

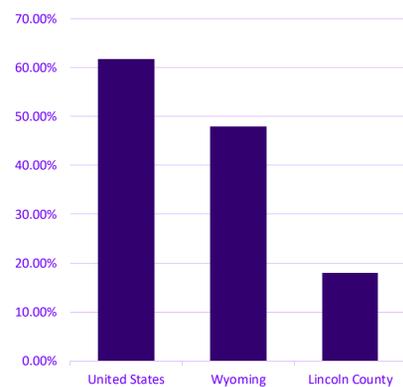
Utilizing Community Organizations to Improve HPV Vaccination in Afton, WY



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Hypothesis

- Community organized cancer screening and prevention health fair will increase HPV vaccination rates in the community of Afton, WY.



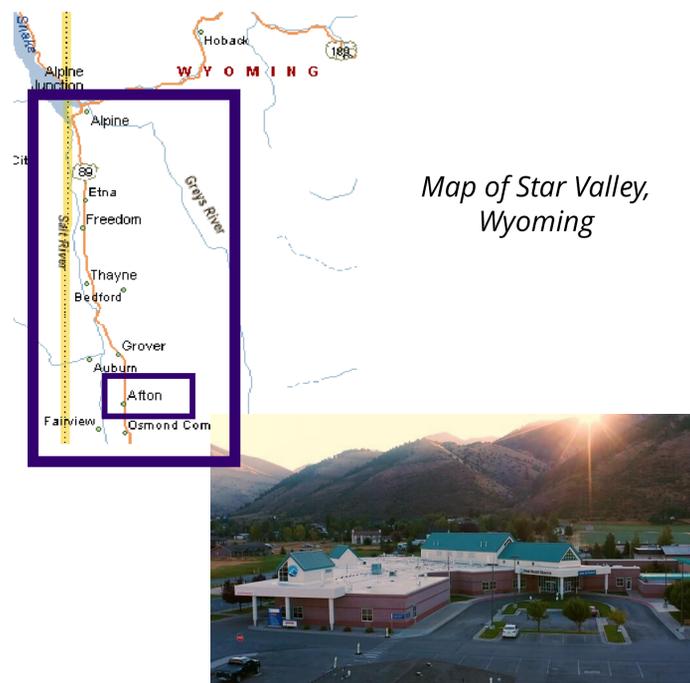
2021 HPV Vaccination Rates

Background

- Population of Afton: 2,071
- Population of Lincoln County: 17,629
- Primary religious affiliation in Afton, WY is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Throughout the Star Valley region there are strong ties to multiple religious affiliations
- Increasing vaccine hesitancy since start of COVID-19 pandemic and concerns regarding sexual health education in public schools

Community Profile / Assets

- Lincoln County Public Health:** Committed to preventing disease and injury, promoting healthy lifestyles and protecting community health. Offers vaccinations free to individuals up to age 18 and at discounted rates for those over age 18
- Star Valley Health:** Primary, robust healthcare system serving surrounding communities of Star Valley for over a century



Star Valley Health Hospital in Afton, WY

Integrated Review

Interventions

“Guard Your Health” Fair

Utilized stakeholder engagement, peer-based education, school-based vaccination, parent/guardian involvement and sexual health education

Strength: Accounts for unique needs and concerns of individual communities

Weakness: May involve debate about controversial topics, i.e., sexual education. However, in scientific literature it was highlighted that HPV could be presented as a vaccine to prevent cancer and demonstrated improved vaccination rates

Local pharmacies as providers for “Vaccines for Children” Program

Examined utility of rural pharmacies as providers for vaccinations to decrease barriers to vaccines

Strength: Decreased barriers to vaccinations including extended business hours of pharmacies, no need to have an appointment, etc.

Weakness: Staffing difficulties may arise with influx of customers wishing to receive vaccinations, rural pharmacies may not have enough staff on hand to manage customers picking up medications and those coming in separately for vaccines

Conclusions

Cancer Screening and Prevention Health Fair

- Afton, WY is located closest to community resources applicable to health fair needs, i.e., providers to perform cancer screenings like skin checks, ability to host a keynote speaker, businesses to donate prizes, pharmacists to help administer immunizations in conjunction with public health who can provide the HPV immunization itself, etc.
- Stakeholders and community members more likely to promote a health fair not related to sexual health and education due in part to strong religious affiliations
- Limitations include continued vaccine hesitancy, transportation barriers to those in outlying communities, concerns surrounding administration of HPV vaccination due to sexual connotations that follow this specific vaccine



Afton, WY Civic Center and Aircraft Museum