



Improving HPV vaccination for adolescents: More than education and awareness raising

Evidence in numbers



71 studies, across **36 countries**, including
urban and rural locations

Authors' conclusions

- **Factors influencing HPV vaccination decisions**, include **knowledge about the vaccine**, **perceptions of its risks and benefits**, and **past experiences with other vaccination programmes**.
- **Trust in healthcare systems and institutions**, together with **practical issues** such as **cost**, **convenience** and **access to vaccination services**, can **strongly affect vaccine uptake**.
- **Family members, peers, community leaders** and **broader social and cultural beliefs** about **health, sexuality** and **parenting** also **play an important role**.

Cooper S, Schmidt B-M, Jama NA, Ryan J, Leon N, Mavundza EJ, Burnett RJ, Tanywe AC, Wiysonge CS. Factors that influence caregivers' and adolescents' views and practices regarding human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for adolescents: a qualitative evidence synthesis. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2025, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD013430. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013430.pub2. Accessed 13 August 2026.

Key Messages



People's views on HPV vaccination often **reflect** their **personal beliefs, values, identity** and **community influences**.



HPV vaccine decisions are **shaped** by **social, cultural** and **trust-related factors**, not just health information!



Increasing HPV vaccination uptake requires a **range of strategies**, not just **education** and **awareness campaigns**.



Healthcare workers, planners and **policymakers** are **encouraged to better understand local concerns** and **develop more effective approaches** to **improve vaccine acceptance and uptake**.

About Cochrane South Africa

This Plain Language Summary was produced by Cochrane South Africa, at the South African Medical Research Council, which seeks to improve public health outcomes through producing, promoting, and translating high-quality evidence-based research.



For further information, contact the helpdesk at cochranesa@mrc.ac.za