OBJECTIVES
HPV infection is the primary cause of cervical cancer, HPV types 16 and 18 cause up to 70% of all cervical cancers, and HPV types 6 and 11 cause about 90% of genital warts in females aged 15–44 years.

In 2006, the FDA approved Merck’s Gardasil vaccine in girls and women aged 9–26 years; it is highly effective in preventing HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18.

Despite the opportunity for cervical cancer prevention, HPV vaccination rates are low in the United States. In 2013, 57.3% of age 13-17 years had received 1 dose of the vaccine, and only 18.1% had completed the 3-dose series.

METHODS
Between January 2013 and December 2013, we surveyed 325 women from the University of Utah Community Clinics about their HPV vaccine-related beliefs and behaviors. Stable odds ratios were estimated from logistic regression models to identify variables related to HPV vaccine initiation and series completion.

RESULTS
Of the 325 participants, 204 (62.8%) had initiated the vaccine and 159 (48.9%) had completed the 3-dose series. The variables of interest associated with HPV vaccine initiation included the strength of doctor recommendation (OR = 1.86 per scale unit), and whether a doctor’s recommendation was influential (OR = 1.70 per scale unit). These variables were also significantly associated with HPV vaccine completion.

DISCUSSION
Our findings are inline with the results of the meta-analysis, that vaccine uptake increases significantly with physician recommendation, when accounting for potential confounders.

LIMITATIONS
A limitation of this study is that the data are from a single institution, and may not be generalizable to other populations.

REFERENCES

Figure 1: Mailed survey to (2,000) participants from the University of Utah Community Clinics

Figure 2: Vaccination cascade

Figure 3: Graphical depictions of Age and Physician recommendation as vaccination predictors

Figure 4: Meta-Analysis of Physician Recommendation & Intent to Vaccinate (ORs)

The HPV vaccine has been available in the United States for 8 years, but only one third of adolescents have been fully immunized with all 3 recommended doses, and results for vaccine uptake are limited to young women, and not generalizable to women of older ages.