

**Final Report:**

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Vaccine Acceptability among Young Adults and Parents of Adolescents**

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**Alignment with Goals:** This project has aligned with the ASTDA goal to develop the current and future generations of STI professionals. In addition to contributing to my success as an early career professional, I have also been able to mentor a PhD student (Kaeli Johnson) and two medical students (Ashlyn Kinard and Tiffany Lemuz) through data collection, analysis, and now dissemination. They are included on the eight abstracts submitted to the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting based on these data, which are listed at the end of this report. Currently, we are in the process of preparing manuscripts for peer review and developing collaborative relationships with other ASTDA members (Bobbie Van Der Pol, Cara Exten, Alison Footman) to pursue R-level funding through the National Institutes of Health.

**Purpose:** The purpose was to assess CT and NG vaccine acceptability among potential end users - young adults and parents, through two aims. **Aim 1:** Assess CT and NG vaccine acceptability among 18-24-year-old sexually active men and women. **Aim 2:** Assess acceptability of CT and NG vaccination among parents of 10 to 17-year-old children.

**Recruitment and Participants:** Centiment, a national survey panel, was used to recruit research participants. Centiment invited respondents to surveys in various ways, primarily through social media. Prior to entering the survey, respondents saw the estimated length of the survey and the reward they will earn. Centiment did not reveal any additional information regarding the survey, its subject matter, or how to qualify for the survey in order to avoid selection bias. Respondents received an incentive based on the length of the survey, their specific panelist profile, and target acquisition difficulty, among other factors. Inclusion criteria for young adults were: 1) age 18-24; 2) residing in the U.S.; 3) sexually active. We recruited 375 young adults. Inclusion criteria for parents were: 1)  $\leq 18$  years; 2) residing in the U.S.; 3) parent of a child age 10-17 years of age. We recruited 230 parents.

**Brief Results-Young Adults:** Overall, 26% of respondents reported they were extremely likely to receive a chlamydia vaccine. Approximately 11% were extremely likely to ask their provider about a chlamydia vaccine in the future and 13% were extremely likely to do additional research on the vaccine. Barriers with a strong influence included concern of contracting chlamydia from the vaccine (31%) and concern the vaccine would not work (30%). Almost 21% were extremely likely to receive a gonorrhea vaccine. Parents and YA were different in their perceived severity of NG outcomes (74%/60%;  $p < .001$ ), perceived NG severity (78%/57%;  $p < .001$ ), and perceived NG susceptibility (38%/21%;  $p < .001$ ). Differences were noted between parents and YA in likelihood of talking to a physician about the NG vaccine (43%/32%;  $p < .001$ ). Barriers differed with cost (58%/78%;  $p < .001$ ) and concern about others perceiving them poorly because of the NG vaccine (46%/79%;  $p < .000$ ) was less impactful to parents than YA. Among those vaccinated against COVID-19, 76% indicated that they were extremely likely to receive a chlamydia vaccine compared to those who were not vaccinated for COVID-19 (24%;  $p < .001$ ). Most COVID-19 vaccinated respondents (77%) reported they were extremely likely to receive a gonorrhea vaccine compared to those who did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine (35%,  $p < .001$ ).

**Brief Results-Parents:** Mean parent age was 41.8 years and mean child age was 13.7 years. Almost 45% of parents were extremely likely/very likely to vaccinate their child for chlamydia, which increased to 50% if recommended by a provider. Approximately 47% of parents were extremely/very likely to vaccinate their child for gonorrhea, which increased to 50% with physician recommendation. Over 75% agreed/strongly agreed that for their child, chlamydia might lead to serious long-term outcomes, 80% felt that chlamydia would be an embarrassing condition, and 30% felt their child was at risk for chlamydia in the future. The primary barrier identified by parents (73%) was concern that the chlamydia vaccine would not work. Similarly, 59% identified concern that their child may contract chlamydia because of the vaccine and 56% identified cost as a barrier. More so, 42% of parents reported concern that others may think poorly of them for getting their child vaccinated for chlamydia.

**Dissemination:** We have submitted 8 abstracts on these data to the American Public Health Association Annual Conference, held this year in Boston (see below). We are in the process of data analysis for manuscripts and anticipate at least three manuscripts from these data.

- Griner, S.B., Allison, W., Nelsen, M., Van Der Pol, B., Johnson, K., Kinard, A., & Lemuz, T. (2022). Gonorrhea Vaccine Acceptability among Young Adults and Parents of Adolescents. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Johnson, K.C., Lemuz, T., Kinard, A., Kline, N., Neelamegam, M., Griner, S.B. (2022). Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Vaccine Acceptability: Is there an association with COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake? American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Kinard, A., Johnson, K.C, Lemuz, T., Van Der Pol, B., & Griner, S.B. (2022). Young adult acceptance and perceived barriers to future chlamydia vaccines. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Lemuz, T., Kinard, A., Johnson, K., & Griner, S.B. (2022) Parental perceptions of chlamydia vaccines and risks for their children, ages 10-17. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Lemuz, T., Johnson, K., Kinard, A., Kline, N., Van Der Pol, B., & Griner, S.B., (2022). Gender non-conforming young adults: Perceptions of chlamydia and gonorrhea vaccines. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Kinard, A., Lemuz, T., Johnson, K.C, & Griner, S.B. (2022). Chlamydia vaccine uptake in adolescents: Parents perceived barriers. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Johnson, K.C., Kinard, A., Lemuz, T., Allison, W., & Griner, S.B. (2022) College Enrollment and STI knowledge Among Sexually Active Young Adults. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).
- Johnson, K.C., Kinard, A., Lemuz, T., & Griner, S.B. (2022) Demographic Factors Associated with Parents' Knowledge About Sexually Transmitted Infections. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. (Submitted).