

Primary schoolgirls' experience of HPV vaccination and preferences for the format, content, and delivery of cervical cancer education in Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Background:

Cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer among women aged 15 – 44 in Indonesia. While the Indonesian government is starting to roll out a national HPV immunization program for adolescent girls in 5th and 6th grade, sexual and reproductive health education, including content related to HPV remains inconsistently provided. The study explores schoolgirls' perceptions of HPV vaccination in Yogyakarta and Jakarta and their preferences about the format, content, and delivery of cervical cancer education.

Methods:

A self-administered online survey was distributed between December 2021 – March 2022 through teachers at targeted schools and primary public health centers. A total of 140 responses from schoolgirls in both cities were collected.

Results:

Overall, schoolgirls' experience of the HPV vaccination is highly positive with most respondents indicating they were given information about the vaccine and asked for assent prior to vaccination. However, a substantial minority of respondents did not receive sufficient information about the vaccine. Most of these respondents indicated that they would have liked to have been given information by school authorities and or their mother before HPV vaccination.

Regarding cervical cancer education, most respondents believe that schools are an ideal setting for delivery and that boys should also be involved. Girls view this education as appropriate for 5th and 6th graders.

Conclusions:

These and other findings presented point towards developing an approach to using schools as a key venue for wider reproductive health education activities. Teachers and mothers emerge as key populations to up skills in delivering critical information. The national rollout of Indonesia's HPV for girls in 5th and 6th grade is a critical moment in which to develop and refine educational programming.

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