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MEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON CANCER PREVENTION BEHAVIOURS ASSOCIATED WITH HPV

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ABSTRACT:

Background: The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is associated with the diagnosis of anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancers in men. Evidence indicates that correct condom use in addition to obtaining the HPV vaccine provides the greatest protection from HPV infections.

Aim: To explore young male's beliefs and behavioural intention in relation to receiving the HPV vaccine and using a condom correctly and consistently for sexual contact.

Methodology: A cross-sectional study underpinned by the Theory of Planned Behaviour was conducted with male participants (n=359, 18-28 years) who completed an online survey. Descriptive, correlational, and hierarchical regression analysis were performed on both status variables and variables of the Theory of Planned Behaviour

Findings: Sexual orientation ($\beta = 0.177$, $p < 0.01$) and social influences [$\beta = 0.519$, $p < 0.001$] were identified as the most influential variables in relation to males' intention to receive the HPV vaccine. Whilst relationship status ($\beta = -.215$, $p < 0.001$) and attitudes [$\beta = 0.394$, $p < 0.001$] presented as the most significant predictor of intention to use a condom. Summarily, 51% of the variance in intention to receive the HPV vaccine and 44% in intention to use a condom were explained by the TPB model.

Conclusion: Results from this study will impact on future sexual health research, education programmes, and interventions for both HPV preventative behaviours in the elimination of HPV related cancers in males.

Key words:

Human papillomavirus, oncology, cancer, sexually transmitted infection, HPV vaccine, condom use, cancer prevention, Theory of Planned Behaviour, health behaviours

Background

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is among one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases globally¹. HPV is acquired by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the virus and is transmitted through skin to skin contact². The highest rates of HPV infection are found in adults aged 18 to 28 years³. HPV types 16 and 18 are associated with the diagnosis of over 400,000 cases of cancer around the world each year⁴.

In Ireland, there are two vaccines licensed for HPV prevention; Cervarix, and Gardasil. Gardasil is licensed for both males and females in Ireland and protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18⁴. Currently the Gardasil vaccine is only administered to young females in the Irish public school-based vaccination programme. The HPV vaccine has been administered to over 100 million people worldwide including over 220,000 young Irish women⁵. The vaccine is currently only available to young males through private payment of the vaccine and its administration, while men who have sex with men (MSM) can receive it free of charge since January 2017.

Clinical evidence indicates that use of a latex penile condom in addition to obtaining the HPV vaccine provides the greatest protection from HPV infections⁶. Latex condoms are an effective barrier to sexually transmitted infections (STI) pathogens⁷. To reduce transmission of HPV, and use a condom correctly and consistently, it is recommended that a new condom is used, from start to finish, for every act of vaginal, anal, and oral sex⁷.

Persistent HPV infections are mainly associated with cervical cancer in females, despite HPV also being intrinsically linked to oropharyngeal, anal, and penile cancers in males⁴. The burden of HPV related diseases in males has emerged from the literature in recent years surging an increase in research exploring male's knowledge on HPV⁸, their attitudes and intentions to receiving the HPV vaccine⁹ and protective behaviors against HPV¹⁰. Yet, little theoretical based research has been utilized to simultaneously examine preventative HPV behaviors in young males. Guided by the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), this study explored HPV preventative behaviors in young males, focusing on their attitudes, beliefs, and behavioral intention toward receiving the HPV vaccine and use a condom correctly and consistently.

Methodology

The conceptual framework for this study is the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). There is strong evidence of the efficacy of this theoretical formwork when determining factors associated with health-related behaviors^{11, 12} thus supporting its application within this health behaviour context. Furthermore, several behaviour specific meta-analyses support the effectiveness of the TPB in condom use.^{13, 14} The TPB has also been successfully applied to studies exploring male behaviors with regard to HPV vaccination uptake^{15, 16}

The TPB is a model of human behavior that determines an individual's intention to perform a behaviour through three core constructs; attitudes, subjective norms and perceived behavioral control¹⁷. A person's attitude toward a behaviour is defined as a personal evaluation of the behaviour, and is based on positive and negative values (behavioural beliefs) associated with the behavior¹⁷. Subjective norm is defined as perceived social pressure to engage in a behaviour, and is dependent on the expectations of important people in an individual's life (normative beliefs). Finally, perceived behavioural control refers to an individual's perceived ability to perform a behaviour, and is reliant on factors that may enable or inhibit (control beliefs) the behaviour¹⁷.

This study was conducted in four phases. Firstly, a belief elicitation phase was conducted to identify modal salient beliefs (behavioral beliefs, normative beliefs, control beliefs) with a representative sample of young males and to assist in generating items for an online survey^{18, 19, 20}. An expert panel then validated the survey items through completing a content validity index. A pilot test (n=15) was conducted with a representative sample to establish any final issues with regard to wording, layout, clarity, and consistency of the online survey. The new developed online survey (HPV-PB) was then utilized in a large cross-sectional study, which is described in this publication (See Appendix 1).

The HPV-PB survey was framed around the key constructs of the TPB. In the first section of the survey participants were provided with information about HPV, the HPV vaccine and its link to condom use. Participants were provided with this information as the vaccine was not available to young males at the time of data collection. The second section included socio-demographics questions which aided in differentiating between different sub-groups e.g. age, relationship status, occupation, race, sexual orientation, religion, age of first sexual encounter, number of sexual partners, STI history. The final section included items from the key constructs of the Theory of Planned Behavior. These items were generated for each behavior and grouped into six direct scales measuring attitudes, subjective norms, and

perceived behavioural control, twelve indirect belief scales measuring outcome expectancy weighted by outcome evaluations (behavioural beliefs), normative expectations weighted motivation to comply (normative beliefs), presence of control factors weighted by perceived power of control factors (control beliefs); and two intention scales (See Figure 1).

Ethical approval was granted from the Clinical Research Ethics Committee in University College Cork, Ireland. Data collection took place over a three-month time frame. Survey Monkey™, an online survey development software, was used as the host platform for the survey. Male participants were recruited from a university in Southern Ireland via a student email system, as well as posting advertisements on numerous health, social and sports websites. Inclusion criteria included males, aged 18- 28 years, as the highest rates of HPV infection are found in adults of this age. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS statistic software package. For all correlational and regression analysis only participants who had completed all variable scales were included in analysis, with missing data presented where applicable. Correlational analysis, multiple regression analysis, and hierarchical regressions were performed with the socio-demographics, independent variables (behavioural intention), and dependent variables (attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control). Frequency, means and standard deviations were also determined on the dependent and independent variables through descriptive statistical analysis.

Results

Participants Characteristics

Males aged 18-28 years (n=359) completed the online survey. Within Table 1 a comprehensive overview of all socio-demographic variables is provided. The majority of participants stated that they were of Irish nationality (86.9%). In terms of religion 49% of participants referred to themselves as “not religious” (49.0%), while 42.1% identified themselves as Roman Catholic. Half of all participants had private medical insurance (50.1%), while 29.5% were neither covered by medical card or private health insurance. Over two thirds of the sample were students (73.5%), referring to themselves as either being in an intimate relationship (45.7%) or not in an intimate relationship (47.9%). Sexual orientation was mainly stated as heterosexual (80.8%), but also included gay (13.6%) and bisexual orientation (5.3%).

Over 80% of the sample had a history of sexual intercourse, with the main age of first sexual intercourse being 16-18 years (48.5%). A significant number of participants (20.1%) reported having over ten sexual partners in their lifetime, while 30.6% stated they had 1-2 sexual lifetime partners. A condom was used by 44.3% of participants for sexual intercourse, and 78.6% never used a condom for oral sex. Sexually transmitted infections had been previously contracted by 10.6% of the sample, with 10.3% unsure if they had ever contracted an infection.

Correlates of Receiving the HPV Vaccine

Behavioural intention was measured across a 3 item scale (scored 1-7) on the HPV vaccine intention scale. An overall moderate intention to receive the HPV vaccine was identified [Mean 4.45 (SD 1.67)]. Participants had positive attitudes toward receiving the HPV vaccine, with 61.5 % (n=219) describing it as good, 68.1% (n=243) identified receiving the vaccine as wise, and 59.5 % (n=213) of participants saw the vaccine as beneficial. Stepwise regression between individual weighted beliefs and HPV vaccine intention revealed several beliefs which were significantly associated with male's intention to receive the HPV vaccine. "Receiving the HPV vaccine would protect me against HPV and HPV related diseases" [β (95% CI): 0.055(0.024 to 0.086), $p=0.001$]; "receiving the HPV vaccine would cost me too much money" [β (95% CI): 0.048(0.024 to 0.072), $p<0.001$]; and "receiving the HPV vaccine would not be a priority for me" [β (95% CI): -0.052(-0.083 to -0.022), $p=0.001$], "cost of HPV vaccine subsidised by government" [β (95% CI): 0.057(0.030 to 0.084), $p<0.001$]; and "worrying about potential side-effects of the HPV vaccine" [β (95% CI): 0.031(0.010 to 0.051), $p=0.004$] were all significantly associated with intention to receive the vaccine.

The opinions of healthcare professionals [β (95% CI): 0.025(0.007 to 0.043), $p=0.006$] were perceived as influencing participants' intention to receive the HPV vaccine. Hierarchical regression modeling (Table 2) was used to identify the variables that were statistically linked to intention to receive the HPV vaccine. Within the model, subjective norms presented the highest unique contribution [$\beta=0.519$, $p<0.001$], with a total of 51% variance identified once all constructs had been incorporated.

Correlates of Using a Condom

Intention with regard to using a condom throughout an entire sexual act was measured using 4 items [scored 1-7]. Overall, 240 participants answered all 4 items across the scale. Similar to the HPV vaccine scales an accumulative mean total score of 4.43 [SD 1.99] was obtained, showing a moderate intention for this behaviour. Using a condom correctly and consistently was scored less positively than intention to receive the HPV vaccine. Nonetheless, very few participants described using a condom as bad [6.2%, n=16], and similarly agreed that using a condom was wise [71.5%, n=186] and beneficial [55.8%, n=145]. Five individual beliefs were significantly associated with intention to use a condom in the stepwise regression model, those were identified as “preventing an unplanned pregnancy” [β (95% CI): 0.073(0.035 to 0.110), $p < 0.001$]; “reduce my sexual pleasure” [β (95% CI): 0.096(0.060 to 0.132), $p < 0.001$], “feeling awkward using a condom” [β (95% CI): -0.048(-0.093 to -0.003), $p = 0.038$]; and “less enjoyment for partner” [β (95% CI): 0.081(0.039 to 0.123), $p < 0.001$].

Current or future sexual partners [β (95% CI): 0.050(0.023 to 0.077), $p < 0.001$] were also perceived as influential the use of a condom correctly and consistently. The hierarchical regression model (Table 3) revealed that “relationship status” i.e. those who were single [$\beta = -0.215$, $p < 0.001$] was the only status variable which positively influenced intention to use a condom. Attitudes [$\beta = 0.394$, $p < 0.001$] were the most significant predictor of intention within the TPB model. Total variance explained by this model was 44%, with perceived behavioural control [β (95% CI): 0.06(-0.10 to 0.22)] having no influence on intention.

Risky Sexual Behaviour

To investigate whether males who practiced safe condom use were more likely to also be pro vaccination, the relationship between both continuous behavioural intentions (i.e. condom use and vaccination) were reentered into the opposite hierarchical regression models. When the HPV vaccine intention variable was added to the hierarchical regression model for condom use R^2 remained at 43.9%. The condom use intention variable was added to the hierarchical regression model for the HPV vaccine, identifying a statistically significant increase in R^2 from 51.1% to 52.4%. Demonstrating that those who intended to receive the HPV vaccine had a higher intention to use a condom correctly and consistently.

Discussion

This study has identified a range of factors that influence males in relation to receiving the HPV vaccine, and using a condom correctly and consistently, i.e. throughout an entire sexual act. These two behaviours were chosen as they are the main preventative behaviors linked to global reduction in the transmission of HPV and HPV related cancers²¹. Prevention of HPV transmission is of vital importance as rates of HPV are increasing every year, with an associated increase in the prevalence of HPV related cancers in males. In the international literature, there are a number of studies which look at both male and female intentions to receive the HPV vaccine²², and explore patterns of condom use²³. There is a dearth of literature underpinned by the TPB exploring male only views in relation to these individual behaviours, and no published literature could be found assessing both behaviours simultaneously utilising the TPB.

Sexual health demographic variables such as participant's number of sexual partners, history of contracting an STI and condom use highlighted emerging risk factors amongst this population; such findings are not uncommon, especially amongst this age group²⁴. In an Irish study 2,784 first-time patients (aged 13–19 years) received 3,475 STI diagnoses between January 1999 and September 2009²⁵. Dominant risk factors associated with STI diagnosis included males who sometimes or never use condoms²⁵. The significance of age, condom use, and number of sexual partners as risk factors toward adolescents being diagnosed with STI's highlight the need for an integrated public health approach²⁵.

Protecting oneself against HPV and HPV related diseases was a major influencing factor in receiving the HPV vaccine. If the HPV vaccine was associated with cancer prevention during health promotion strategies, males may be more inclined to receive the vaccine²⁶. In addition, cost of the HPV vaccine and worrying about potential side-effects were the main unfavorable beliefs identified in this current study. Males are most likely to receive the HPV vaccine if it were available at no cost²⁷. This is a significant issue within the current Irish context as the HPV vaccine is not available to young males within the school-based vaccination programmes. International literature on HPV vaccination acceptability among female and parental populations have also highlighted key concerns with regard to safety and side effects of the vaccine^{28, 29}. For health promotion interventions to be successful, healthcare specialists need to understand the key factors which contribute to vaccination choices.

Perceived social pressures were most likely to influence participants in relation to receiving the HPV vaccine, with healthcare professionals being most influential. Men's attitudes

toward getting vaccinated and their perceptions of social support for vaccination have been moderately correlated with their intentions to be vaccinated. Since the initial roll out of the HPV vaccine in 2006, the healthcare professional, and more specifically the doctor or general practitioner have been cited as playing a key role in vaccine initiation and completion for both females^{30, 31} and parents³². Endorsement of the vaccine by a healthcare professional would be a key motivating factor in relation to males receiving the vaccine³³, such endorsements not only need to target young men but also their parents.

Participants identified positive attitudes toward using a condom. Using a condom to decrease worry during sexual intercourse i.e. reducing the risk of an unplanned pregnancy, or contracting an STI was the most favourable outcome by many of the participants. Yet, condom use has also been identified as distancing sexual partners physically, emotionally, and compromises bodily pleasure³⁴. Nurses, both in the hospital and community settings, have the opportunity to implement health promotion strategies focused on addressing barriers and emphasizing the importance of effective condom use.

There is extensive empirical support surrounding the use of TPB in predicting condom use intention across adolescents and college student populations^{35, 14, 13}. Interestingly, perceived behavioural control which is an individual's perceived ability to perform a behaviour was not statistically significant within the current TPB model, but was significant when analysed as a single variable with intention. Such theoretical implications with regard to perceived behavioral control are consistent amongst literature pertaining to condom use behaviour^{36, 37, 14}. This may be explained by the fact that use of a condom involves two individuals. Condom use is an interpersonal behaviour that requires decision-making, and therefore needs to include both partners³⁸. Therefore, it could be considered that participants were unsure how to answer certain items if they were also considering what their partner may think. The relationship between intention to use condoms may vary depending on the relationship with a partner [i.e. casual sexual partners compared to long-term partners] as established by this study and others³⁹. Future research on condom use should consider using the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), as the TRA excludes perceived behavioural control and condom use is a behaviour that one may not have complete control over. However, if this approach had been adopted for this study, then an insight into males' overall control, as well as inhibiting and enabling factors of males using a condom would not have been identified.

Therefore, while the focus should remain on male health promotion and using condoms to reduce incidences of HPV, the importance of communication with one's sexual partner should be key in promoting use of condoms. Additionally, educating women to encourage

their partner to use condoms correctly and consistently would potentially increase the frequency of condom use. Interestingly, in this current study “relationship status” was the only significant status variable to emanate from the hierarchical regression model pertaining to condom use. Thus, those who were single and not in an intimate relationship were more likely to use a condom correctly and consistently. This demonstrates ownership and responsibility for single participants with regard to their own sexual health, but is also concerning if complacency in condom usage is associated with longer term relationships. This may be due to a lower perception of risk in monogamous relationships or with regular partners.

Clinical Implications

Management of an effective national vaccine strategy necessitates careful planning; including a rational choice of how best to implement the HPV vaccine, as well as the ability to reassure the public on any of their concerns. A HPV vaccination programme has not been implemented for males in many European countries, and correct and consistent condom use remains low. Healthcare professionals can use the results from this study to avoid potential pitfalls in introducing HPV vaccination programmes for men, and designing educational campaigns around correct condom use. This will encourage a holistic approach to young men’s health with regard HPV disease prevention.

Study Limitations

Taking into consideration this studies limitations, it is possible that behavioural intention may have been altered if the researcher were to measure intention to use a condom only [i.e. not including throughout an entire sexual act]. Nevertheless, it is recommended that future research conducted in this area would use this behaviour, as measuring condom use alone without incorporating correct and consistent use does not adequately measure a behaviour that reduces incidences of HPV. Furthermore, measuring intention to perform a behavior (receiving the HPV vaccine) which did not yet exist is much more difficult to categorise. In this instance, the researcher utilised implementation intention as the vaccine was unavailable for males in Ireland during the time of data collection. Implementation intentions are said to transmit control over goal-directed behaviour to situational cues i.e. behavioural intention scale questions included a future time point when the vaccine would be available, thus

automating initiation of the behavior⁴⁰. While attitudes, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control have an important role in predicting, understanding and changing health behaviour, a broader theoretical approach incorporating motivational and self-regulatory measures may be needed in the future.

Conclusion

This is the first piece of research to solely examine young male's attitudes, beliefs, and behavioural intention in relation to receiving the HPV vaccine, and using a condom correctly and consistently, and to do so using a robust theory of human behavior. Despite the complex nature of this theory, valuable findings in an under investigated population have been established. Intention to perform both behaviours is most likely to be influenced by healthcare professionals, sexual partners, and the desire to protect oneself. This research is essential, in terms of population needs and acceptability in order to better understand and implement HPV vaccination programs and sexual health education strategies accordingly.

Conflict of interest

The authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity of a financial or non-financial interest.

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Figure 1 Overview of the Theory of Planned Behavior

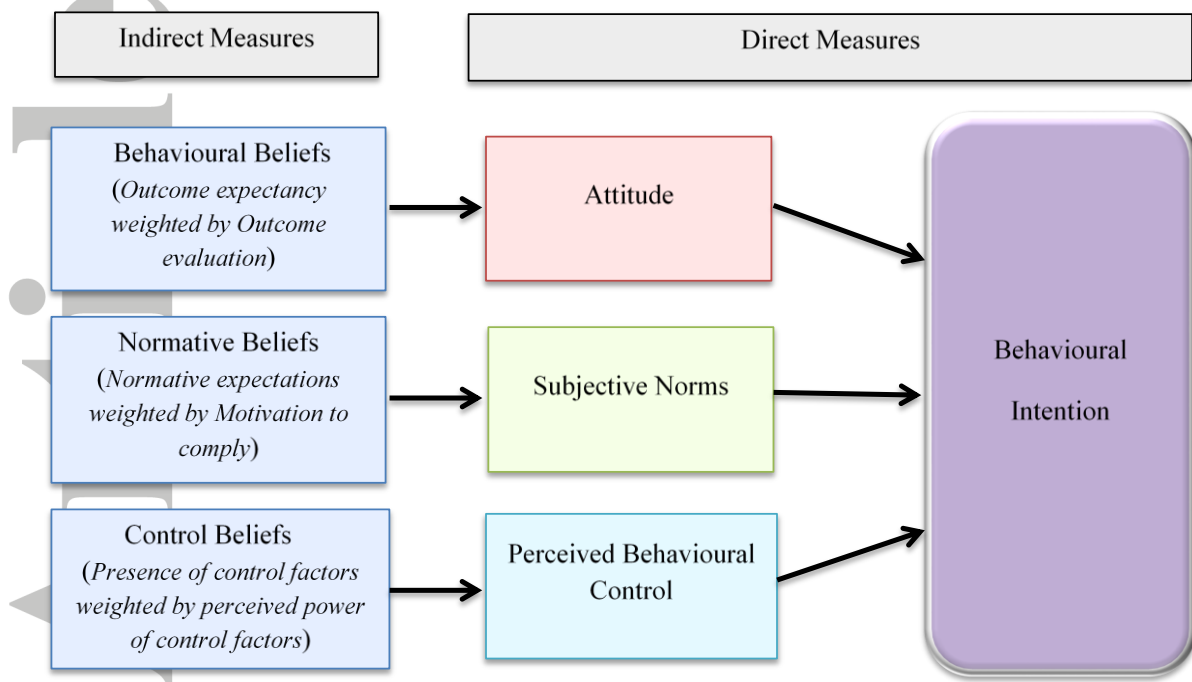


Table 1 Demographic and Sexual Health Variables

Variable	N	%
Age*(Years)		
<i>18-21</i>	166	47.3
<i>22-25</i>	109	30.4
<i>26-28</i>	80	22.2
Nationality*		
<i>Irish</i>	312	86.9
<i>Other</i>	46	12.8
Current Residence*		
<i>Ireland</i>	346	96.4
<i>Other</i>	9	2.5
Race*		
<i>Caucasian</i>	331	92.2
<i>Black (African) /Any other Black background</i>	4	1.1
<i>Asian</i>	10	2.8
<i>Other</i>	11	3.1
Religion*		
<i>Roman Catholic</i>	151	42.1
<i>Church of Ireland</i>	6	1.7
<i>Islam</i>	11	3.1
<i>Not religious</i>	176	49.0
<i>Other</i>	13	3.6
Medical Cover*		
<i>General public health cover (neither medical card or private insurance)</i>	106	29.5
<i>Medical card</i>	61	17.0
<i>Private health insurance</i>	180	50.1
<i>Other</i>	7	1.9
Employment Status*		
<i>In Employment</i>	75	20.8
<i>Unemployed</i>	13	3.6
<i>Student</i>	264	73.5
<i>Other</i>	5	1.4

Table 1 Continued

Variable	N	%
Sexual Orientation*		
<i>Heterosexual</i>	290	80.8
<i>Gay</i>	49	13.6
<i>Bisexual</i>	19	5.3
Number of participants who have had sexual intercourse*		
<i>Yes</i>	303	84.4
<i>No</i>	54	15.1
Age (years) at first sexual intercourse*		
<i>Before 13 years</i>	4	1.1
<i>13-15</i>	23	6.4
<i>16-18</i>	174	48.5
<i>19-23</i>	95	26.5
<i>Over 23 years</i>	10	2.8
<i>N/A</i>	47	13.1
Number of sexual partners*		
<i>0</i>	49	13.6
<i>1-2</i>	110	30.6
<i>3-5</i>	70	19.5
<i>6-10</i>	55	15.3
<i>Over 10 partners</i>	72	20.1
Frequency of Condom Use for Sexual Intercourse*		
<i>Never</i>	30	8.4
<i>Sometimes</i>	120	33.8
<i>Always</i>	159	44.3
<i>Never had sexual intercourse</i>	46	12.8
Frequency of Condom Use for Oral Sex*		
<i>Never</i>	282	78.6
<i>Sometimes</i>	27	7.5
<i>Always</i>	3	.8
<i>Never had oral sex</i>	44	12.3
Previously Contracted Sexually Transmitted Infections		
<i>Yes</i>	38	10.6
<i>No</i>	284	79.1
<i>Don't know</i>	37	10.3

*Missing Data: (n=4), Nationality (n=1), Current Residence (n=4), Race (n=3), Religion (n=2), Medical Cover (n=5), Employment Status (n=2) Relationship Status (n=2), Sexual Orientation (n=1), No. of Participants who have has Sexual Intercourse (n=2), Age (years) at first sexual intercourse (n=6), No. of Sexual Partners (n=3), Frequency of Condom Use for Sexual Intercourse (n=4), Frequency of Condom Use for Oral Sex (n=3)

Table 2 Hierarchical Regression with Direct TPB Measures, Statistically Significant Status Variables, and the Dependent Variable of HPV Vaccination Intention

Predictor	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Status Variables				
Nationality				
-Non-Irish [ref]	0	0	0	0
-Irish	0.29(-0.37 to 0.94)	0.32(-0.27 to 0.91)	0.42(-0.07 to 0.92)	0.29(-0.19 to 0.77)
Religion				
-Non-Religious [ref]	0	0	0	0
-Religious	-0.18(-0.60 to 0.23)	-0.15(-0.52 to 0.23)	-0.09(-0.40 to 0.23)	-0.16(-0.46 to 0.15)
Sexual Orientation				
-Heterosexual [ref]	0*	0	0	0
-Gay	0.89(0.27 to 1.50)	0.51(-0.06 to 1.07)	0.17(-0.30 to 0.65)	0.08(-0.39 to 0.54)
-Bisexual	-0.03(-0.90 to 0.85)	0.05(-0.74 to 0.84)	0.30(-0.36 to 0.97)	0.36(-0.28 to 1.00)
Medical Cover				
-PHI [ref]	0	0	0	0
-MC	0.04(-0.52 to 0.59)	0.17(-0.33 to 0.67)	0.30(-0.13 to 0.72)	0.17(-0.24 to 0.58)
-G.PHC	-0.37(-0.86 to 0.11)	-0.18(-0.63 to 0.26)	-0.04(-0.41 to 0.33)	0.01(-0.35 to 0.37)
Ever had sexual intercourse				
-No [ref]	0	0	0	0
-Yes	0.51(-0.06 to 1.09)	0.29(-0.23 to 0.81)	0.14(-0.30 to 0.58)	-0.02(-0.45 to 0.41)
Attitudes		0.56(0.42 to 0.71)***	0.22(0.08 to 0.36)**	0.17(0.04 to 0.31)*
Subjective Norms			0.65(0.52 to 0.77)***	0.62(0.49 to 0.74)***
PBC****				
Lower score (1 to 5.67) [ref]				0
Higher score (6 to 7)				0.73(0.40 to 1.06)***
Model Summary				
R^2	.069	.246	.470	.510
R^2 Change		.177***	.225***	.040***
Adjusted R^2	.042	.221	.451	.490
Model p -value	p= 0.014	p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 , n=252 across all models

Note 1: Model 1= Status variables entered into model; Model 2= Status variables and attitudes entered into model; Model 3= Status variables, attitudes, and subjective norm entered into model; Model 4= Status variables, attitudes, subjective norm, and perceived behavioural control entered into final model. **Note 2:** PBC has been divided into 2 categories (Category 1 [1- 5.67]; Category 2 [6-7]) using a median split to improve the model fit.

Table 3 Hierarchical Regression with Direct TPB Measures, Statistically Significant Status Variables, and the Dependent Variable of Condom Use Intention

Predictor	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Status Variables				
Age	-0.05(-0.14 to 0.03)	-0.05(-0.12 to 0.02)	-0.02(-0.09 to 0.05)	-0.02(-0.09 to 0.06)
Relationship Status				
-Single (not in an intimate relationship) [ref]	0	0	0	0
-Single in (an intimate relationship)	-1.02(-1.59 to -0.45)***	-0.92(-1.39 to -0.45)***	-0.86(-1.32 to -0.41)***	-0.87(-1.32 to -0.42)***
Ever had sexual intercourse				
-No [ref]	0	0	0	0
-Yes	-0.43(-1.21 to 0.35)	-0.50(-1.15 to 0.15)	-0.60(-1.23 to 0.03)	-0.60(-1.22 to 0.03)
Attitudes		0.94(0.75 to 1.13)***	0.70(0.48 to 0.92)***	0.69(0.48 to 0.91)***
Subjective Norms			0.37(0.19 to 0.55)***	0.36(0.18 to 0.54)***
PBC				0.06(-0.10 to 0.22)
Model Summary				
R ²	.101	.386	.434	.436
R ² Change		.286***	.048***	.001
Adjusted R ²	.088	.375	.420	.419
Model p-value	p< 0.001	p< 0.001	p< 0.001	p< 0.001

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, n=211 across all models

Note: Model 1= Status variables entered into model; Model 2= Status variables and attitudes entered into model; Model 3= Status variables, attitudes, and subjective norm entered into model; Model 4= Status variables, attitudes, subjective norm, and perceived behavioural control entered into final model.