



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public  
Health/ChildHealth  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer,  
Health Service Executive,  
Public Health Department,  
Second Floor,  
Mount Kennett House,  
Henry Street,  
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

8<sup>th</sup> .March 2021

Deputy David Cullinane  
TD  
Dail Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ10053/21: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of persons in the State who have and have not received a HPV vaccine, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my department for direct response to you on same.

### **Background**

Following a recommendation from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), that human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine should be given to 12 year old girls, a routine Health Service Executive (HSE) school HPV vaccination programme began in May 2010 for girls in the first year of second level school and age equivalent in special schools and home schooled. The aim of the programme is to protect girls from their future risk of developing cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all cervical cancers, so regular cervical screening is still needed.

A HPV catch-up campaign for girls in sixth year of second level schools and their age equivalents in non-second level schools (ie special schools, home schooled, Community Training Centres and Youthreach) was added in the academic year 2011/2012 and continued during the academic years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

Quadrivalent HPV vaccine, which protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18 associated with 70% of cervical cancer, was used in the school vaccination programme until 2018/2019. Prior to 2014/2015 a schedule of three vaccine doses given over a six month period was recommended. A schedule of two vaccine doses given at least six months apart was recommended since the academic year 2014/2015 for girls aged <15 years. This change is based on more recent data which showed that the immune response to two doses of the vaccine in 9-13 year old girls is comparable to a three dose course. In the 2019/2020 academic

year the programme was extended to boys and HPV 9-valent vaccine was introduced for both boys and girls in in the first year of second level school and age equivalent in special schools and home schooled.

Here the uptake of HPV vaccine, provided through the school immunisation programme and recorded on the Schools Immunisation System (SIS) is reported.

## Data

The numbers offered the vaccine, the numbers vaccinated/unvaccinated and the uptake by academic year and cohort are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

From the academic year 2009/10 to the academic year 2019/20, of those in the routine cohort recommended HPV vaccination

(i.e. first years in second level schools and their age equivalents in special schools and home schooled; girls only prior to 2019/2020 and all children since 2019/20):

- overall uptake of the first dose of HPV was 80.7%, with a total of 303,939 vaccinated and 72,801 unvaccinated and

- overall uptake of the final dose was 77.2%, with a total of 290,881 vaccinated and 85,859 who have not received their final dose.

From the academic years 2011/12 to 2013/14, of those in the catch up cohort of sixth year girls in second level schools recommended HPV vaccination:

- overall uptake of the first dose of HPV was 65.4% with a total of 51115 vaccinated and 27071 unvaccinated and

- overall uptake of the final dose was 61.5% with a total of 48108 vaccinated and 30078 who have not received their final dose.

-It is important to note some girls in the catch-up cohort were vaccinated privately by General Practitioners or other medical agencies following the licensing of HPV vaccines in 2006/2007 and prior to the announcement in early 2011 that there would be a HPV catch-up programme. These vaccinated girls would be included in the denominator data but not in the numbers vaccinated as they were not vaccinated as part of the school programme. In addition, a large proportion of the sixth year catch-up cohort of girls in the academic year 2013/2014 were previously targeted for vaccination at the start of the HSE school programme in the academic years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 i.e. girls in sixth year who did not do transition year were previously targeted for vaccination. These vaccinated girls would be included in the denominator data but not in the numbers vaccinated as they were not vaccinated as part of the 2013/2014 school programme.

Table 1

| Academic Year | First years in second level schools and age equivalents in special schools and home schooled.<br>Except HPV data prior to 2019/20 are for girls only and prior to 2014/15 are for first year girls in second level only. |                               |                            |                      |                      |                             |                      |                      |                           |                      |  |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
|               | Denominator  | Not Immunised                 |                            |                      | Immunised            |                             |                      | % Uptake             |                           |                      |  |
|               |  | HPV at least at least stage 1 | HPV at least stage 2       | HPV at least stage 3 | HPV at least stage 1 | HPV at least stage 2        | HPV at least stage 3 | HPV at least stage 1 | HPV at least stage 2      | HPV at least stage 3 |  |
| 2009/10/11    | 59235  | 9456                          | 10608                      | 10734                | 49779                | 48627                       | 48501                | 84                   | 82.1                      | 81.9                 |  |
| 2011/12       | 29603  | 3644                          | 3802                       | 4280                 | 25959                | 25801                       | 25323                | 87.7                 | 87.2                      | 85.5                 |  |
| 2012/13       | 29832  | 3895                          | 4093                       | 4692                 | 25937                | 25739                       | 25140                | 86.9                 | 86.3                      | 84.3                 |  |
| 2013/14       | 30289  | 3434                          | 3699                       | 4491                 | 26855                | 26590                       | 25798                | 88.7                 | 87.8                      | 85.2                 |  |
| 2014/15       | 30838  | 3111                          | 3883                       |                      | 27727                | 26955                       | 96                   | 89.9                 | 87.4                      | 0.3                  |  |
| 2015/16       | 31376  | 5238                          | 7732                       |                      | 26138                | 23644                       | 124                  | 83.3                 | 75.4                      | 0.4                  |  |
| 2016/17       | 32135  | 13231                         | 14033                      |                      | 18904                | 18102                       | 287                  | 58.8                 | 56.3                      | 0.9                  |  |
| 2017/18       | 31985  | 10502                         | 11076                      |                      | 21483                | 20909                       | 48                   | 67.2                 | 65.4                      | 0.2                  |  |
| 2018/19       | 31826  | 7749                          | 8361                       |                      | 24077                | 23465                       | 54                   | 75.7                 | 73.7                      | 0.2                  |  |
| 2019/20       | 69621  | 12541                         | 16577                      |                      | 57080                | 53044                       | 26                   | 82.0                 | 76.2                      | 0.0                  |  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>376740</b>  | <b>72801</b>                  | <b>85859 (final stage)</b> |                      | <b>303939</b>        | <b>290881 (final stage)</b> |                      | <b>80.7</b>          | <b>77.2 (final stage)</b> |                      |  |

See notes

Table 2

| Academic Year | Sixth year girls in second level schools-Catch-up campaign |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|---------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|               | Denominator  | Not Immunised        |                      |                      | Immunised            |                      |                      | % Uptake             |                      |                      |
|               |  | HPV at least stage 1 | HPV at least stage 2 | HPV at least stage 3 | HPV at least stage 1 | HPV at least stage 2 | HPV at least stage 3 | HPV at least stage 1 | HPV at least stage 2 | HPV at least stage 3 |
| 2009/10/11    |  |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| 2011/12       | 26672  | 6629                 | 6930                 | 7608                 | 20043                | 19742                | 19064                | 75.1                 | 74.0                 | 71.5                 |
| 2012/13       | 25993  | 7163                 | 7539                 | 8375                 | 18830                | 18454                | 17618                | 72.4                 | 71.0                 | 67.8                 |
| 2013/14       | 25521  | 13279                | 13528                | 14095                | 12242                | 11993                | 11426                | 48.0                 | 47.0                 | 44.8                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>78186</b>   | <b>27071</b>         | <b>27997</b>         | <b>30078</b>         | <b>51115</b>         | <b>50189</b>         | <b>48108</b>         | <b>65.4</b>          | <b>64.2</b>          | <b>61.5</b>          |

See notes

## Notes

1. HPV uptake is for girls only prior to 2019/20 and all children since 2019/20
2. HPV uptake presented here for 2011/12 to 2014/15 is for girls in first year in second level only (catch-up uptake is for sixth year girls only) and from 2014/15 includes age equivalents in special schools and home schooled

A HPV catch-up campaign for girls in sixth year of second level schools and their age equivalents in non-second level schools (ie special schools, home schooled, Community Training Centres and Youthreach) was added in the academic year 2011/2012 and continued during the academic years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. The target cohort of girls in special schools, Community Training Centres, Youthreach, and Home Schooled were identified by birth cohort either equivalent to first years or equivalent to sixth years. For operational reasons HSE vaccinating staff did not adhere strictly to these birth cohorts. Many of the vaccinations in these school settings were actually “outside cohort”. The identification of denominator data for the target birth cohorts in these settings was difficult and staff focused on vaccinations rather than defining cohort numbers accurately.

Some girls in the catch-up cohort were vaccinated privately by General Practitioners or other medical agencies following the licensing of HPV vaccines in 2006/2007 and prior to the announcement in early 2011 that there would be a HPV catch-up programme. These vaccinated girls would be included in the denominator data but not in the numbers vaccinated as they were not vaccinated as part of the school programme.

A large proportion of sixth year girls in the academic year 2013/2014 were previously targeted for vaccination at the start of the HSE school programme in the academic years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 i.e. girls in sixth year who did not do transition year were previously targeted for vaccination. These vaccinated girls would be included in the denominator data but not in the numbers vaccinated as they were not vaccinated as part of the 2013/2014 school programme.

3. Since 2014/15 HPV is a two dose course for those <15 years of age, previously was a three dose course; to calculate the 'Final stage' here have combined data for stage 3 from 2009/10/11 to 2013/14 with stage 2 data since 2014/15.
4. Data extracted 04/12/2020 from the Schools Immunisation System (SIS) except 2019/20 data extracted 16/02/2021 and HPV uptake for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 was measured by manual reports. Reports based on data extracted previously are available on the HPSC website at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/vaccinepreventable/vaccination/immunisationuptakestatistics/hpvimmunisationuptakestatistics/>

5. At least stage 1 - means a child had a stage 1 HPV vaccine recorded on SIS, this child may or may not have had a stage 2 HPV vaccine recorded on SIS  
At least stage 2 - means a child had a stage 2 HPV vaccine recorded on SIS, he/she may or may not have had stage 1 HPV vaccine recorded on SIS.  
At least stage 3 - means a child had a stage 3 HPV vaccine recorded on SIS, he/she may or may not have had stage 1 or stage 2 HPV vaccine recorded on SIS.
6. The denominator was defined as the number of girls/children in first year for second level schools and age equivalent in special schools and on the school roll on 30th September when the school census is carried out) or registered with the Child and Family Agency Education Welfare Services (TUSLA) as home schooled.

I trust this clarification will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI**  
**ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH**  
**OFFICE OF CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER**  
**Medical registration number 19719**