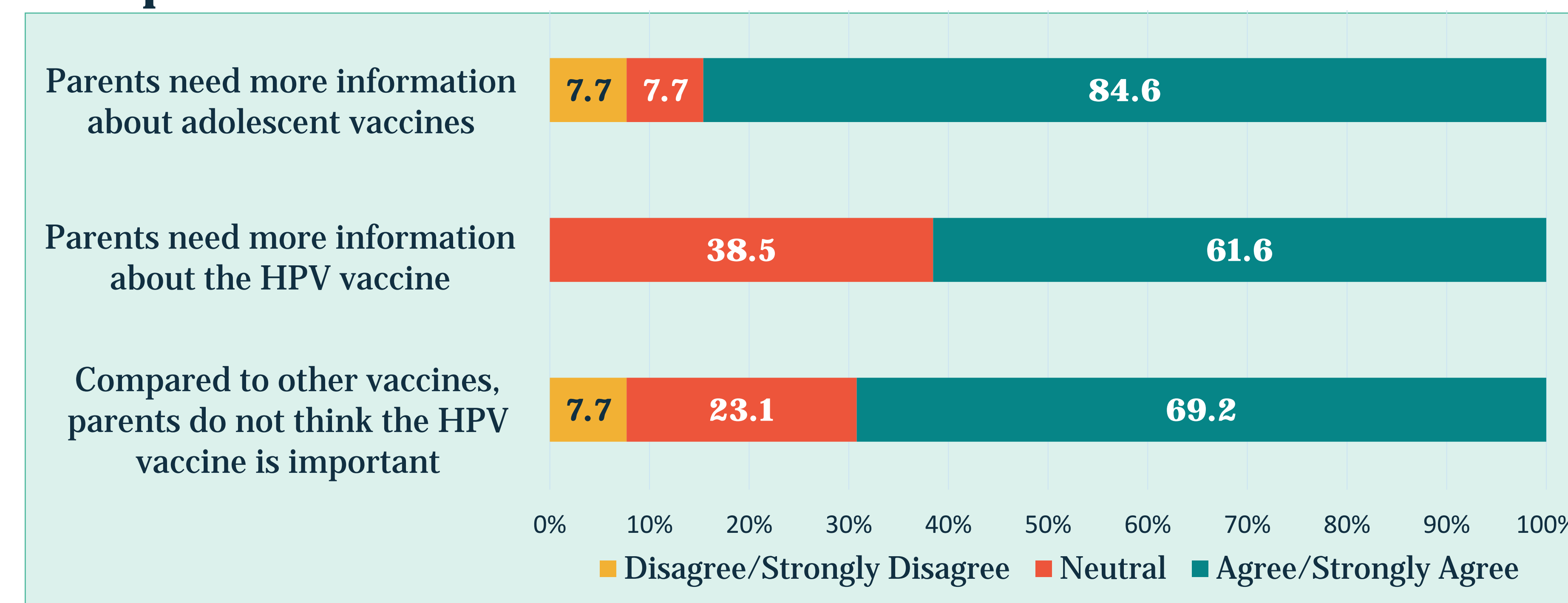
School Nurse (n=14) Characteristics:

- 7 Iowa counties represented
- Average years worked as a school nurse: **10.9**
- Average years worked in their county: **11.9**

Nurses' Perceived Roles Related to Vaccines:

	n= 14	%
Provide parents information about adolescent vaccines	12	85.7
Have information sheets on vaccines available to share	7	50.0
Have information sheets on HPV vaccine available to share	7	50.0
Provide parents information about the HPV vaccine	7	50.0
Encourage parents to keep adolescents up-to-date on non-required vaccinations	9	64.3
Encourage parents to have their adolescents vaccinated against HPV	9	64.3

Perception of Parents at their School:



Top Perceived Barriers to Vaccination:



Perceptions of How to Improve HPV Vaccination in Their Community:

- Education for parents (n=7)
- Medical providers/clinics taking a more active role in encouraging parents to vaccinate children against HPV (n=3)

Discussion

- School nurses provide insight regarding HPV vaccination barriers in rural Iowa communities
 - SNs identified access, personal beliefs, and limited vaccine knowledge as the primary barriers to HPV vaccination
 - Qualitative follow-up could be useful
- These data are similar to other findings:
 - An Ohio survey found that knowledge, attitudes, and intention to provide HPV vaccine education all impacted SN professional practice⁴
- Limitation: small sample size may not be representative of all SNs in rural Iowa counties

Next Steps

- Analyze findings & plan to disseminate to local stakeholders
- Write up collected data to be submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal
- Conduct data collection for a collaborative concept mapping project to understand perspectives from state-level stakeholders

References

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