

School Immunisation Program Coverage

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, 2008 to 2023

Introduction

NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in a school-based vaccination program.

This report provides an overview of the latest immunisation coverage for students attending school-based vaccination programs within the boundaries of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), based on immunisation encounters for students reported by school immunisation nurses.

It summarises the percentage of students reported as receiving vaccines as a proportion of all students enrolled in the relevant year level. Information is provided for students attending schools located in South Eastern Sydney by vaccine, dose and year, compared to the NSW state average.

It is important to note that the coverage rates may underestimate the true vaccination coverage as they represent only those vaccinations received through the school program and do not include doses received from general practitioners or other immunisation providers.

Up to date information on the vaccines on offer at NSW high schools is available at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>.

In 2023, the introduction of online consent into the school immunisation program, as well as changes to the human papillomavirus (HPV) dosing schedule, moving from 2-doses to a single dose of HPV, resulted in significant impacts to the program across NSW. Additionally, disruptions due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 resulted in some schools not being able to offer dose 2 for HPV vaccine in 2020 and 2021.

Data noted in this report is only for vaccines given at school and does not account for vaccines given at the GP and/or pharmacy.

2023 summary for students attending schools located in South Eastern Sydney LHD:

- 79.4 % of year 7 students received the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) vaccine.
- 75.7 % of year 10 students received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine.
- 78.8 % of female year 7 students received the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
- 78.8 % of male year 7 students received the HPV vaccine

2023 students are offered the opportunity to receive any missed doses of dTpa, HPV or meningococcal ACWY vaccine at school clinics in 2024, so overall coverage is expected to increase.

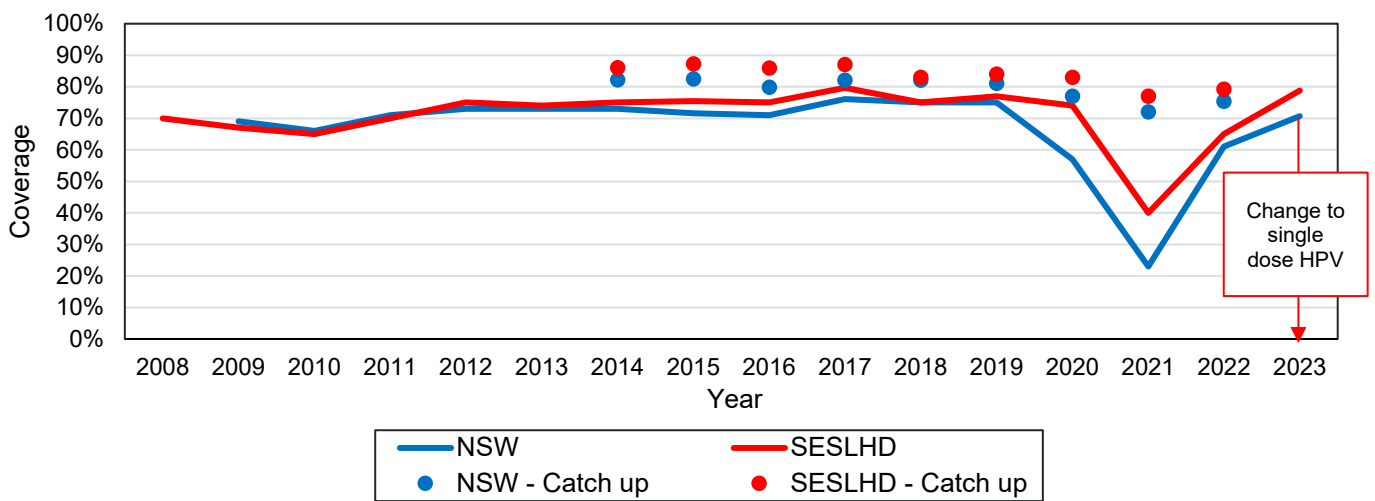
HPV vaccine; protection against human papillomavirus

In 2023, the HPV schedule changed from 2 doses to a single dose as international studies have shown a single dose gives comparable protection against HPV infection in healthy people.

The introduction of online consent at the start of the year resulted in a number of impacts to the program, including working through technical issues associated with the platform that primarily impacted year 7 clinics. As a result, there was increased catchup required for year 7 students and may have resulted in students visiting their GP and/or pharmacy for vaccination.

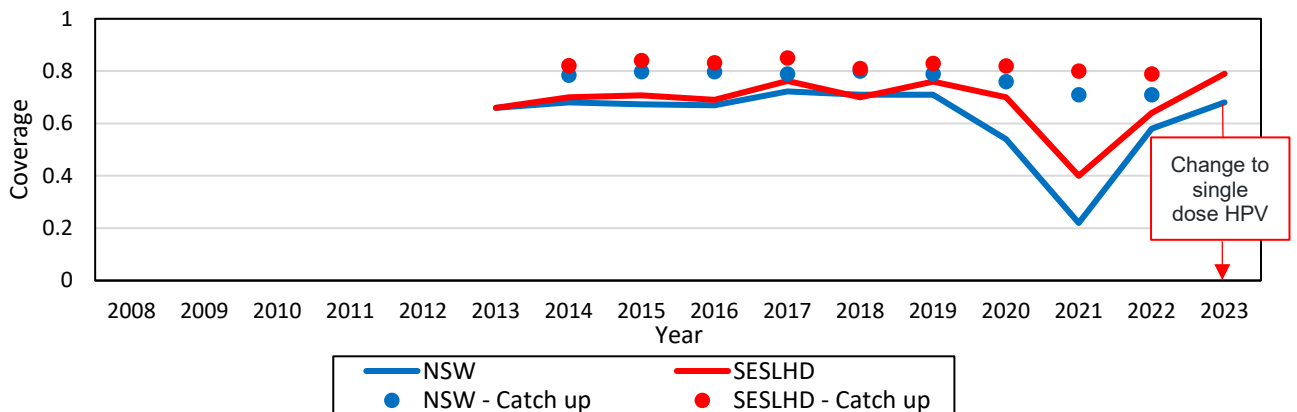
Female students

HPV vaccination has been routinely offered to female year 7 students since 2008. In 2023, 78.8% of the 4,827 female year 7 students in district schools received the HPV vaccine. This is an increase of 0.2% from 2022. Coverage in this cohort is above the state average (NSW 70.7%). Noting the change in schedule for the HPV program, students who received dose 1 of HPV in 2022 were considered complete from 2023. Students who missed receiving their first dose of HPV in 2022 were offered catchup vaccinations in 2023. This increased coverage by 0.7% to 79.2%, for the 4,882 female students enrolled in year 7 in 2022.



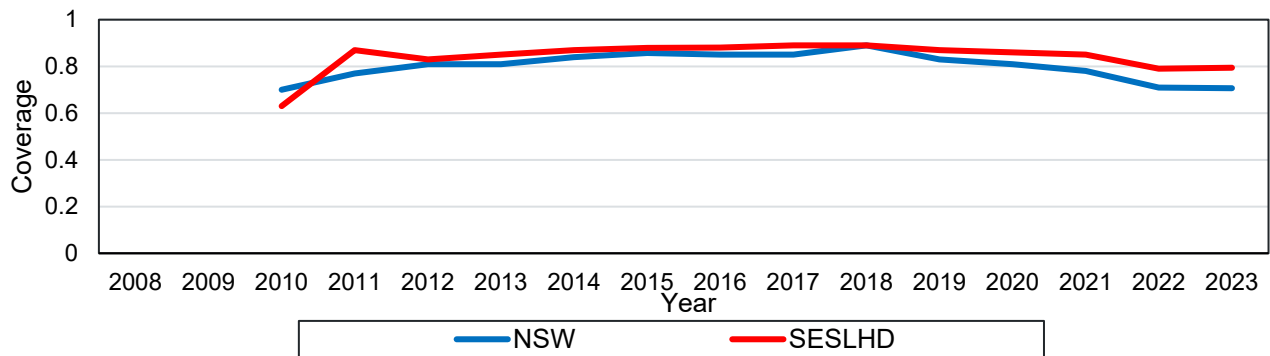
Male students

HPV vaccination has been routinely offered to year 7 boys since 2013. In 2023, 78.8% of the 5,000 male year 7 students in district schools received the HPV vaccine. This is an increase of 1.3% from 2022. Coverage in this cohort is above state average (NSW 68.1%). Noting the change in schedule for the HPV program, students who received dose 1 of HPV in 2022 were considered complete from 2023. Students who missed receiving their first dose of HPV in 2022 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2023. This increased coverage by 0.9% to 79.2% for the 4,998 male students enrolled in year 7 in 2022.



dTpa vaccine; protection against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis

Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) booster vaccination has been routinely offered to students in year 7 since 2003. In 2023, 79.4% of the 9,832 year 7 students in district schools received the dTpa vaccine. This is an increase in 0.8% compared to 2022. Coverage in this cohort is above the state average (NSW 70.7%). Students who missed receiving their dose of dTpa in 2022 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2023, this increased coverage by 0.8% to 79.9% for the 9880 students enrolled in year 7 in 2022.



Meningococcal vaccine: protection against meningococcus: A, C, W and Y

The NSW Meningococcal W Response Program started in 2017 in response to a rapid increase in cases of meningococcal W disease in the community, especially among young adults. It offers a single dose of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine to older adolescents as part of the NSW School Vaccination Program. In 2017, the vaccine was offered to year 11 and 12. In 2018, this changed to year 10 and 11. From 2019, the vaccine was offered to year 10 students through the school program, however, adolescents up to 19 years of age are eligible to be vaccinated by their general practitioner. In 2023, 75.7% of the 10,052 year 10 students in district schools received the meningococcal ACWY vaccine. This is an increase in 3.7% compared to 2022. Students who missed receiving their dose of meningococcal ACWY in 2022 were offered catch-up vaccination in 2023. This increased coverage by 1.4% for the 9,910 students enrolled in year 10 in 2022.

