

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DO IT BETTER: FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HPV VACCINATION CONSENT AND UPTAKE.

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Introduction: The Western Australian (WA) Department of Health provides adolescent human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccinations to year 8 students via a school-based immunisation program .

Methods: A state-wide online school-based immunisation program database records contact details of students eligible for vaccination, tracks consent and vaccination status, calculates coverage rates, and facilitates data transfer to the National HPV Register. Vaccination data from 2016 were extracted in March 2017, cleaned and analysed to determine the rate of consent form return, consent for HPV vaccination and HPV vaccination course completion. Multivariate logistic regression, with adjustment for clustering by school, was used to identify factors associated with these outcomes.

Results: In 2016 there were 30,380 year 8 students in 350 high schools and 94.8% returned a consent form; 85.9% were consented for HPV vaccination, 84.7% commenced and 73.7% completed, a three-dose vaccination course. Consent form return was highest in Catholic school students (97.9%). Multivariate analysis showed that consent for HPV vaccination was higher in Catholic school students (OR 1.19, 95% CI 1.08-1.32) and lower among Aboriginal students (OR 0.82, 95% CI 0.69-.096). HPV vaccination three-dose course completion was 78.4% in non-Aboriginal and 54.0% in Aboriginal students. Multivariate analysis showed that HPV course completion was higher among females (OR 1.14, 95% CI 1.1-1.2) and students in Catholic (OR 2.25, 95% CI 2-2.54), independent (OR 1.49, 95% CI 1.34-1.64) and rural areas (OR 1.98, 95% CI 1.74-2.25) schools and lower among Aboriginal students (OR 0.28, 95% CI 0.24-0.28) and those in the most (OR 0.50, 95% CI 0.44, 0,60) or mid (OR 0.58, 95% CI 0.53, 0,64) socioeconomic disadvantaged areas.

Conclusion: Aboriginal women have higher rates of cervical cancer but lower rates of HPV vaccination consent and course completion. Catholic school students had the highest rates of consent form return, consent for, and completion of, HPV vaccination.