



Health care attendance among Aboriginal youth aged 15-19 years provides opportunities to improve human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination coverage

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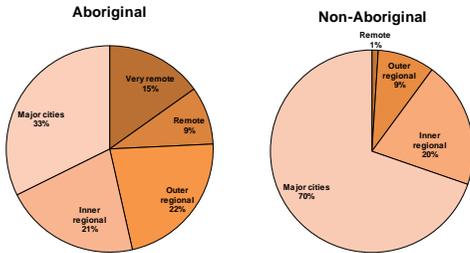


Aboriginal population distribution

State/Territory	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples(n)	Proportion (%) of Indigenous population living in that state/territory
NSW	220,902	31.0%
Vic	50,983	7.1%
Qld	203,045	28.5%
WA	93,778	13.1%
SA	39,800	5.6%
Tas	25,845	3.6%
ACT	6,707	0.9%
NT	72,251	10.1%
Australia	713,589	100%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014

Aboriginal population distribution



Source: Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011, Productivity Commission

Sociodemographic profile

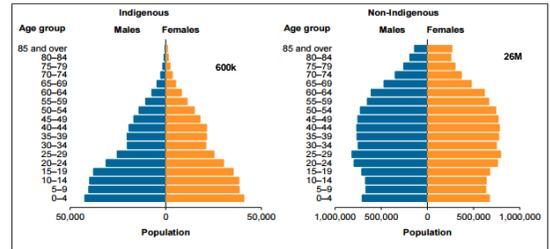


Figure 1.1: Age structure, by sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011

Poorer health status



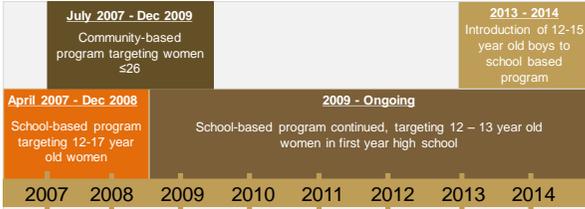
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011

Disproportionate rates of cervical cancer

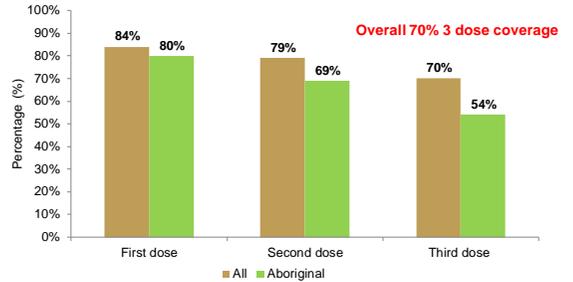
- Cervical screening rates lower in Aboriginal women in rural/remote areas compared with urban counterparts
 - INCIDENCE: 2.8 times more likely to develop cervical cancer (**22 vs 8.5 per 100 000**)*
 - MORTALITY: 3.9 times more likely to die from cervical cancer (**10.6 vs 1.9 per 100 000**)*
 - FIVE YEAR SURVIVAL FOR CERVICAL CANCER: 51% vs 67%
- * Age-standardised rates

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2013.

National Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program



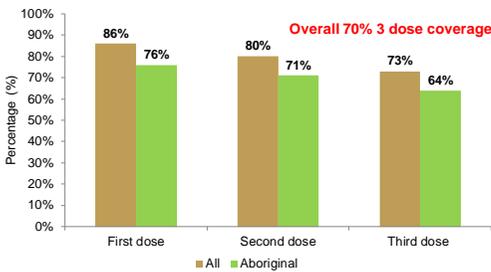
HPV vaccine coverage among 12-17 year old women in Queensland (2011)



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Source: Brotherton, 2013

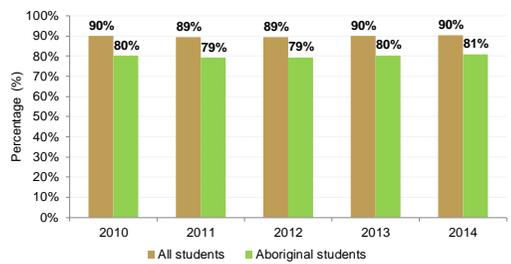
HPV vaccine coverage 12-17 year old women in the Northern Territory (2011)



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Source: Brotherton, 2013

School attendance rates among junior secondary students NSW



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Source: Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Government School Student Attendance 2014

Aboriginal community controlled health services (ACCHS)

- Receive a free supply of HPV vaccine from NSW health to offer to adolescents who missed out at school (since 2007)
- ACCHS don't have school HPV vaccination records unless proactively contact HPV register
- Any HPV vaccine given should be reported to the National HPV Register

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AIMS

- ❖ To determine whether the health seeking behaviour (measured by clinic attendance) of Aboriginal youth (15-19yo) supports the current ACCHSs based HPV catch-up approach.

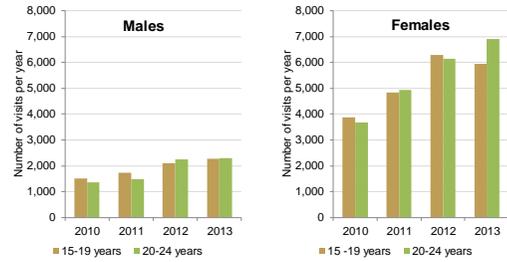


Methods

- Six ACCHS in regional NSW
- Routine de-identified attendance and vaccination data were extracted from the patient management system
 - Aged 16-24 years
 - Attendance years: 2010-2013
- Total visits and individuals by sex & age group
- Records of vaccination in immunisation section

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Number of visits to health services by Aboriginal youth



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Median visits per year by Aboriginal youth

Sex	Age	2010	2011	2012	2013
Male	15-19	3 (1-5)	3 (1-6)	3 (2-6)	3 (2-7)
	20-24	3 (2-7)	3 (2-7)	4 (2-9)	4 (2-8)
Female	15-19	5 (2-11)	6 (2-12)	7 (3-14)	6 (3-13)
	20-24	5 (2-12)	7 (3-16)	8 (3-16)	8 (3-17)

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Preventative health in Aboriginal youth

- Among 15-24 year olds there were;
 - 1,314 chlamydia tests
 - Female: 994, male: 320
 - 1,350 contraception prescriptions
- **Evidence of one dose of HPV vaccination**

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Limitations

- We were unable to determine which adolescents had already been vaccinated elsewhere (e.g. school or GP clinics)
- Immunisation section of clinical software may not be the only place where HPV vaccinations are recorded (e.g. progress notes)

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Conclusion

- School based HPV vaccination programs are important and need to be sustained and enhanced
- Aboriginal adolescents (15-19yo) attend health services as often as young adults (20-24yo)
- Females attend more often
- **Current health seeking behaviour of adolescents (15-19yo) does support ACCHSs based HPV catch-up approach**

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Recommendations

- Current system may need to be enhanced to support health services to:
 - Identify unvaccinated patients aged 15-19 years
 - Recall unvaccinated patients
 - Report vaccination to the national HPV register
- Further research to determine the vaccination status of adolescents attending ACCHS

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Acknowledgements

- Aboriginal SRH workers and ACCHS
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