

Young Adult Women's Relationship Status and HPV Risk Perceptions: A Barrier to HPV Vaccination?

Rumour P. Piepenbrink;¹ Erika L. Thompson, PhD, MPH, CPH;² Cheryl A. Vamos, PhD, MPH;¹ Stacey Griner, MPH, CPH, RDH;¹ Rachel Logan, MPH;¹ Mika Kadono, MPH;¹ Coralia Vazquez-Otero, JD, MPH;¹ Ellen M. Daley, PhD, MPH¹

¹Department of Community and Family Health; College of Public Health; University of South Florida

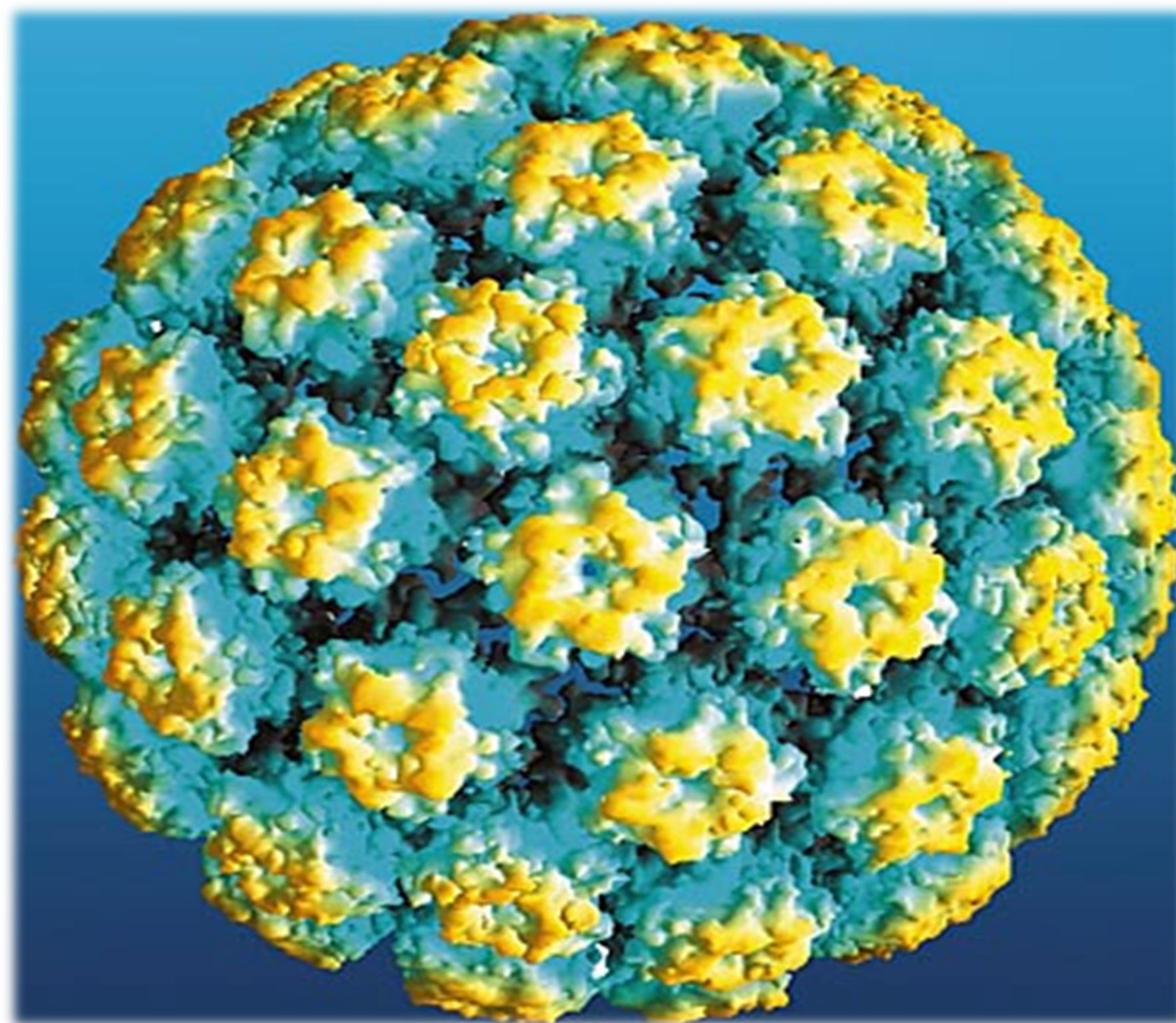
²Department of Health Behavior and Health Systems, School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center

BACKGROUND

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine rates continue to be suboptimal in the United States.
- Women ages 18-26 years are eligible for catch-up vaccination.
- Previous qualitative research indicates women's relationship status and HPV risk perceptions may be barriers to HPV vaccination.

PURPOSE

- Assess the association between relationship status and perceived risk for HPV among young adult women.



METHODS

- Women aged 18-26 years at a Florida university completed an online survey in November 2016-April 2017 (n=305).
- The survey assessed HPV vaccination status, perceived risk for HPV, and current relationship status.
- Logistic regression models estimated the odds of perceived high-risk for HPV stratified by vaccination status in SAS 9.4.

RESULTS

- The average age of all participants was 20.6 years.
- Most participants received the HPV vaccine (75%) and reported being at low-risk for HPV (78%).

Relationship Statuses

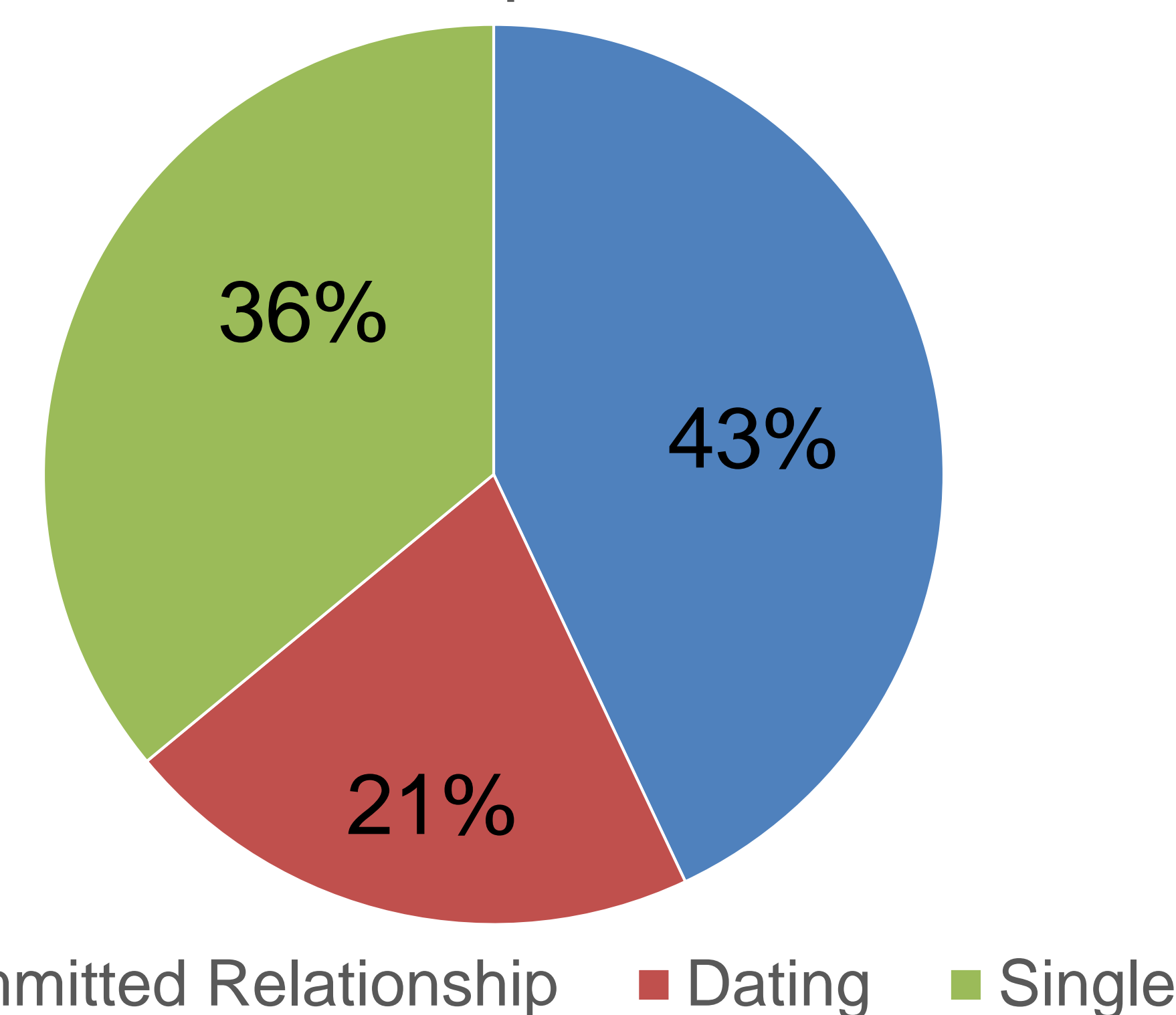


Table 1: Logistic Regression Modeling Moderate to High Risk Perception for HPV among Women, N=292

		N	OR (95% CI)
Vaccinated	Single	68	1.70 (0.81, 3.59)
	Dating	52	1.22 (0.52, 2.86)
	Committed	110	Referent
Unvaccinated	Single	41	0.75 (0.23, 2.48)
	Dating	12	5.33 (1.16, 24.47)
	Committed	22	Referent

CONCLUSION

- Findings corroborate the association between relationship status and HPV risk perceptions among unvaccinated women.
- Specifically, women in relationships were less likely to perceive themselves at high-risk for HPV, which may not be an accurate assessment given the high prevalence of HPV among young adults.
- This association is not present for vaccinated women, which may indicate relationship status and risk perceptions are barriers to HPV vaccine uptake.