

HPV Vaccination program in Croatia -step forward, back two?

Neda Ferencic Vrban, dr.med.

Health care of schoolchildren and adolescents

Conseling center for reproductive health

Dr. Andrija Štampar Institute of Public Health, Zagreb; Croatia

Main Secretary of Croatian league against cancer

Decisions who, when and why....

2007. Registration of four-valent HPV vaccine in Croatia

2008. Recommendation from all Medical Society in Croatia related with fight against HPV related disease,
Registration of bi-valent HPV vaccine in Croatia

2009. Establishment of expert commission of the Ministry of Health for the prevention of cervical cancer and other diseases caused by HPV virus

The Committee for Primary Prevention (education and vaccination)

The Committee for Secondary Prevention (screening)

2010. Recommendations of Ministry of Health for vaccination against HPV

2013. Immunization program-optional vaccination for the girls in 8th grade (15 years)

2016. Immunization program(2016-2018), *Optional vaccination* ...girls, boys and teenagers...

free for teens during the first year of high school...

CATCH UP- for the first time free depending on responses and opportunities for all girls and women from the age of 9 to 26.
years

How was the HPV program prepared in the Croatia?

2007. Only in some parts of Croatia who have financial support from local authorities

2016. Immunization program(2016-2018), *Optional vaccination* ...girls, boys and teenagers...

Start date program: 2007.

Target groups:

2007- 2015. Girls in 8th grade

2016... free for all boys and girls in 8th grade

2016. catch up groups free for all from 9 – 26 (only in 2016.)

Implementation:

School based program

- ***Vaccination coverage:***

??? ; imunization is optional and we don't have exact number, assesment is from 15 % Zagreb to 50 % in Primorsko Goranska county

- ***Training and information source for general public and vaccinators:***

School doctors educated parents; school expert team; pupils; school directors

Doctors have organized permanent education of the physician who are expert in that area



STAKEHOLDERS

Undecided parents,
parents inform from
dr. Google and anti-vaccine groups

Government of the Republic
of Croatia until 2016;
Uneducated doctors
General public

SOCIETAL-HISTORICAL FACTORS

Conservative religious communities

Why parents refuse to
vaccinate?

(believe that they children lives
in fairtale-only one partner for whole life)



SWOT analysis of the program

Strength: school based program with educated school doctors
school doctors who educated target groups
public health action

Weakness: lack off support from parents; general public, governments
and all included doctors

Opportunities: from 2016.government provide free vaccination against HPV for
ALL girls & boys (14 years old, 8 th grade) in Croatia

Threats: *anti-vaccine groups*, conservative religious communities, uneducated
doctors, undecided parents