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 2016/17.

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. The routine HPV immunisation schedule is two doses of vaccine to complete the full course.

Main Points

- In 2016/17, HPV immunisation uptake rates in Scotland remained high and exceeded 80%.
- Uptake of the first dose of vaccine among S1 girls was 86%, a small decrease on 87% in the previous year.
- For S2 girls, uptake of the first dose of vaccine reached 91%, and uptake of the second dose was 81%. This was a small decrease on rates for the previous year of 93% and 83% respectively.
- For S3 girls, uptake of the first dose remained at 93%. Uptake of two doses reached 89%, a small increase from 86% in the previous year.
- Uptake of the full two dose course among S3 girls was high for pupils living in both the least and most deprived areas in Scotland, exceeding 85%. Although uptake was high, rates were lower in the most deprived areas.
Background

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

There is slight variation across NHS Boards in the timing of when they offer doses of HPV vaccine. 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 2017/18.

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.

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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 2018.