

- **HPV vaccine updates**
- **Cancer Council Victoria activity**
- **How you can promote HPV vaccination**

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Cervical Cancer Elimination Manager
Cancer Council Victoria

Cancer Council Victoria's 5-year Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy

Goal: Reduce incidence and mortality of cervical cancer among women and people with a cervix who bear the greatest burden of this disease

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Increase cervical screening among women and people with a cervix

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Identify and address patient level barriers that relate to assessment and treatment

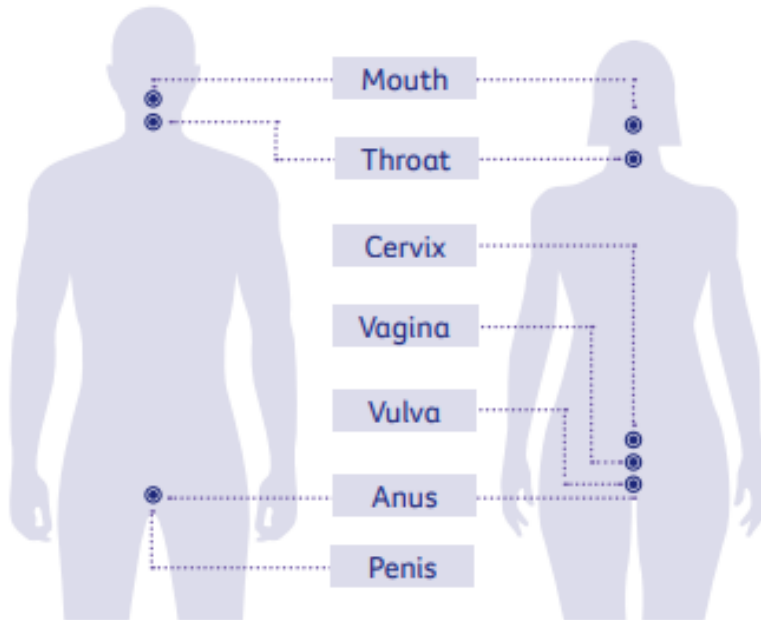
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Sustain HPV vaccination confidence and coverage through media relations, community engagement and advocacy about efficacy and safety of vaccination

- Activities include projects, campaigns, media/ PR, research, community and HCP engagement/education.
- 5-year strategy (currently in year 3)
- Funded by CCV and our generous donors

The HPV vaccine protects against:

- over 90% of cervical cancers
- most other HPV-related cancers, such as cancer of the anus, penis, vagina, vulva and throat
- genital warts.



Recent changes

Feb 2023

- Recommended for all people living in Australia aged 9 to 25
- It's free for anyone aged between 12 and 25 (eligible for NIP)
- Most people only need 1 dose
- Some people may need 3 doses (immunocompromised/ >26).
- The HPV vaccine is also recommended for people at higher risk of developing HPV-related diseases (HIV, significantly immunocompromised, MSM)

The HPV vaccine is offered to all Australian children aged about 12-13 for free through the Secondary School Immunisation Program

Recent study from Scotland (Jan 2024)

No cervical cancer cases detected in vaccinated women following HPV immunisation

First published on 22 January 2024

JOURNAL ARTICLE CORRECTED PROOF

Invasive cervical cancer incidence following bivalent human papillomavirus vaccination: a population-based observational study of age at immunization, dose, and deprivation [Get access >](#)

Tim J Palmer, FRCPath ✉, Kimberley Kavanagh, PhD, Kate Cuschieri, PhD, Ross Cameron, MPH, Catriona Graham, MSc, Allan Wilson, FIBMS, Kirsty Roy, PhD

JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute, djad263,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djad263>

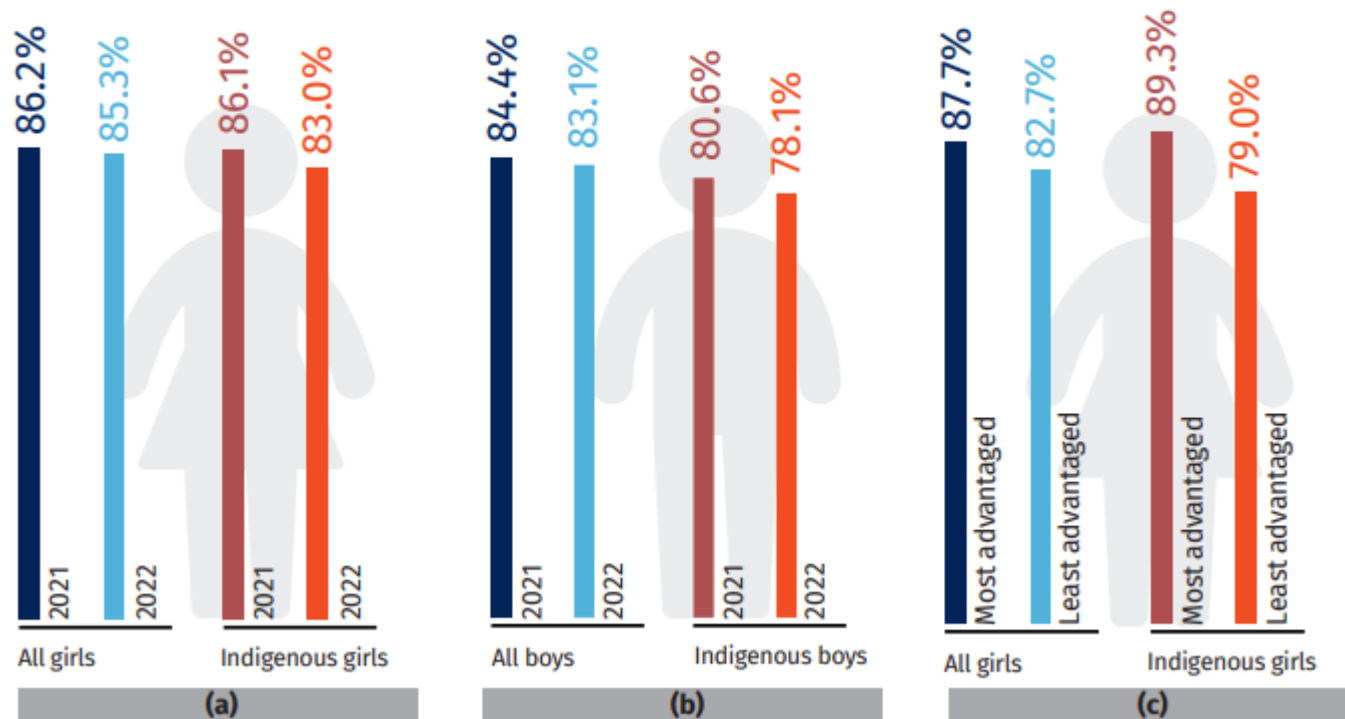
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HPV vaccination 1-dose coverage 2021 vs 2022

Annual Immunisation Coverage Report 2022



At least one dose of HPV vaccine – adolescents turning 15 years of age: (a) girls – 2021 vs 2022; (b) boys – 2021 vs 2022; (c) girls, by socio-economic status of area of residence – 2022



*During this time the HPV vaccine was a 2-dose schedule

*Australis's National Elimination Strategy aiming for 90% 1 dose coverage by 15 years in boys and girls

1-dose coverage by 15 years of age 2021 vs 2022 (Girls and Boys)

Annual Immunisation Coverage Report 2022



Table 2. Coverage* of at least one dose of HPV vaccine, received before 15th birthday, in adolescents turning 15 years of age in the relevant year,[†] by gender, Indigenous status and jurisdiction, Australia, 2021 and 2022

		Girls		Boys	
		2021	2022	2021	2022
ACT	All	90.4	89.8	89.4	87.5
	Indigenous	89.7	88.5	82.7	82.7
NSW	All	87.8	86.7	85.3	84.2
	Indigenous	90.8	88.1	86.7	81.7
Vic	All	87.6	86.8	85.9	84.2
	Indigenous	87.1	82.5	79.6	78.8
Qld	All	83.0	82.4	81.5	80.5
	Indigenous	83.7	80.3	76.8	76.4
SA	All	86.2	85.1	84.3	83.3
	Indigenous	74.7	74.6	72.0	65.6
WA	All	84.3	84.5	84.2	83.1
	Indigenous	81.0	81.4	77.6	78.6
Tas	All	88.1	84.0	83.6	80.3
	Indigenous	88.8	84.6	82.5	79.5
NT	All	86.4	81.6	80.8	78.3
	Indigenous	87.3	78.4	79.5	75.2
AUS	All	86.2	85.3	84.4	83.1
	Indigenous	86.1	83.0	80.6	78.1

* Coverage calculated using the number of Medicare-registered adolescents in each year-wide birth cohort with an AIR record of having received at least one dose of HPV vaccine after their 9th birthday (since HPV is registered to be given from 9 years of age) but before their 15th birthday as the numerator and the total number of Medicare-registered adolescents in the relevant birth cohort as the denominator, expressed as a percentage

1-dose coverage by 15 years of age 2021 vs 2022 (by SEIFA quintile)

Annual Immunisation Coverage Report 2022



Table 3. Coverage* of at least one dose of HPV vaccine, received before 15th birthday, in adolescents turning 15 years of age in the relevant year,[†] by gender, Indigenous status and socioeconomic status,[‡] Australia, 2021 and 2022

	All girls		Indigenous girls	
SEIFA [‡] quintile	2021	2022	2021	2022
First (least advantaged)	84.8	82.7	83.8	79.0
Second	86.3	85.0	88.4	84.6
Third	86.0	85.2	87.5	83.6
Fourth	86.4	85.4	87.5	85.5
Fifth (most advantaged)	87.1	87.7	86.3	89.3
	All boys		Indigenous boys	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
First (least advantaged)	81.8	79.4	78.1	74.9
Second	83.8	82.6	80.2	78.7
Third	84.3	82.9	81.4	79.9
Fourth	85.1	83.7	83.4	81.3
Fifth (most advantaged)	86.1	86.0	85.5	82.8

1-dose females 13-26 year olds

Figure 13. Coverage of at least one dose of HPV vaccine* for females by birth cohort/age and Indigenous status, Australia, 2022

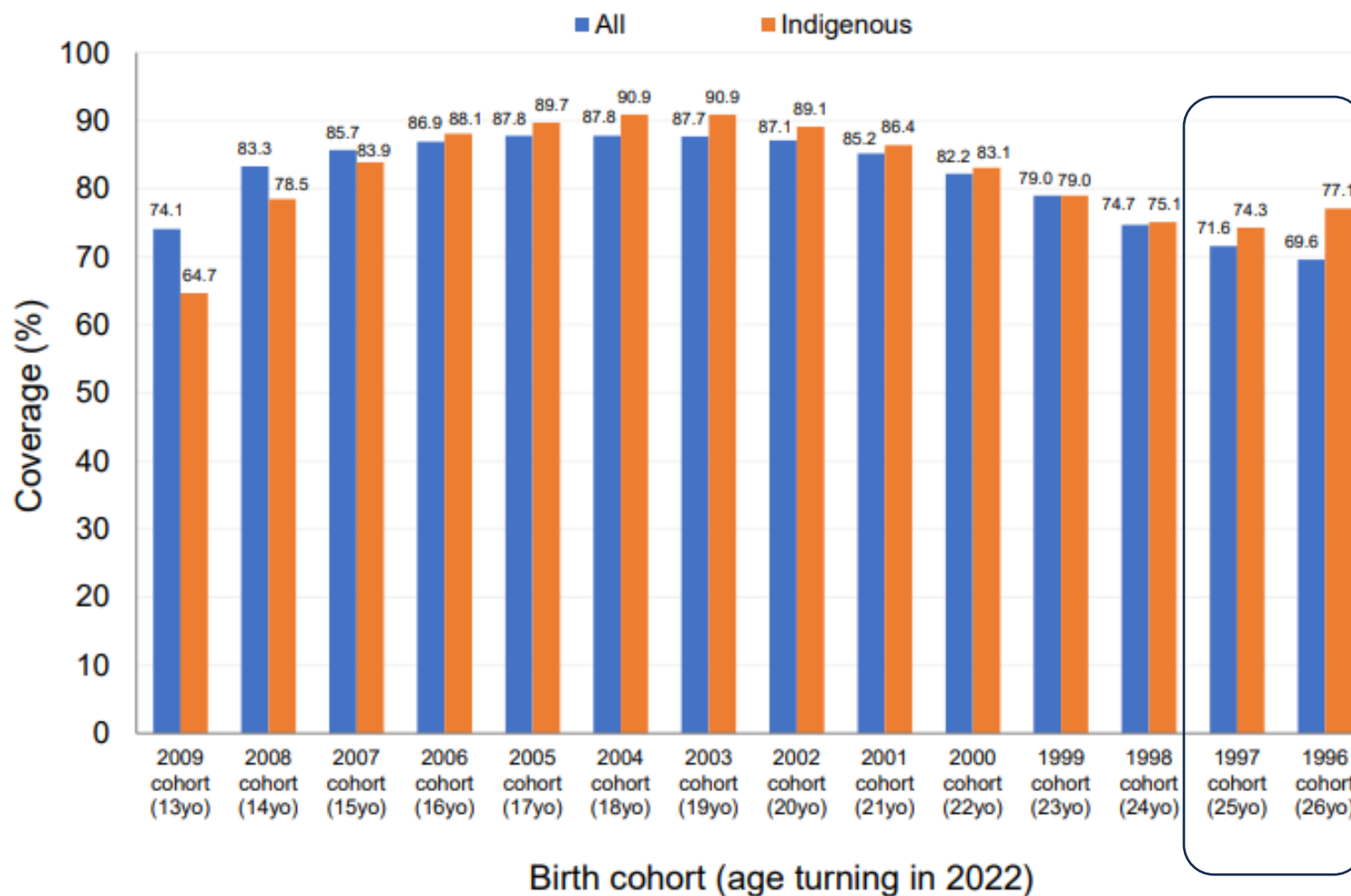
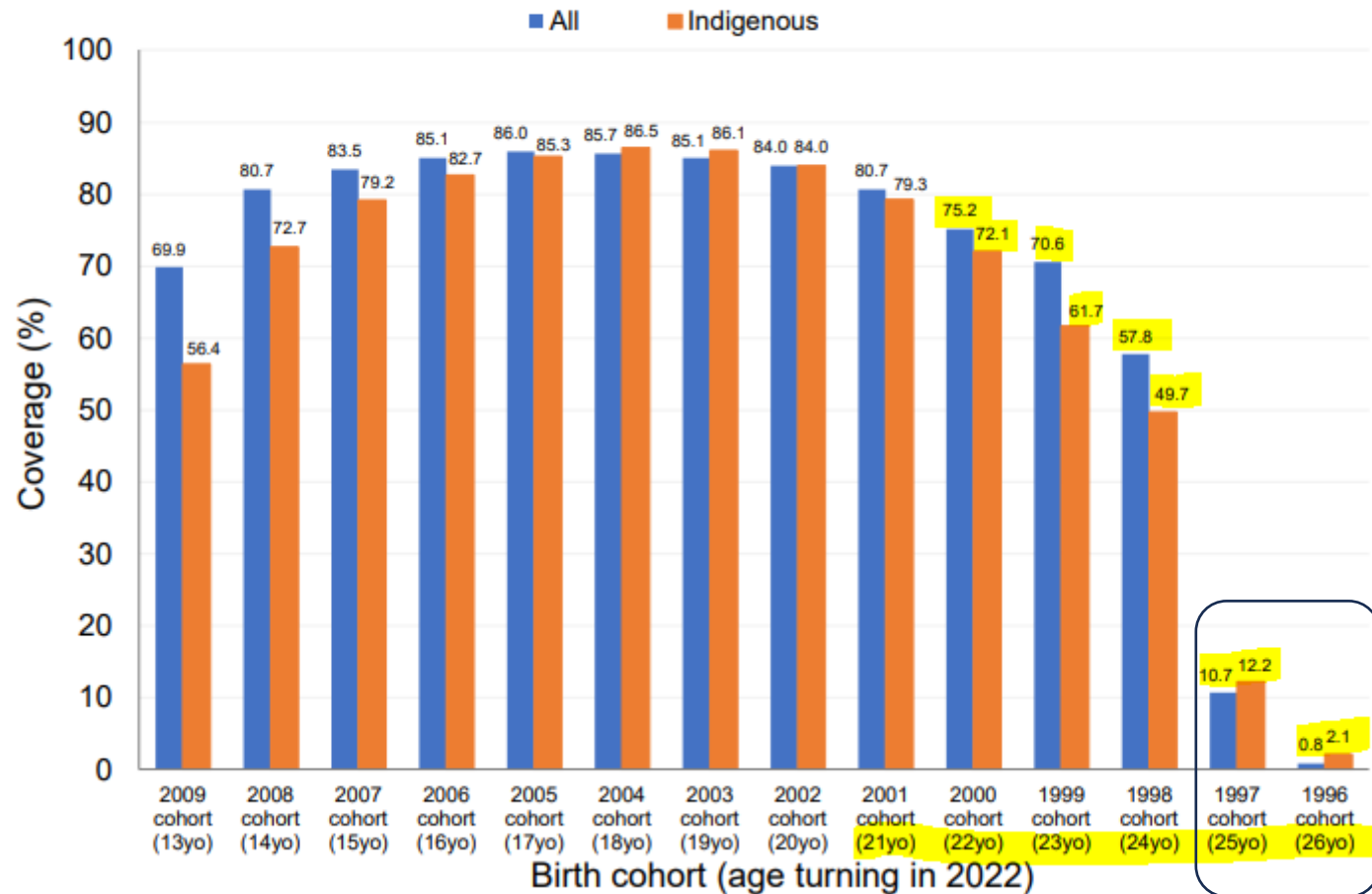




Figure 14. Coverage of at least one dose of HPV vaccine* for males by birth cohort/age and Indigenous status, Australia, 2022



[About HPV](#)[The HPV vaccine](#)[HPV and cancer](#)[Facts and questions](#)[Resources](#)[Health professionals](#)


**Now, most people living in
Australia only require one
dose of the HPV vaccine.**



I want to know


[What is HPV? ›](#)[Who should have the
HPV vaccine? ›](#)[How do I get the HPV
vaccine? ›](#)[What cancers does the
vaccine prevent? ›](#)

www.hpvvaccine.org.au



**Cancer
Council**

Help keep our Mob HPV free



Information about
HPV vaccination for
our Community
Cancer Council 13 11 20
www.hpvvaccine.org.au

Help your child with disability get their vaccines at school

Planning for your child's individual needs can help
make school vaccinations smoother.

STEP 1: Learn about the vaccines your child can get at school for free

Young people usually have three vaccines
at school.

When they are 12 to 13 they get:

- a vaccine for HPV
- a vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus and
pertussis. Pertussis is also called
whooping cough.

When they are 14 to 16 they get:

- a vaccine for meningococcal ACWY.

STEP 2: Decide with your child whether to get the vaccines at school

Nurses from the local council will
visit your child's school to give
the vaccines.

Most young people will have their vaccines
at school. But for some, vaccination at school
might not be the best option.

Some places offer vaccinations in different
ways, such as:

- in a low sensory environment
- with more space
- allowing more time
- with sedation if needed.

To find out more about these options,
talk to your doctor or local council
immunisation service.

STEP 3: Return the vaccine consent form to the school

The school will send an
information pack and a
vaccine consent form
either online or home with your child.

You can help the consent process by:

- filling in and signing the consent form
- adding comments about your child's needs,
for example, what supports they may need
on the day
- returning the consent form to the school.

Your child can't get the vaccine unless you give
all the information the consent form asks for.

You need to return the consent form even if your
child won't be getting the vaccine at school.

STEP 4: Prepare your child for vaccination day

Your child might feel anxious about getting
the vaccination. You can help prepare them
by explaining:

- that the vaccine will help keep them healthy
- what will happen on the day, step-by-step, by
using a social story like the one on our website
hpvvaccine.org.au/disability

What if my child misses out on a vaccine?

If your child misses out on a vaccine at school, it's
important they catch up as soon as they can. They can
catch up at a local council immunisation service, doctor
or at some pharmacies.



**I will get vaccines at school
– a social script**



Human papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine

What is HPV?

HPV is a very common virus.

HPV can spread through genital skin-to-skin
contact during sexual activity.

Most sexually active people will have an
HPV infection in their lives.

HPV can affect people of all genders
and sexualities.

HPV usually has no symptoms and is
cleared naturally by the body.

Sometimes if it is not able to be cleared,
HPV can cause illnesses including cancer.

The HPV vaccine protects against:

- over 90% of cervical cancers
- most other HPV-related cancers, such as
cancer of the anus, penis, vagina, vulva
and throat
- genital warts.



You can get HPV:

- the first time you are sexually active
- if you are in a monogamous
relationship
- if you have not been sexually active in
a long time.

Who should have the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine is recommended for everyone
aged 9 to 25 living in Australia.

The HPV vaccine is also recommended for people
at higher risk of developing HPV-related diseases,
such as people living with HIV, significantly
immunocompromised groups and men who have
sex with men.

For more information about HPV and the HPV vaccine visit hpvvaccine.org.au

Videos

HPV vaccination for teenagers



Supporting your child with disability with vaccination



Facts and questions

On this page you will find answers to some frequently asked questions about the human papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine.



- How common is HPV?
- How does the HPV vaccine prevent cervical cancer and other HPV-related illnesses?
- When is the best time to get the HPV vaccine?
- Can I still have the HPV vaccine if I'm aged 26 and over?
- How do you contract HPV?
- Why do males need the HPV vaccine?
- When and why did Australia's National Immunisation Program change to a one-dose HPV vaccination schedule?
- Do some people still need multiple doses of the HPV vaccine?
- What is the history of the HPV vaccine?
- My child missed out on the HPV vaccine. What does that delay mean?

Concerning drop in HPV vaccination

LOCAL parents are being urged to vaccinate their children against the human papillomavirus (HPV), as new data shows HPV vaccine coverage in Victoria has continued to decline, following two years of pandemic-related disruptions.

According to Cancer Council Victoria (CCV), data from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Australia (NCIRS) annual immunisation coverage reports, shows the proportion of 13-year-olds who have had one dose of the HPV vaccine in Victoria has declined from 86.2 per cent to 86.8 per cent for girls and from 86.2 per cent to 84.2 per cent for boys from 2020 to 2022.

The HPV vaccine protects against nine types of HPV that cause almost all cases of cervical cancer, other HPV-related cancers and genital warts.

In Victoria, all children aged 12-13 are provided the HPV vaccine for free under the National Immunisation Program, delivered through the school-based immunisation program. The vaccine is free for people aged 12-25 and most people can only require one dose.

CCV head of screening, early detection and immunisation, Kate Broun, said that the continued decline of

HPV vaccination coverage was concerning and that it could put more young Victorians at risk of developing HPV-related cancers and diseases.

"The HPV vaccine works best when given at a younger age and before sexual activity commences, so it's important that children are receiving it when they are due and if they have missed it, that they catch up as soon as possible to give them the best protection against HPV-related cancers and diseases in the future," Ms Broun said.

Victorian Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said the science shows that the HPV vaccine is safe and effective.

Students in Year 7 and Year 10 can access free vaccines through Victorian Secondary School Immunisation Programs.

Students who missed their HPV vaccination last year can receive it at school this year, or at their local council immunisation service. They can also catch up on missed immunisations at their local GP or at selected pharmacies.

Parents who aren't sure whether their child has had the HPV vaccine can speak to their doctor or check the Australian Immunisation Register.

Find out more at hpvvaccine.org.au

Teens drop guard on cancer

One in seven missing out on HPV vaccine

**EXCLUSIVE
Sarah Booth**

One in seven teenagers have missed their dose of a lifesaving cancer-preventing vaccine, leaving them at risk of a deadly but almost entirely avoidable disease.

Nearly all cervical cancers are caused by the human papillomavirus, a common infection, but Victoria and Australia's HPV immunisation rates have declined three years in a row.

The concerning figures have prompted a warning from Cancer Council Victoria to not become "complacent", with the organisation urging parents to ensure their child was not exposed to a cancer that others were protected from.

Council executive Kate Broun said if numbers – while still high – kept falling at current rates, Australia could battle to eliminate cervical cancer

as a public health concern by 2035 as predicted, or maintain the status in the years after.

The vaccine has typically been given at school for free in year seven, so a drop during the state's Covid lockdown was expected. But the "concerning" fall saw numbers not just fail to return to pre-pandemic levels but decrease further in 2022.

Some 13.2 per cent of 15-year-old Victorian girls in 2022 had missed their first dose, up from 12.4 per cent the year prior and 11.8 per cent in 2020.

Even more – 15.8 per cent – of 15-year-old boys in 2022 had not had their dose, up from 14.1 per cent and 13.8 per cent in the prior years, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance data shows.

HPV is also responsible for between 25 and 90 per cent of various genital, anal, throat, mouth and tonsil cancers in both sexes and the vaccine now requires one dose.

The drops puts us further away each year from our 90 per cent coverage 2030 target, one of three important measures – alongside screening and early treatment – to reach cervical cancer elimination (less than four cases per 100,000).

Ms Broun said while coverage in the 1980s was "probably OK" because Australia also vaccinates boys, further drops could put us "off-track or behind".

"We don't want to see that become a trend and ... all of a sudden we're going to find ourselves in the seventies."

"That definitely isn't where we want to be."

"Within a couple of years, we could find ourselves having to work harder to achieve elimination."

Last year, it was announced Australia was on track to becoming the first country to reach elimination.

Ms Broun said it would also

be "devastating" if we met countrywide targets, but our disadvantaged communities did not and continued suffering from preventable cancers.

"For me that's not a success," she said.

She said there were likely many factors – including the pandemic – behind the vaccine decline and urged parents to check their records ahead of school immunisation drives.

"The HPV vaccine works best when given at a younger age and before sexual activity commences so it's important that children are receiving it when they are due [or] catch up as soon as possible," she said.

Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas said the vaccine was safe and effective.

Education Minister Ben Carroll said teens can make up missed doses at school, local council immunisation services, GPs or select pharmacies.

sarah.booth@news.com.au

HPV VACCINATION RATES DECLINE

BY JAMES TAYLOR

Cancer Council Victoria is reminding parents about the importance of vaccinating their children against the human papillomavirus (HPV).

New data shows HPV vaccine coverage in Victoria has continued to decline, following two years of pandemic-related disruptions.

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Australia (NCIRS) Annual Immunisation Coverage reports show the proportion of 15-year-olds who have had one dose of the HPV vaccine in Victoria has declined from 88.2 per cent to 86.8 per cent for girls and from 86.2 per cent to 84.2 per cent for boys from 2020 to 2022.

The HPV vaccine protects against nine types of HPV that cause almost all cases of cervical cancer, other HPV-related cancers and genital warts.

In Victoria, all children aged 12-13 are provided the HPV vaccine for free under the National Immunisation Program, delivered through the school-based immunisation program.

The vaccine is free for people aged 12-25 and most people now only require one dose.

Cancer Council Victoria head of screening, early detection and immunisation Kate Broun said the continued decline of HPV vaccination coverage was concerning, and it could put more young Victorians at risk of developing HPV-related cancers and diseases.

"The declines we saw in HPV vaccination uptake in 2020 and 2021 were expected due to the effects of COVID lockdowns on the school-based vaccination program, but it's concerning to see this trend continuing into 2022, with thousands of Victorian teens still missing out on receiving the vaccine when recommended."

"The HPV vaccine works best when given at a younger age and before sexual activity commences, so it's important that children are receiving it when they are due and if they have missed it, that they catch up as soon as possible to give them the best protection against HPV-related cancers and diseases in the future," Ms

Broun said.

The HPV vaccine is best known for its role in preventing cervical cancer and is a critical tool in the federal government's National Cancer Elimination Strategy.

Ms Broun said the strategy set a target of 90 per cent HPV vaccine coverage for both boys and girls by the age of 15 by 2030, to help eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem in the country by 2035.

"Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. Thanks to our national HPV immunisation and cervical screening programs, Australia is on track to be one of the first places in the world to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem."

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said the science showed the HPV vaccine was safe and effective. "That's why it is so important that Victorian teenagers get vaccinated – it's free, quick and will prevent them from potentially developing serious health conditions such as cervical cancer."

If your child is due for their HPV vaccine this year, parents should

ensure the consent form is returned on time for vaccination day.

Parents who aren't sure whether their child has had the HPV vaccine can speak to their doctor or check the Australian Immunisation Register.

For more information, head to hpvvaccine.org.au



Cancer Council Victoria's Kate Broun said there is a national strategy to have 90 per cent HPV vaccine coverage for both boys and girls by the age of 15 by 2030. Photo: LINDA DODD/15 NEWS

News

Vaccination rate decrease a concern

25/02/2024

Help promote HPV vaccination

The HPV vaccine
protects against:

- ☒ **Cervical cancer**
- ☒ **Other HPV-related cancers**
- ☒ **Genital warts**

Find reliable
**information and
resources** on HPV
and the HPV vaccine.

www.hpvvaccine.org.au 🔍

Access the stakeholder kit:

[HPV vaccination online stakeholder kit](#)

Help promote HPV vaccination uptake

- Screen your patients and offer HPV vaccination if needed
- Support upcoming CCV campaigns
 - 18-25 year olds: June-July 2024
 - Parents of teens (13-18 year olds): Sep-Oct 2024
- Case studies
- Ideas for CCV activity

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