# = UTHealth School of Dentistry

The University of Texas **Health Science Center at Houston** 

Purpose: Evaluate perspectives of parents/legally authorized representatives on vaccination in a dental setting and assess the willingness to approve of child receiving the vaccination in the dental clinic or to receive the vaccine elsewhere.

Methods: A questionnaire was completed by 200 parents/legally authorized representatives of UTSD patients between 9-14 years old. The questionnaire consisted of 31 questions regarding dental providers role in HPV vaccination.

**Results**: From the 200 usable questionnaires, majority of parents/ legally authorized representatives felt that dentist were qualified to counsel about HPV (74.34%) and its vaccination (69.08%). Age of parents/legally authorized representatives was not correlated with comfort levels, but sex and education level (p = 0.64) and child vaccination statuses (p > 0.001) were.

**Conclusion**: Parents are comfortable having discussions about HPV and the vaccine in the dental setting, especially with dentists which may increase vaccine uptake.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection and is responsible for most cervical, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers.<sup>6</sup>

Over 70% of all oropharyngeal cancers (OPC) that occur on tonsils and the base of the tongue.<sup>7</sup>

As of 2020, only 54.9% of kids receive the vaccine. Texas ranks #31 out of 50 states and the District of Colombia for HPV vaccination rates among children ages 13 to 17. More than 12% of all 13-17 year-olds who have not started the HPV vaccine series reside in Texas. This means that Texas contains the largest number of U.S. teens not protected against HPV-cancers of any state in the country.<sup>10</sup>

Overall	<b>Overall No.</b>	No, No. (%)	Yes, No. (%)	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval	<b>P value</b>	Disagreement, No.
	200*	108 (55.10%)	55 (28.06%			I do NOT plan to vaccinate my child against HPV*
Comfortable With Receiving, Written Information About the HPV, Vaccine From Your	194	49 (25.2%)	145 (74%)	0.46 (0.22 to 0.81)	0.2448	Dentists are NOT qualified to counsel me or my child about HPV
Child's Dentist? (Q14)	102	42(210/)	151	$0.72(2.40 \pm 0.1.00)$	0.0555	Dentists are NOT qualified to counsel me or my child about HPV vaccination
Comfortable With Your Child's Dentist Talking to You About the HPV Vaccine?(Q15)	193	42(21%)	151 (78.2%)	0.73(2.49 to 1.00)	0.0555	Agreement, No. I would expect my child's dentist to talk to me about the relationship between HPV and mouth and throat cancer
Comfortable With Your Child's Dentist Talking to Your Child About the HPV Vaccine?(Q17)	194	52 (26.8%)	142 (73.19%)	0.67 (0.25 to 0.91)	0.0318	I would expect my child's dentist to talk to my child about the relationship between HPV and mouth and throat cancer
Comfortable With Your Child's Dentist Recommending That He or	194	55 (28.3%)	140 (72.1%)	0.65 (0.22 to 0.82)	0.0104	I would expect my child's dentist to be interested in the HPV vaccination status of my child
She Get the HPV Vaccine From His or Her Regular Doctor?(Q19)						I would expect my child's dentist to send HPV vaccination reminders
*Includes 33 patients who said I don't know					P value from Fisher exact test	Dentists can help patients prevent HPV-related mouth and throat cancer I would find a new dentist for my child if he or she talked to my child about his or her HPV vaccination status

1. Parents and legally authorized representatives were comfortable receiving written information about the vaccine. 2. Parents/legally authorized representatives agreed that dental providers are qualified to counsel parents/legally authorized representatives or their child about HPV and the vaccination.

3. Parents/legally authorized representatives agreed that dentists can help patients prevent HPV-related mouth and throat cancer.

# A Survey of Texas Parents Regarding Dental Providers' Role against HPV

Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Department of Dental Public Health

#### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

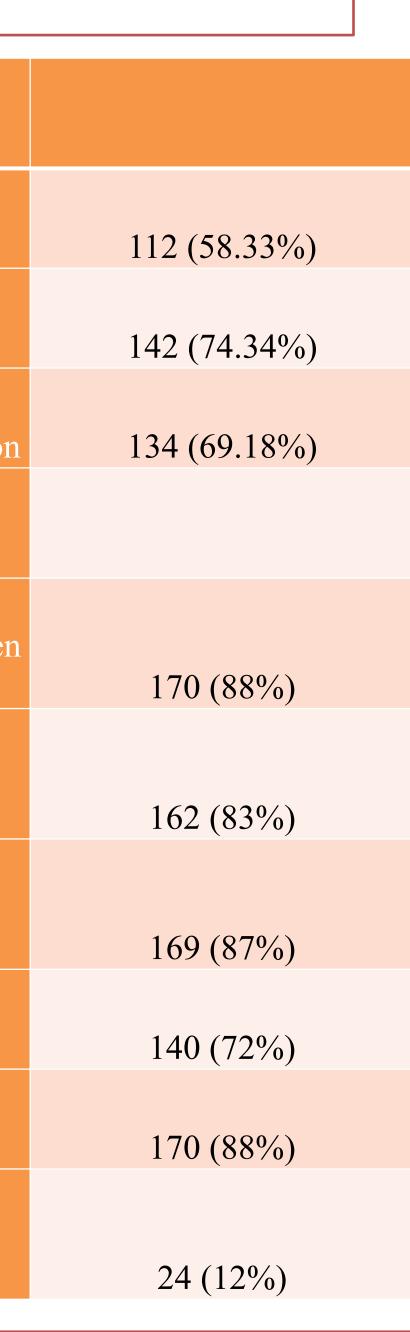




### CONCLUSIONS

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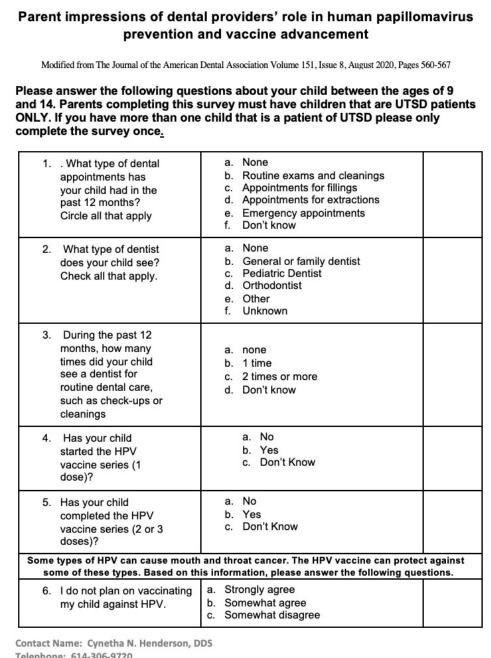




– This questionnaire consisted of 31 questions.

- The primary objective of this survey was to identify attitudes and perspectives of parents/legally authorized representative on vaccination information in a dental setting.

- The secondary objectives was to assess the willingness of parents/legally authorized representatives to approve of child receiving the vaccination in the dental clinic or to receive the vaccine elsewhere.



		d. Strongly
7.	Dentists are not qualified to counsel me or my child about HPV.	a. Stro b. Sor c. Sor d. Stro
8.	Dentists are not qualified to counsel me or my child about HPV vaccination.	a. Stroi b. Som c. Som d. Stroi
9.	I would expect my child's dentist to talk to me about the relationship between HPV and mouth and throat cancer.	a. Stroi b. Som c. Som d. Stroi
10.	I would expect my child's dentist to talk to my child about the relationship between HPV and mouth and throat cancer.	a. Stro b. Sor c. Sor d. Stro
11.	I would expect my child's dentist to be interested in the HPV vaccination status of my child.	a. Stroi b. Som c. Som d. Stroi
12.	I would expect my child's dentist to send HPV vaccination reminders.	a. Stroi b. Som c. Som d. Stroi
13.	Dentists can help patients prevent HPV-related mouth and throat cancer.	a. Strong b. Somev c. Somev d. Strong
14.	How comfortable would you be with receiving written information about the HPV vaccine from your child's dentist?	a. Very b. Som c. Som d. Very
15.	How comfortable would you be with your child's dentist talking to <u>you</u> about the HPV vaccine?	a. Very ur b. Somew c. Somew d. Very co

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We modified questions from a previous study published in JADA and developed a survey to evaluate parents' attitudes towards the role of dentist delivering vaccination information and allowing their child to receive the vaccination in the dental clinic. Prevention and advancement of vaccines in a dental setting are promoted, but some individuals are not willing to complete the series in a dental clinic.

Parents/ legally authorized representatives of UTSD patients believe that dental providers are qualified to educate about HPV and the vaccine. The collected data shows that 83.63% of parents or legally authorized representatives reported that a dentist has never discussed HPV or the HPV vaccine with them.

The results of this current study support the recommendations of the AAPD educate patients, parents, and guardians on the serious health consequences of OOPC and the relationship of HPV to OOPC; It also suggests counseling patients, parents, and guardians on the HPV vaccine as part of anticipatory guidance for adolescent patients.<sup>11</sup>

Limitations of this study include a questionnaire targeted towards UTSD patients between the ages of 9-14, which limits the generalization of the findings. Despite these limitations, it was demonstrated that further research should consider increasing the age range to increase awareness about HPV and potentially increase acceptance of the vaccine.



This research was supported by MD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

### **METHODS**

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16. I would find a new dentist for my child if he or she talked to me about my child's HPV vaccination status.	<ul><li>a. Strongly agree</li><li>b. Somewhat agree</li><li>c. Somewhat disagree</li><li>d. Strongly disagree</li></ul>	
17. How comfortable would you be with your child's dentist talking to your child about the HPV vaccine?	<ul><li>a. Very uncomfortable</li><li>b. Somewhat uncomfortable</li><li>c. Somewhat comfortable</li><li>d. Very comfortable</li></ul>	
<ol> <li>I would find a new dentist for my child if he or she talked to my child about his or her HPV vaccination status.</li> </ol>	<ul><li>a. Strongly agree</li><li>b. Somewhat agree</li><li>c. Somewhat disagree</li><li>d. Strongly disagree</li></ul>	
19. How comfortable would you be with your child's dentist recommending that he or she get the HPV vaccine from his or her regular doctor?	<ul><li>a. Very uncomfortable</li><li>b. Somewhat uncomfortable</li><li>c. Somewhat comfortable</li><li>d. Very comfortable</li></ul>	
20. Has a dentist ever talked with you about HPV or the HPV vaccine?	a. No b. Yes c. I don't know	
Der	nographic Information	
21. How many children do you have?	a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5+	
22. How many children do you have between the ages of 9 and 14 years?	a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5+	

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ephone:	614	-306-972	20		

would find a new dentist

23. How many of your children have started the HPV vaccine series?	a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5+
24. How many of your children have completed the HPV vaccine series?	a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 e. 5+
25 Have <b>you</b> received the HPV vaccine two- or three- dose series?	a. Yes b. No c. Unsure
26. Please enter your age range?	a. Less < 30 b. 30 -40 c. 41-50 d. Greater than 50
27. What is your highest level of education?	<ul> <li>a. Some high school</li> <li>b. High school diploma or GED</li> <li>c. <u>Associate's</u> degree</li> <li>d. Some college, no degree</li> <li>e. Bachelor's degree</li> <li>f. Graduate or professional degree</li> <li>g. Other</li> </ul>
28. What is your ethnicity?	a. Hispanic or Latino b. Non-hispanic or Latino
29. What is your race?	<ul> <li>a. American Indian or Alaska Native</li> <li>b. Asian</li> <li>c. Black or African American</li> <li>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</li> <li>e. White</li> <li>f. Multiracial</li> <li>g. Other</li> </ul>
30. What is your gender?	a. Male b. Female c. Other

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



