

## ABSTRACT

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Human Papilloma Virus is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. An estimated 79 million Americans have been infected with HPV and that number is increasing each year. The HPV vaccine is the only vaccine that has the ability to protect men and women from contracting the numerous types of cancer that can be caused by different forms of HPV. There are three different brands of the HPV vaccine; Gardasil, Gardasil 9, and Cervarix. The goal of this study was to assess the relationship between guidelines and regulations for the HPV vaccination among post-secondary academic institutions in the United States and state level HPV vaccination rates. An ecological study design was utilized to assess a sample of private and public post-secondary academic institutions from the New England region in the United States. Data retrieval was completed by searching for information on the university websites and policy and procedure handbooks along with the availability of the HPV vaccination for students on campus. The information obtained for this research study highlighted the significant lack of vaccine requirements for universities in New England. The universities chosen for this study required only one or more immunization for their students and none of these universities required the HPV vaccine. A sample of public and private universities were chosen from each state in New England in order to see if there was a correlation between immunization requirements and whether or not universities were public or private. The data obtained for this study found that private universities typically required more immunizations compared to public universities. The application of behavior change models such as the Diffusion of Innovation model and the Socio-Ecological model is a beneficial step in increasing HPV vaccine education and creating stricter policies and regulations regarding the HPV vaccine.