

Knowledge, Attitude and Uptake of Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Among Girls, Aged 9–14 Years in Makurdi, Benue State

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Human Papilloma Virus infection is a leading cause of cervical cancer which remains a major public health challenge in Nigeria. Vaccination is an effective preventive measure, yet uptake remains low in many communities. This study assessed the knowledge, attitude and uptake of HPV vaccination among girls aged 9-14 years in Makurdi, Benue State.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted among 311 adolescent girls selected through multistage sampling. Data was collected using structured questionnaires and analyzed with descriptive statistics and chi-square tests to determine associations between socio-demographic factors and vaccination outcomes.

Results: Awareness of HPV was high (89.7%) and 91.0% had heard of the vaccine. Most respondents recognized its preventive role (94.7%) and affirmed its safety (63.3%). However, only 22.8% had received the vaccine, while 60.1% reported completing the vaccination. Barriers included limited vaccine access (17.7%), fear of side effects (16.7%) and lack of information (18.6%). Age, religion, ethnicity and education significantly influenced knowledge and attitude. Health care provider recommendations and parental support strongly predicted willingness to vaccinate.

Conclusion: Despite high awareness, HPV vaccination uptake among adolescent girls in Makurdi remains low due to structural and perceptual barriers. Strengthening school-based programs, improving access and enhancing parental and community sensitization are essential for increasing coverage.

