

HPV and HPV Vaccine: Knowledge and Uptake Among Young Adults

ABSTRACT

Background: *The Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. Responsible for various diseases ranging from warts to cancer, especially cervical cancer, the transmission of this virus can be prevented by vaccination. Various studies in Indonesia revealed that the level of knowledge on HPV, including its vaccine and vaccine uptake, is still low. Additionally, there is a limited overview on the knowledge of HPV and its vaccine uptake in the general population aged 18-26 years as part of the target population by the World Health Organization.*

Objectives: *The objective of this research is to assess the knowledge of HPV, including its vaccine, the uptake of the HPV vaccine in the general young adult population in Indonesia, and the factors affecting it.*

Materials and Methods: *The variables in this research are knowledge, vaccine uptake, sex, age, economic classification, education level, mother's education level, father's education level, employment status, physician recommendation, health insurance ownership, and source of HPV-related information. This research used the HPV Knowledge-Scale for the knowledge aspect, consisting of 29 questions in true/false response format, while the question on the uptake aspect was a yes/no question. The questionnaire was done by KoboToolbox and shared through various social media platforms. The research ensured confidentiality by not requesting the participants' identities. The analysis method was done using Pearson's chi-square, multiple linear regression, and binary logistic regression.*

Result: *Among respondents, 53.4% of respondents have high HPV knowledge, and 11.4% have been vaccinated against HPV. Younger age within the age group, employment status, maternal education status, financial support, and economic status are significantly associated with a higher knowledge level, while a recommendation from a physician or other healthcare professional to be vaccinated against HPV is significantly associated with HPV vaccine uptake.*

Conclusion: *Although more than half of respondents demonstrated high HPV knowledge, only a little over a tenth of young adults have received the HPV vaccination, indicating that HPV knowledge alone is not sufficient to drive vaccine uptake. However, recommendations from healthcare professionals were significantly associated with the uptake of the HPV vaccine. Therefore, future efforts regarding HPV vaccination coverage should consider the important role of healthcare providers in delivering a strong and informative recommendation for HPV vaccination.*

Keywords: *HPV, HPV vaccine, knowledge, uptake, young adults, healthcare professional recommendation*