

HPV-vaccination in Europe

Who are getting the vaccine?

- Denmark as an example



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Introduction and purpose

Confidence in the HPV vaccine and free vaccination for all boys and girls

Background

In 2014 almost 80 % of young girls in Denmark were being vaccinated against HPV. During 2015 stories about side effects of the vaccine started to appear. There was a documentary on Danish television showing sick young girls in wheelchairs. After that the parents got frightened and no longer wanted to have their daughters vaccinated. In 2016, the coverage of the vaccination dropped drastically.

<https://www.dr.dk/viden/webfeature/hpv>

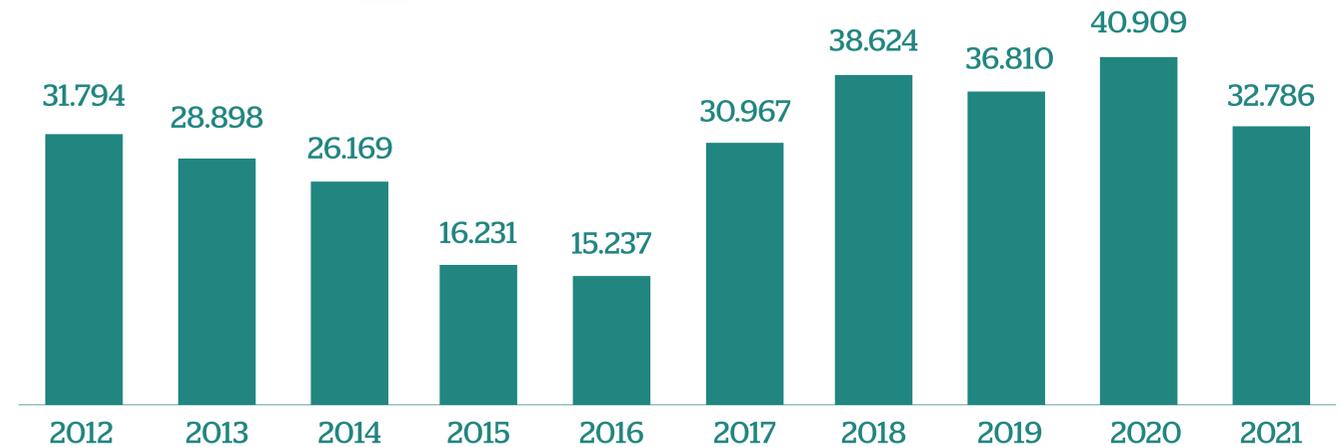
The Danish Cancer Society



The Danish Health Authority

Methods

The Danish Health Authority summoned all involved parties to a meeting. Several health organisations were present - among them KIU - Patient Organisation for Women with Gynaecological Cancer. KIU held a conference, issued a magazine with articles written by the director of the Danish Health Authority and several professionals (general practitioners, oncologists etc.). The Danish Health Authority made a Facebook page with important information. The slogan was STOP HPV. There were many other very good initiatives from various health professionals.



Results

Slowly the confidence in the vaccine was restored over the following years, and the coverage among young girls and women is again high. Young boys are now also being vaccinated. However, not at the level of girls and for some groups, the parents have to pay. This of course needs to be changed, so there is still work to be done.

Conclusion

TEENS in Denmark - together with KIU - will be working on free vaccination for all so that we have the opportunity to eliminate cervical cancer in Denmark. TEENS in Denmark will also be working with the rest of TEENS in Europe for free vaccination for both boys and girls.