

Vaccination of girls under 18 in Georgia - achievements and challenges

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introduction

- In 2020 WHO launched the Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer(CC) as a public health problem
- The Government of Georgia and international partners (WHO, UNFPA) have supported introduction of organized cervical cancer (CC) vaccination program to reduce the burden of CC in Georgia.
- However, how effectively this program is implemented, how actively girls are involved in vaccination and what factors prevent high vaccination rates from being achieved, should be studied.

Objectives

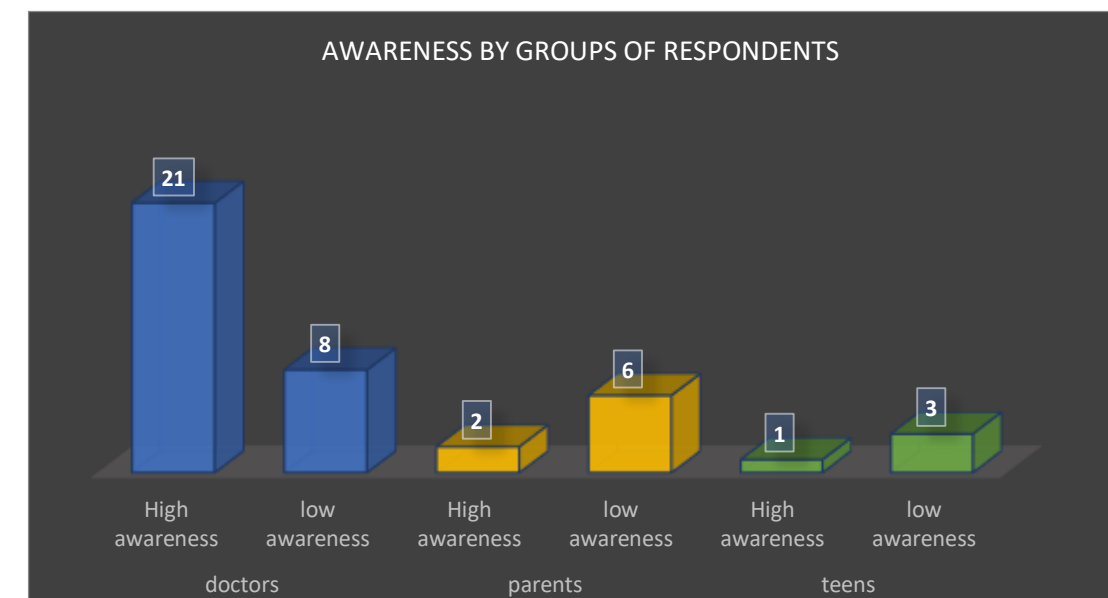
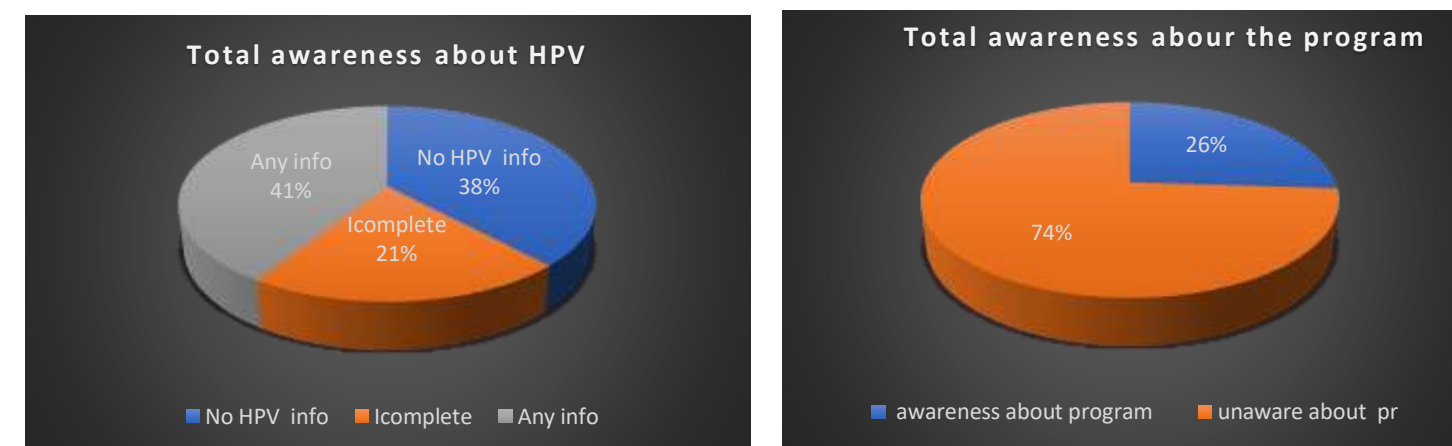
- Review of official statistics;
- Survey of target groups about HPV
- Results' interpretation
- Elaboration of conclusions and recommendations for effective AP to improve involvement in the HPV vaccination

Material and methods

500 questionnaires were distributed :

- 200 girls aged 11-18 years
- 200 parents
- 100 doctors

Finally, 463 questions were processed.



Results

1. HPV vaccination is included in the national vaccination program for girls 9-13 years old, and for girls 13-18 since January 2022 and **32,000 girls were vaccinated in Georgia.**

2. In total, 59% of respondents have **no information or have incomplete/incorrect** information about HPV.

- Of the remaining 41%, **74% were unaware about the new program.** Awareness among doctors and offering vaccinations to parents was very low-31%.

3. Weak and rare **communication campaigns** about HPV vaccination;

- Unpreparedness of **doctors**;
- Lack of partnership** with the Ministry of Education/schools;
- Negative attitude** towards HPV vaccine;
- Coincidence of the COVID19** pandemic

were found as main influencing factors.

Conclusions

1. Appropriate **preparatory work and communication strategy** should be done for the introduction of the new HPV vaccination program.
2. For the success of HPV vaccination in the country, a good communication strategy and **the involvement of non-governmental organizations are necessary** (such as GPU/Teens Georgia, which was created for this very purpose)



References

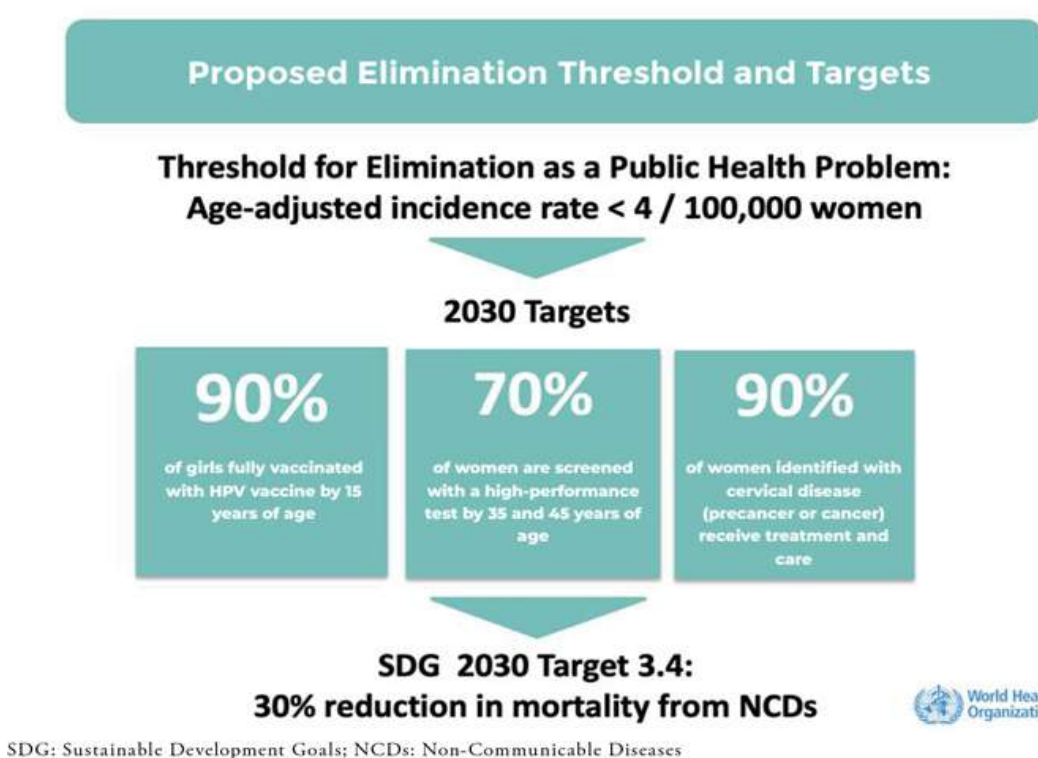
Materials of WHO, UNFPA Georgia, NCDC, MoH, Social media, media, internet sources, Document number 01-51/N on making changes to Order No. 01-60/N of September 16, 2019 were used.

Contact

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Figure 1
The architecture of the WHO Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer.



SDG: Sustainable Development Goals; NCDs: Non-Communicable Diseases