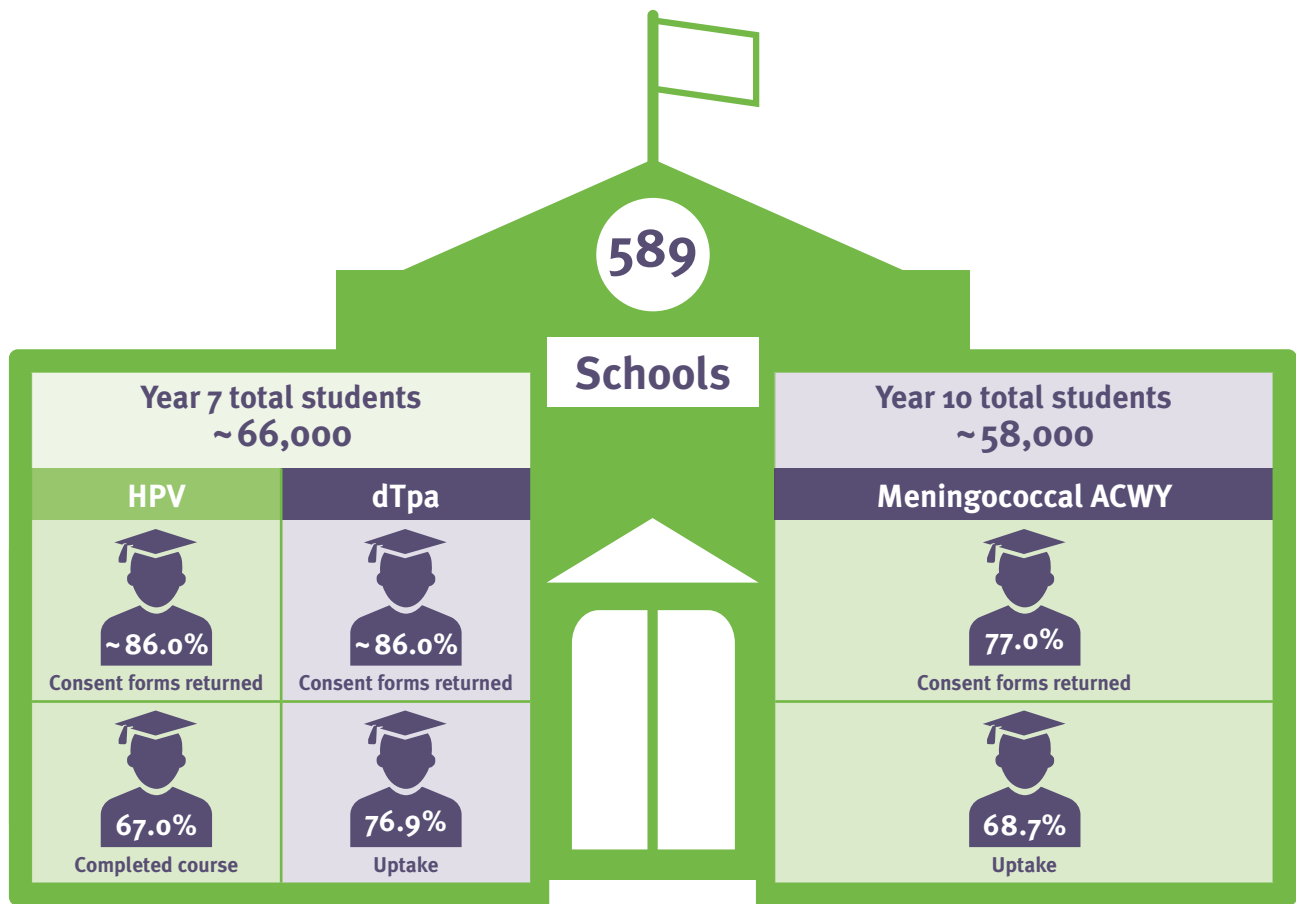


School Immunisation Program

2018 Annual Report



Queensland School Immunisation Program—Annual Report 2018

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Introduction

The School Immunisation Program (SIP) offers secondary school students in state and non-state schools across Queensland the opportunity to be vaccinated against a range of diseases in the school setting. The SIP is delivered by Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) either directly or via an agreement with an immunisation provider. The model for delivery varies across the state and some HHSs deliver the SIP to schools in other HHSs¹.

In school year 2018 across 589 secondary schools, more than 66,000 Year 7 students were offered vaccinations for human papillomavirus (HPV) – two doses; and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (dTpa) – single dose.

Over 58,000 Year 10 students were offered vaccination for meningococcal ACWY in 2018. Meningococcal ACWY vaccine was also offered free in the community setting via GPs for adolescents aged 15 -19 years of age.

A Strategic Goal

The *Queensland Health Immunisation Strategy 2017-2022* (the Strategy) sets an aspirational target of 85% of eligible adolescents to be vaccinated through the SIP. To achieve this target the Strategy identifies three specific actions:

- Implement recent amendments to the *Public Health Act 2005* to empower school immunisation providers to follow up parents of students who did not return consent forms.
- Continue to streamline consent and follow-up processes.
- Implement initiatives to increase participation and ensure completion of the vaccination schedule.

2018 School Immunisation Program

Consent form return

Since school year 2017, school immunisation providers have been lawfully able to request student and parent details from school principals to follow up directly with parents whose child did not return a consent form. Most providers access student and parent details from all, or a targeted proportion, of their schools in an effort to improve consent form return.

The 2018 consent form had an option for parents to indicate 'yes' or 'no' to vaccination so school immunisation providers did not directly follow up with parents who had indicated 'no' to vaccination. Consent form return in the 2018 SIP report is stated as a proportion of the total students and includes those who indicated 'no' to vaccination.

HPV uptake results

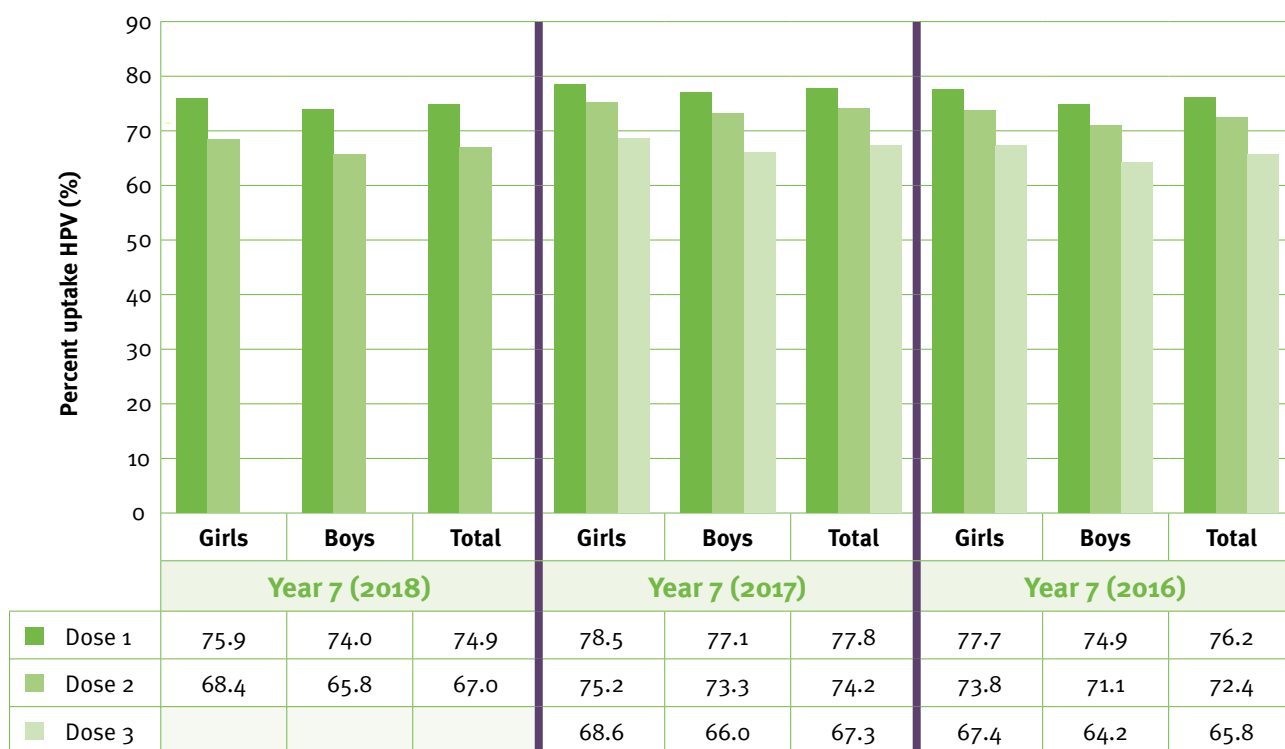
In 2018, the nine-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil 9[®], was introduced onto the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule for adolescents, replacing the four-valent vaccine Gardasil[®]. Consequently, the HPV vaccine regimen used in the SIP changed from a three-dose course (given at 0, 2 and 6 months) to a two-dose course (given at 0 and 6 months).

In school year 2018:

- Approximately 86.0% of students returned a consent form in 2018 compared with 89.5% in 2017.
- Figure 1 shows that there was slightly lower completion of the HPV vaccination course in 2018 (67.0%) compared to 2017 (67.3%).
- Figure 1 also shows that a lower proportion (74.9%) of students received their first dose of HPV vaccine in 2018 compared to 2017 (77.8%).
- In 2018, HPV uptake fell by 7.9% over the two-dose course compared to 10.5% over the three-dose course in 2017.
- Table 1 shows that the HPV dose 2 uptake for girls is 2.6% higher than boys in 2018.

¹ It is important to note that some HHSs use a flexible model of service delivery due to a range of reasons including fluctuations in staff availability, access during the wet season and mobility of adolescents from remote communities. Strategies to address these challenges include offering continual catch up vaccination of those aged 12 – 19 years in the community setting during the year and catch up in the following school year.

Figure 1: HPV vaccine uptake by sex, year level and dose number, Queensland School Immunisation Program 2016², 2017, and 2018³



Source: 2016, 2017 and 2018 SIP Annual Outcome Reports

Table 1: Year 7 HPV vaccine uptake by HHS, Queensland School Immunisation Program 2018

Year 7 HPV (2018)													
		Year 7 Girls				Year 7 Boys				All Year 7 students			
Hospital and Health Service	Total schools	Total cohort	% forms returned	Dose 1 % uptake	Dose 2 % uptake	Total cohort	% forms returned	Dose 1 % uptake	Dose 2 % uptake	Total cohort	% forms returned	Dose 1 % uptake	Dose 2 % uptake
Cairns and Hinterland	35	1,863	86.7	78.0	67.5	1,909	83.1	74.0	64.6	3,772	84.9	76.0	66.0
Central Queensland	39	1,523	93.1	81.0	71.9	1,668	91.2	80.5	70.3	3,191	92.1	80.7	71.1
Central West	8	56	82.1	71.4	71.4	77	80.5	75.3	62.3	133	81.2	73.7	66.2
Darling Downs	64	2,093	92.2	75.8	67.8	2,140	89.6	75.1	66.7	4,233	90.9	75.5	67.2
Gold Coast	45	3,589	85.5	79.6	68.8	3,870	85.0	78.1	68.1	7,459	85.2	78.8	68.5
Mackay	23	1,159	94.5	83.4	74.0	1,204	90.4	80.2	70.0	2,363	92.4	81.8	72.0
Metro North	87	6,270	89.2	76.3	71.6	6,681	88.4	74.4	69.1	12,951	88.8	75.3	70.3
Metro South	109	7,113	86.6	75.0	68.7	7,359	83.7	72.3	64.6	14,472	85.1	73.6	66.6
North West	11	207	75.4	72.9	55.1	204	72.1	68.6	52.5	411	73.7	70.8	53.8
South West	12	124	96.8	88.7	73.4	172	95.3	88.4	79.1	296	95.9	88.5	76.7
Sunshine Coast	49	2,818	81.5	63.4	57.2	3,036	78.6	63.3	54.3	5,854	80.0	63.3	55.7
Torres and Cape	9	131	73.3	71.8	51.9	133	73.7	72.9	46.6	264	73.5	72.3	49.2
Townsville	36	1,656	88.7	80.6	69.4	1,657	89.1	80.3	67.6	3,313	88.9	80.4	68.5
West Moreton	30	1,937	84.4	72.1	66.2	2,078	80.5	69.9	63.5	4,015	82.4	71.0	64.8
Wide Bay	32	1,403	88.5	78.5	71.3	1,415	84.2	75.9	68.6	2,818	86.4	77.2	69.9
Queensland Total	589	31,942	87.5	75.9	68.4	33,603	85.3	74.0	65.8	65,545	86.4	74.9	67.0

Source: 2018 SIP Annual Outcome Reports

² Gold Coast HHS data has not been included in 2016 as it includes vaccines delivered in both the SIP and community setting

³ HPV vaccine regime changed from 2017 (3 doses) in 2018 (2 doses)

dTpa uptake results

In school year 2018:

- Approximately 86.0% of students returned a consent form in 2018 compared with 88.6% in 2017.
- Table 2 shows that 76.9% of students received their dTpa vaccination in the 2018 SIP compared to 79.3% in the 2017 SIP.

Table 2: Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa) vaccine uptake by HHS, Queensland School Immunisation Program 2018

Hospital and Health Service	Year 7 dTpa (2018)			
	Total schools	Total cohort	% forms returned	dTpa % uptake
Cairns and Hinterland	35	3,772	84.9	77.3
Central Queensland	39	3,191	92.1	83.6
Central West	8	133	80.5	75.2
Darling Downs	64	4,233	90.9	78.5
Gold Coast	45	7,459	86.2	82.1
Mackay	23	2,363	92.0	84.2
Metro North	87	12,951	87.3	76.9
Metro South	109	14,472	85.0	74.7
North West	11	411	72.7	72.0
South West	12	296	95.9	90.9
Sunshine Coast	49	5,854	80.2	66.3
Torres and Cape	9	264	77.3	76.1
Townsville	36	3,313	88.8	81.9
West Moreton	30	4,015	81.7	71.8
Wide Bay	32	2,818	86.3	79.5
Queensland Total	589	65,545	86.1	76.9

Source: 2018 SIP Annual Outcome Reports

Meningococcal ACWY uptake results

In school year 2018:

- 76.9% of students returned a consent form in 2018 compared with 72.4% in 2017.
- Table 3 shows that a greater proportion (68.7%) of Year 10 students received their meningococcal ACWY vaccination in the 2018 SIP compared to the 2017 SIP (63.8%).

Table 3: Meningococcal ACWY vaccine uptake by HHS, Queensland School Immunisation Program 2018⁴

Hospital and Health Service	Year 10 Meningococcal ACWY			
	Total schools	Total cohort	% forms returned	Meningococcal ACWY % uptake
Cairns and Hinterland	35	3,219	79.2	71.3
Central Queensland	39	2,826	76.7	71.6
Central West	8	93	76.3	74.2
Darling Downs	64	3,763	80.7	71.4
Gold Coast	45	6,613	74.8	72.0
Mackay	23	2,039	84.4	76.4
Metro North	87	11,423	79.7	69.5
Metro South	109	13,364	76.7	66.6
North West	11	291	49.8	44.0
South West	12	241	85.9	78.4
Sunshine Coast	49	5,106	68.0	58.5
Torres and Cape	9	237	34.6	27.0
Townsville	36	3,110	81.5	75.1
West Moreton	30	3,415	75.0	66.2
Wide Bay	32	2,476	76.3	71.9
Queensland Total	589	58,216	76.9	68.7

Source: 2018 SIP Annual Outcome Reports

Vaccination uptake

SIP vaccination uptake is stated as the proportion of total students vaccinated in 2018 in the school setting. However, when vaccination uptake in the school setting is analysed as a proportion of the students that returned a 'yes' consent form, the proportion of students that had parental consent for vaccination and completed vaccination is higher across all vaccines offered in the SIP. (Table 4).

Table 4: Percent of total students vaccinated and percent 'yes' consent vaccinated by vaccine, Queensland School Immunisation Program 2018

Vaccine	TOTAL students	TOTAL students vaccinated (%)	YES consent returned	YES consent vaccinated (%)
HPV	65,545	67.0	50,611	86.8
dTpa	65,545	76.9	51,597	97.6
Meningococcal ACWY	58,216	68.7	41,822	95.6

⁴ In October 2017, in response to a meningococcal W outbreak in remote central Australia affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Queensland Health implemented a targeted, time limited meningococcal ACWY program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 1 to 19 years of age. The program was implemented in Torres and Cape, North West, Townsville and parts of Cairns HHS communities at high risk of meningococcal W disease due to their location, or cultural or mobility links. In 2018, the meningococcal ACWY uptake via the SIP may be reduced across some of these HHSs as many adolescents could have received the vaccine in the targeted program.



Methods

The data in this report are derived from two sources. SIP Annual Outcome Reports submitted to Communicable Diseases Branch (CDB) by the HHSs.⁵ These data are used to determine vaccine ‘uptake’ in the SIP.

The following methods/assumptions were used to determine HPV, dTpa, and meningococcal ACWY uptake in the SIP:

- **Student cohort:** The student cohort is the total number of girls or boys in that year level reported as ‘total cohort for dose 1’ on the SIP Annual Outcome Report. This information is provided by schools to SIP providers
- **Consent forms returned:** The percent of consent forms returned has been calculated by dividing the number of forms returned by the ‘total student cohort’. For HPV this is presented as percent of consent forms for dose 1, and
- **Vaccine uptake:** The uptake for each dose is the number of students vaccinated for that dose divided by the ‘total student cohort’.

Data in this report can not be compared to coverage data produced by the National HPV Vaccination Program Register or any other national agency as the methodology may differ with respect to source of data, time period, age group and geographical areas.

⁵ At the conclusion of each year’s SIP, the HHS’s Public Health Units collate data from each SIP provider and produce a SIP Annual Outcome Report. The report provides information such as total enrolments, number of consent forms returned and number of students vaccinated by dose number, sex and year level.

