HPV Literacy
The role of English proficiency in Korean American immigrant women

Hee Yun Lee, PhD, MSW, Y. Joon Choi, PhD, MSW, MA, Young Ji Yoon, MSW, and Jennifer Oh, M.Ed

BACKGROUND: Although Korean American women have one of the highest cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates among all Asian American and non-Hispanic White women, they are less likely to receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.

OBJECTIVES: This study aimed to examine Korean American women’s HPV literacy and factors related to HPV literacy to identify targeted intervention strategies.

METHODS: A quota sampling strategy was used to recruit 243 Korean American women aged 19–85 years in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area. Multiple linear regression analysis was conducted using Andersen’s Behavioral Model of Health Services Use to examine factors associated with HPV literacy.

FINDINGS: HPV literacy of Korean American immigrant women was moderate, and knowledge about HPV detection items was particularly low. Age was the only predisposing factor that had a significantly negative association with HPV literacy, whereas education level and English proficiency had a significant positive relationship with HPV literacy. Health status as a need factor was significantly positively associated with HPV literacy.

KEYWORDS
HPV literacy; cervical cancer screening; Korean American women; health disparity

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Theoretical Framework
To identify malleable factors used for improving HPV literacy in KA women, the current authors used Andersen’s (1995) Behavioral Model of Health Services Use. This model was developed to help understand the use of health services and to measure access to health care (Andersen, 1995). It has since been revised by Andersen, Davidson, and Baumeister (2014), who emphasized that improving access to care can be accomplished by considering...