HPV Immunisation Statistics Scotland
School Year 2017/18
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by 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 2017/18.

Main Points

- HPV immunisation uptake rates for S1 to S3 girls in Scotland decreased slightly in 2017/18.
- Among S3 girls, uptake rates were 92% for the first dose and 87% for the second dose of the vaccine, a small decrease from the previous year.
- Although uptake decreased, completion of the full two dose course of HPV vaccinations by the end of S3 remains high and continues to exceed 80%.

Trend in completed course HPV immunisation uptake rates for S3 girls in Scotland; School years 2009/10 to 2017/18

1. The HPV immunisation schedule was reduced from three to two doses from September 2014. Girls in S3 in 2014/15 started their course of HPV immunisations when they were in S2 in the previous year (2013/14), and would have been on the three dose schedule.
• Uptake of the full two dose course among S3 girls was high for girls living in both the least and most deprived areas in Scotland, exceeding 80%. Although uptake was high, rates were lower in the most deprived areas.

• Uptake of the second dose of vaccine in S2 was 78% compared to 81% in the previous year. There has been a small downward trend in S2 uptake rates since the implementation of the two dose schedule in 2014/15.

• Among S1 girls, uptake of the first dose of vaccine was 84%, a decrease from 86% in the previous year. This continues a trend of small decreases year on year.

**Background**

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

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, typically given in S1 and S2. Girls who missed a dose are given another opportunity to be vaccinated in S3. While no specific target for uptake of HPV immunisation in Scotland was set, the expectation was that uptake of 80% or more should be achieved for the routine programme.

There is slight variation across NHS Boards in when they offer doses of the 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 2018/19.

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**

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. For more information on HPV immunisation see the Immunisation section of our website or visit the Immunisation pages on NHS Inform. For related topics, please see the Child Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be in November 2019.

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