Knowledge Assessment of Undergraduate Students on the subject of HPV

1. Subjects to be included in the study are true freshman at Texas State University. Both males and females will be included in the study, and the age I am expecting will range from 18-24. Students will have to acknowledge that they are over the age of 18 to participate in the study. This group is important to study and assess their knowledge of HPV because they the Human Papillomaviurs (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infections in the world today, and college aged students are at high risk for contracting HPV due to increased sexual activity, and lack of knowledge. This research will identify any gaps in knowledge to help educators identify where further education and understanding is needed.
2. This will be an on-line survey. The link to the survey will be sent to freshman students Texas State email addresses. A consent page will describe the research and give students information on how to reach the administrator, as well as inform them that their participation is voluntary. They will provide consent by clicking on the “I would like to participate in the survey” button. After that has been clicked, the student will be asked to acknowledge that they are over the age of 18 in order to continue on with the survey. Both of these questions are marked so that they must be answered in order to continue. (Consent form is attached as screen shot from actual survey)
3. Data will be collected through an on-line survey administered by surveymonkey.com. The actual instrument has been developed and is attached including all of the questions, as well as the consent and informational page. Students will be asked a variety of questions that test their knowledge of HPV, ways it is contracted, prevalence in the United States, and risks associated with HPV. Students will also be asked to identify their age, marital status, as well as if they have been diagnosed with an STD, to name a few. Students are informed in the consent that they can skip any question they do not feel comfortable answering, or may stop at any time.
4. I do not foresee a high risk in participating in the survey because it is written more in the fashion of a test so the students are just responding to what they feel is the correct answer. The only question I see as potentially causing a risk is the question on how many sexual partners have you had, and if you or a friend has been diagnosed with an STD. I feel this is important information to ask however because if they have been diagnosed with and STD they will probably have a higher knowledge of the disease, and the number of sexual partners will give educators an idea of the possible risk of not educating our students on how to protect themselves.
5. The students will be advised to contact the administrator with questions or concerns, they are aware that they can stop at any time if they feel uncomfortable. They are informed that the survey tool is an online tool that will allow for anonymous data, as students information will not be attached in any way, a code will be given by survey monkey to indicate the results of a specific student, but data will be accumulated and given to the researcher as an overall score and not individually.
6. Benefits will be that the students will gain knowledge about HPV and the risks associtated with contracting the virus. At the end of the survey, a report of all of the questions and the correct answer will be shown so students can rectify any wrong knowledge or perceptions they had about the virus, and will also be given a link to gain more knowledge if desired.
7. No compensation will be given for participating
8. The benefits greatly outweigh the risk in this research. Students may feel uncomfortable answering questions about a virus they may have or their friends may have, but they will gain valuable knowledge about prevention, truth about the virus, and break any myths they may have heard about the virus.
9. This survey will only be administered to Texas State students
10. I am a faculty member
11. N/A
12. N/A
13. I will be the only one with access to the results of the study