About this Release

This release presents annual uptake rates by the end of the school year for the routine cohort of girls offered HPV immunisation in second year of secondary school (S2) in school year 2012/13. The release also includes ‘final’ uptake rates one year later for girls who were first offered HPV immunisation in S2 in school year 2011/12.

Key Points

- In Scotland 82.0% of girls in S2 in school year 2012/13 had completed the three dose course of HPV immunisations by the end of the school year. 91.8% had received two doses and 93.5% had received one dose. These uptake rates are similar to the equivalent reported rates for girls in S2 in the previous school year. Data for the first four years of the HPV immunisation programme show that a number of girls in S2 complete their immunisation course after the end of the school year in which they were first offered the vaccine. Therefore, the reported uptake rates for girls in S2 during school year 2012/13 are expected to increase, for the third dose in particular. Updated uptake rates for these girls ‘one year later’ will be published in September 2014.

- For girls in S2 during school year 2011/12, uptake rates by the end of the school year were 82.8% for all three doses, 91.7% for two doses and 93.1% for the first dose, as reported in the annual publication in September 2012. One year on, the uptake rates for these girls have increased to 91.4% for all three doses, 93.4% for two doses and 94.2% for one dose.

Background

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is designed to protect against the two types of HPV that cause around 75% of cases of cervical cancer. Girls need three doses over a period of six months to give them the best protection. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all cervical cancers, so regular cervical screening is still important. From September
2012 the UK immunisation programme switched from Cervarix® to Gardasil® as the routine vaccine used. The Gardasil® vaccine also protects against two other types of HPV that cause around 90% of genital warts.

The HPV Immunisation Programme in Scotland started on 1 September 2008. The programme aims to help protect girls against developing cervical cancer later in life by routinely immunising them at around 12-13 years of age, in second year of secondary school (S2), through a school-based programme.

A catch-up campaign for older girls ran over a three-year period from September 2008 and applied to girls who were aged 13 to 17 on 1 September 2008.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website

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