



# Improving Infant Immunization Status Using Prenatal Vaccination Educational Program

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## Background and Significance

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2015, measles cases grew from 37 in 2004 to 644 people in 2014. Childhood vaccination is a reliable public health intervention used to prevent communicable disease outbreaks. In the United States, vaccination compliance has decreased. Parents have become hesitant to vaccinate their children due to controversy projected by the media (Bronfin, 2008). Vaccinations not only protect the individuals who receive them, but the community through "herd immunity". However, "herd immunity" can only protect the unvaccinated if a majority actually receive the vaccine. The decrease of vaccination rates in the United States has made the general population vulnerable to viruses once considered eradicated, such as the measles.

## Purpose

To investigate the effectiveness of a prenatal vaccination educational program to improve vaccination status of infants.

## Hypothesis

Expecting mothers who participate in a vaccination educational program are more likely to vaccinate their children than mothers who do not participate.

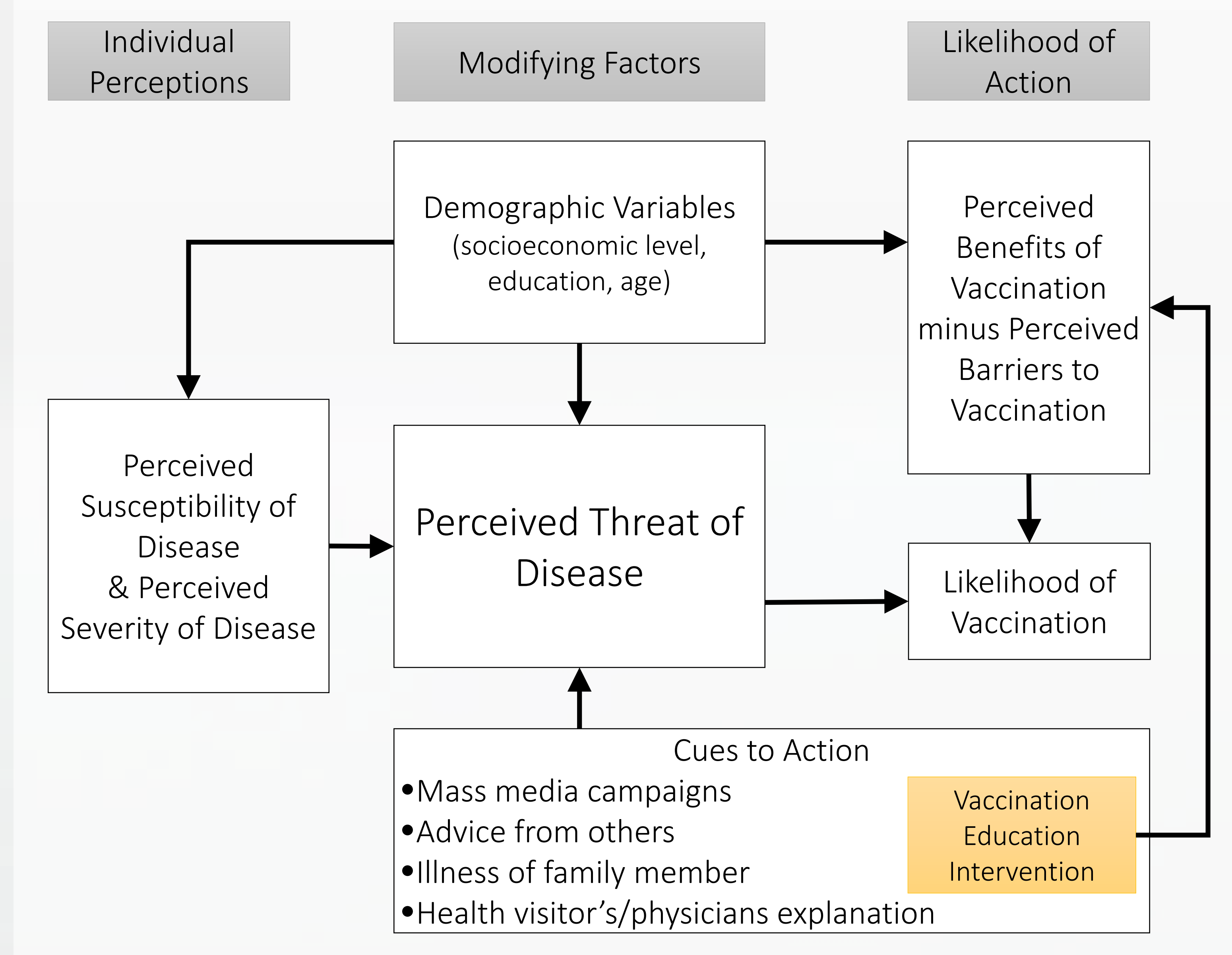
## Proposed Methodology

This is a quasi-experimental pretest posttest longitudinal comparison study using a purposive sampling technique. Using Power Analysis, a projected sample size of 120 pregnant women from local hospitals will be used. Target population is pregnant women.

## Variables and Data Analysis

The independent variables are vaccination educational program and intention to vaccinate after giving birth measured by surveys administered before and after the program. The dependent variable is infant immunization status measured by a follow up survey at 3, 5, 7, and 13 months through participants' preferred methods of mailed survey, phone call, or email. Data will be analyzed using one-tailed *t*-tests.

## Health Belief Model



## Nursing Implications

Public health nurses, school nurses, pediatricians, obstetrical physicians, and nurses working in related fields will benefit from this study because vaccinated children protect the public, particularly children and pregnant women, from easily preventable communicable diseases. Healthcare providers must maintain confidence to sustain high immunization coverage rates or vaccine-preventable disease will continue to rise (Salmon, et al, 2005). Nurses and other healthcare providers must remain up to date on vaccine efficacy and safety and serve as advocates for timely administration. Nurses must remain current on all proven and perceived concerns regarding childhood immunizations and must be prepared to make the case that the advantages to the child and to society dramatically outweigh any small risk (Bronfin, 2008). Increasing vaccination literacy among parents will improve vaccination compliance throughout the child's lifetime, keeping themselves, their peers, and their families safe from communicable diseases.



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## References

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