

**Assessment 01: Health Promotion Research**

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## **Health Promotion Research**

Human papillomavirus (HPV) prevention has emerged as a significant public health concern, particularly among adolescents and young adults who are at a critical age for receiving the HPV vaccine. As misinformation and limited awareness about HPV continue to circulate, many individuals in this age group remain unvaccinated, putting them at increased risk for HPV-related cancers and diseases. To address this, a comprehensive health promotion strategy must be undertaken that not only informs adolescents, young adults, parents, and educators about the importance of HPV vaccination but also equips them with accurate information, resources, and access to preventive services (Schlecht et al., 2021). This research explores the impact of HPV on adolescent and young adult health, identifies key barriers to vaccine uptake, and proposes targeted interventions to increase vaccination rates and create a more informed, protected community in Schwenksville, PA.

## **Population Analysis**

Young people in Schwenksville, PA, aged 11-26 years, are a strategic group for HPV prevention. HPV is still prevalent in the United States as one of the most prevalent STIs, and vaccination of children is one of the ways of preventing HPV-related cancers. In Pennsylvania, about 68.7% of adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 have received complete HPV shots. Although Schwenksville is rural, the coverage is low, with only 48.7% of the adolescents fully vaccinated (PA.gov, 2025). This makes it important for there to be strategies that address minority groups to enhance education, access, and acceptance of the vaccine.

Several factors hinder the vaccination coverage in Schwenksville as explained below. Some barriers are restrictive access to providers specializing in adolescent care, scarcity of provider endorsement, and parental barriers resulting from lack of effective information or embarrassment. These challenges arise because Schwenksville is relatively semi-rural, and

families may not visit health facilities as often and may encounter barriers such as transportation (Lipsky et al., 2025). Adolescents are most at risk in this age group since many of them lack adequate information about HPV or its long-term effects, and their vaccination is mainly influenced by their parents.