

## Researchers Publish Paper on Multi-site Case Study of Community-clinical Linkages for Promoting HPV Vaccination

A team of Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network investigators has completed a multi-site case study of community-clinical linkages for promoting HPV vaccination. The study was led by [Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior](#) Professor [Heather Brandt](#) ([Arnold School of Public Health](#), University of South Carolina) and published in the journal, [Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics](#).

“Human papillomavirus – HPV – vaccination rates in the U.S. are suboptimal, requiring innovative partnerships between community and clinical entities to remedy this issue,” Dr. Brandt says.

The authors conducted a rigorous evaluation of HPV-related community-clinical linkages to understand their components, processes, and outcomes to increase HPV vaccination. They explored these linkages in their communities using an iterative, case study approach.

The researchers collected information describing nine community-clinical linkages on HPV vaccination from representatives of community organizations and clinical settings. They used thematic content analysis to analyze and interpret the data.

Five of the community-clinical linkages included a federally qualified health center as the clinical partner, and five included a non-profit organization as the community partner. Five reflected clinically focused integration wherein engagement occurs in the community but vaccine delivery and follow-up occur in the clinical setting.

The primary reasons for the linkages were the need to improve HPV vaccination and a community’s strong interest in preventing cancer. The authors noted that having a designated person to support the linkages and funding was a critical component.

Dr. Brandt and her team concluded that these findings can be used to guide HPV vaccination promotion, education and intervention efforts. Further, community-clinical linkages provide an opportunity to study the adaption, integration, and enhancement of evidence-based approaches to increase HPV vaccination.