HPV Vaccination Statistics for Men who have Sex with Men, Scotland
2 year period ending 30 June 2019

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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) in collaboration with Health Protection Scotland (HPS) provides a summary of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination uptake among men who have sex with men (MSM) since implementation of the national programme in July 2017.

Main Points
During the first 2 years of this vaccination programme:

- Almost 14,000 MSM individuals who were eligible for the HPV vaccine attended a sexual health clinic. Of those individuals, 9,146 received at least one dose of HPV vaccine. This represents an uptake of 65.7% of those attending.

- All NHS Board areas have been offering the vaccine to eligible individuals. However, there is variation in HPV uptake by NHS Board area.

MSM HPV Uptake (%) by NHS Board, 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2019

Based on the most recent NHS Board of treatment.
Over half of eligible individuals who received at least one dose were aged 20-29 (4,798 individuals) at the time of their first injection. Less than 1 in 10 were aged under 20 (750 individuals).

**Background**

HPV is a virus transmitted through sexual contact and there are over 200 different types of HPV. Some types can cause cancers of the anus, penis, mouth and throat, vagina and vulva. Others cause genital warts, which is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases and can have debilitating social, sexual and psychological effects for affected individuals.

A **HPV immunisation programme** for MSM aged up to and including 45 years old was introduced in Scotland in July 2017. This is in addition to the school-based vaccination programme targeting girls which was implemented in 2008 and extended to include adolescent boys in academic year 2019-20. MSM are now routinely offered the HPV vaccine through sexual health clinics, with most offered a three dose schedule. The second dose should be given at least one month after the first and the third within 12 months of the second.

The programme was initiated based on [advice](#) from the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which recognised that MSM received little benefit from the national female only HPV programme, while also being at excess risk of HPV-associated disease. HPV ano-genital infection and related disease is disproportionately higher in MSM who are up to 20 times more likely than heterosexual men to develop anal cancer. Additionally, the incidence of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer is increasing in high-income countries in all men. The potential beneficial impact of the HPV immunisation programme for MSM is therefore considerable.

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**Further Information**

The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#) along with a [metadata](#) document which provides additional information about data sources and data presented.

Childhood immunisation statistics are also available on the ISD [website](#).

The next release of this publication will be October 2020.