

HPV Vaccine uptake among adolescent girls 10-14 years living with HIV in four counties of Baringo, Laikipia, Nakuru and Samburu -Kenya

S. Mutimba¹, M. Kitheka², L. Matu³, N. Gitahi⁴, D. Juma⁵, W. Opudo¹, K. Lelesiit⁶, C. Kerich⁷, S. Labat⁸, F. Ruga⁹, A. Kahiga¹⁰

Authors Contact Details:

Email: SMutimba@usaidtungejamii.org

Introduction

Cervical cancer is a global killer and predominantly affects HPV unvaccinated HIV positive women more than those who are HIV negative or vaccinated. The call by WHO to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030 through targeting 90% vaccination for adolescent girls before the age of 15 years continues to yield efforts. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine has offered a great promise to reduce the cervical cancer burden among women. However, access to HPV vaccination remains sub optimal in Kenya due to lack of knowledge and perceived negative opinions in the communities. This study aimed to investigate HPV vaccine uptake amongst adolescent girls 10-14 years within USAID Tujenge Jamii (UTJ) sites.

Methodology

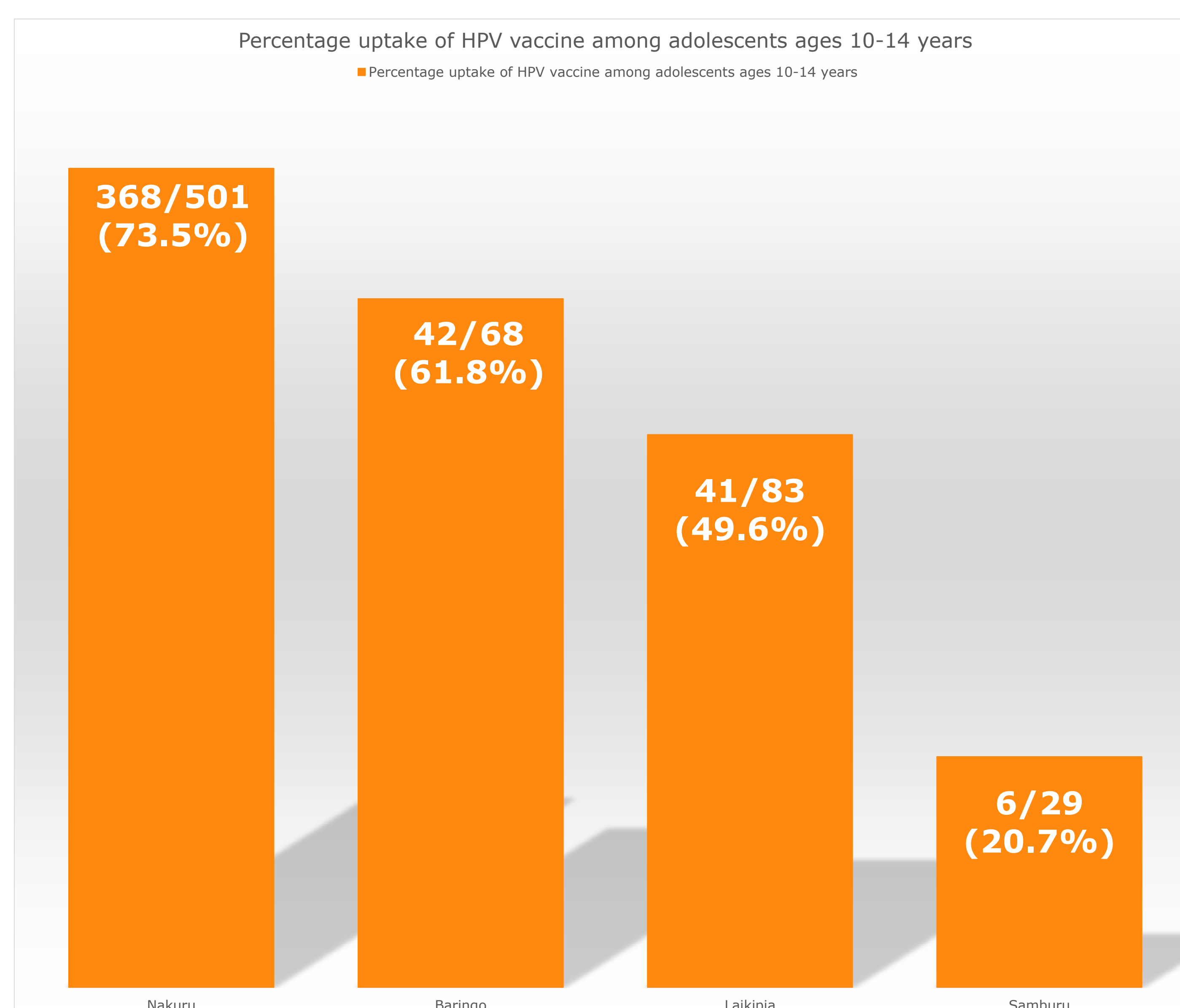
UTJ is USAID-funded activity collaborating with Ministry of health Kenya to implement the HIV program. The activity conducted a sensitization on HPV vaccination to health providers and adolescent champions through cervical cancer prevention literacy module. The Adolescent champions are graduates of adherence clubs tasked with providing psychosocial support to newly identified HIV-positive adolescents and young people, providing support to members, coordinating adherence clubs, and overseeing various club activities. There was need to accelerate HPV vaccination among adolescent girls on care. Data was then reviewed retrospectively after the intervention across the four supported counties.



Adolescent girls vaccinated against HPV in Nakuru County

Results

Before 2021, there was no data about the adolescent girls on HIV care who had received HPV vaccine. Between October 2021 to September 2022, a total of 681 adolescent girls 10-14 years were mapped and mobilized to HPV vaccination services. This resulted in HPV vaccine uptake of 67.1% (457/681) with Nakuru County at highest uptake of 73.5% (368/501), 61.8% (42/68) for Baringo County, 49.6% (41/83) for Laikipia County and 20.7% (6/29) achievement for Samburu county.



Uptake of HPV vaccination among adolescent girls aged 10-14 years.

Conclusion

Awareness creation and availability of HPV vaccinations can improve uptake of HPV vaccination among adolescent girls even in resource limited settings. Programs to increase HPV vaccine uptake should be tailored to effective interventions and sound practices needed to enable further reduction in the incidence of cervical cancer.

