About this release

This publication from the Information Services Division provides annual Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation uptake rates for girls in their first, second and third years of secondary school (S1, S2 and S3) in 2015/16.

The HPV immunisation programme aims to protect girls from the two types of HPV that cause around 75% of cases of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all cervical cancers, so regular cervical screening is still important.

Main points

- In 2015/16 HPV immunisation uptake rates in Scotland remain high and exceed 80%.
- Among S1 girls, uptake of the first dose of the vaccine was 87%.
- Among S2 girls, uptake of the first dose of the vaccine reached 93% and uptake of the second dose was 83%.
- Among S3 girls, uptake of the first dose of the vaccine reached 93% and uptake of the second dose was 86%.
- Uptake of the HPV immunisation was high both in the most deprived and the least deprived areas in Scotland.

Uptake of the first and second doses of HPV immunisation in Scotland by deprivation category; girls in S3 in 2015/16
Background

Vaccination programmes aim to protect the individual from many serious infectious diseases and to prevent the spread within the wider population.

Following changes to the UK immunisation schedule, from September 2014 there are slight differences in the timing of when doses are offered across NHS Boards. For example, 11 of the 14 NHS Boards in Scotland offered the vaccine to girls in S1 in 2015/16. In the remaining three NHS Boards the vaccine was first offered in S2.

All girls in Scotland will be offered the appropriate number of doses within the recommended intervals according to the UK Childhood Immunisation Schedule. Girls who have not started, or are still to complete, their course of immunisations will be offered the vaccine in school year 2016/17.

Gardasil® is the vaccine used in the immunisation programme. The Gardasil® vaccine also protects against two other types of HPV that cause around 90% of genital warts.

Contact

Judith Tait
Principal Information Analyst
0131 275 6833
Email: nss.isdchildhealth@nhs.net

Ben Tait
Senior Information Analyst
0131 275 6613

Further Information

Further information can be found in the HPV Immunisation Statistics Scotland Report. All our published information on immunisation is available on our website.

The next release of this publication will be in November 2017.