

College Student Invulnerability Beliefs and HIV Vaccine Acceptability

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Objective: To examine behavioral history, beliefs, and vaccine characteristics as predictors of HIV vaccine acceptability. **Methods:** Two hundred forty-five US undergraduates were surveyed regarding their sexual history, risk beliefs, and likelihood of accepting hypothetical HIV vaccines. **Results:** Multivariate regression analysis indicated that vaccine acceptability was predicted by lifetime sexual partners, high perceived HIV sus-

ceptibility, low danger invulnerability, and high psychological invulnerability. Low perceived risk was associated with basing decisions on vaccine cost. **Conclusions:** HIV vaccine acceptability was predicted by behavioral risk and perceived HIV susceptibility, but also by general feelings of invulnerability to physical and psychological harm.

Key words: invulnerability, susceptibility, HIV, vaccine

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