

# Teen Cancer Prevention: A Novel Educational Approach

2016-17 NC Albert Schweitzer Fellows  
Vaidehi Mujumdar and Rachel Shenker



THE ALBERT  
SCHWEITZER  
FELLOWSHIP®



## PROJECT GOALS

The Fellows aimed to implement an educational intervention that seeks to empower adolescents to understand the health implications of vaccines, smoking, skin cancer, and visiting a primary care provider as a part of transitioning into adulthood.

## POPULATION SERVED

- 30 10<sup>th</sup> grade students received hands-on interactive educational sessions during the course of the 2016-2017 school year.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Weekly 90-minute education workshops with teens for 5 months during their class day
- Worked with teens to set self-identified behavioral goals and followed up with teens monthly and in individual exit interviews
- Training for students to work as health ambassadors in peer-to-peer educational model

## RESULTS

- Pre-program surveys of the interventional class showed that 20 out of 30 students denoted “disagree” regarding knowledge on the HPV vaccination and its association with cancer.
- Pre-program surveys of the control class showed that 15 out of 30 students “disagree” regarding knowledge of the HPV vaccination and its’ association with cancer.
- 25 out of 30 students served participated in the #healthyliving social media campaign through platforms including Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat.
- 13 out of 30 students had already received all 3 HPV vaccines. Only 3 knew that they had received the entire series. 4 students said “I don’t know”. 6 students thought they had received 2 or less.
- 3 out of 30 students have never received the HPV vaccine. Only 1 student knew that they had not.
- There is a disconnect between medical records and child knowledge of vaccination status.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The Fellows have proposed and integrated the program structure into the Mt. Tabor 10<sup>th</sup> grade health class curriculum.
- The Fellows are expanding the with the help of second year medical students
- The goal is to integrate the teen cancer prevention program into 1-2 health classes at 3 more public high school 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes by May 2018.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The Fellows would like to thank the #healthyliving Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, Dr. Julie M. Linton, and Mt. Tabor High School.*