

Abstract

Introduction: cervical cancer is a significant health challenge in Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa, with high mortality linked to late presentation and low awareness. Despite its prevalence, preventive interventions like human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination face low utilization. Religious leaders play a pivotal role in influencing health decisions, yet their attitudes toward HPV vaccination remain understudied. Therefore, this study aims to determine religious leaders' willingness to promote HPV vaccine uptake in Mavoko Sub-County, Machakos County, Kenya. **Methods:** a crosssectional study involving 198 religious leaders chosen through systematic random sampling method was done in the month of December 2023 in Machakos County, Kenya. Data on sociodemographics and attitudes towards HPV vaccination were collected using structured, selfadministered questionnaires. Attitudes were gauged on 11 statements. Analysis was performed using IBM SPSS 22.0, employing descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests to assess associations, with significance set at $p < 0.05$. Results were visually presented using tables, charts and graphs. **Results:** the study had a 96.6% response rate. Majority were male (51.5%), Protestant Christians (48%), and pastors (29.8%). Most participants had positive attitudes towards the HPV vaccine, with no significant sociodemographic associations found. **Conclusion:** the study reveals positive attitudes among religious leaders towards promoting HPV vaccine uptake among their congregants. Despite some concerns and misconceptions, the majority of participants expressed willingness to advocate for vaccination.