

HPV vaccination in Northern Ireland: Spill-over of anti-vaccine group messages from Ireland

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Northern Ireland

Population of
approx. 1.8
million- 3% of
UK pop



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The UK population was estimated to be 64.6 million according to the 2014 mid-year estimate. Eighty-four per cent (54.3 million) live in England, eight per cent (5.3 million) in Scotland, five per cent (3.1 million) in Wales and three per cent (1.8 million) in Northern Ireland.

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NI part of UK therefore:

- JCVI provides immunisation advice for policy
- NI DH set policy acting on JCVI advice
- Implementation mainly mirrors rest of UK
- UK vaccine damage payment scheme,
- MRHA for vaccine safety
- Media, Facebook, Twitter info from rest of UK easily available

NI and RoI one land mass

Free movement of people= people crossing border to go to school/ work

Irish TV and newspapers available in NI

Friends and family often in both jurisdictions

Therefore Facebook, Twitter anti-vaxx messages etc easily accessible

HPV programme in NI

PHA monitor programme, produce leaflets etc.

5 Healthcare Trusts in NI inc. school nurses

Vaccine programme delivered through schools

Vaccine sessions across NI in Sept and April-June each year

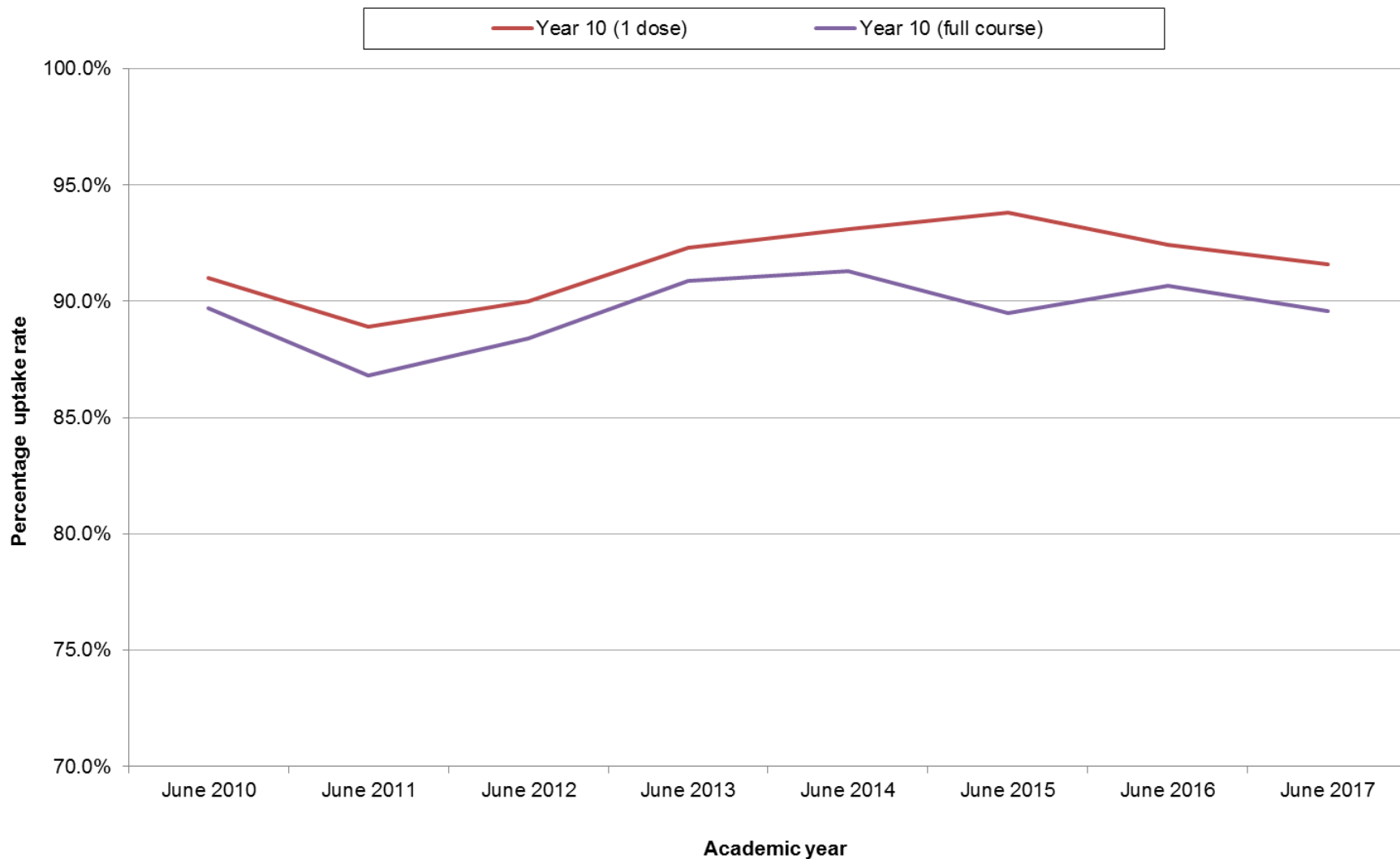
Offered to all Yr 9 (12-13 yrs) girls and repeat offer Yr 10

Started in 2008- Cervarix, switch to Gardasil-2012

Switch from 3 to 2 dose schedule 2014.

Uptake Data for NI

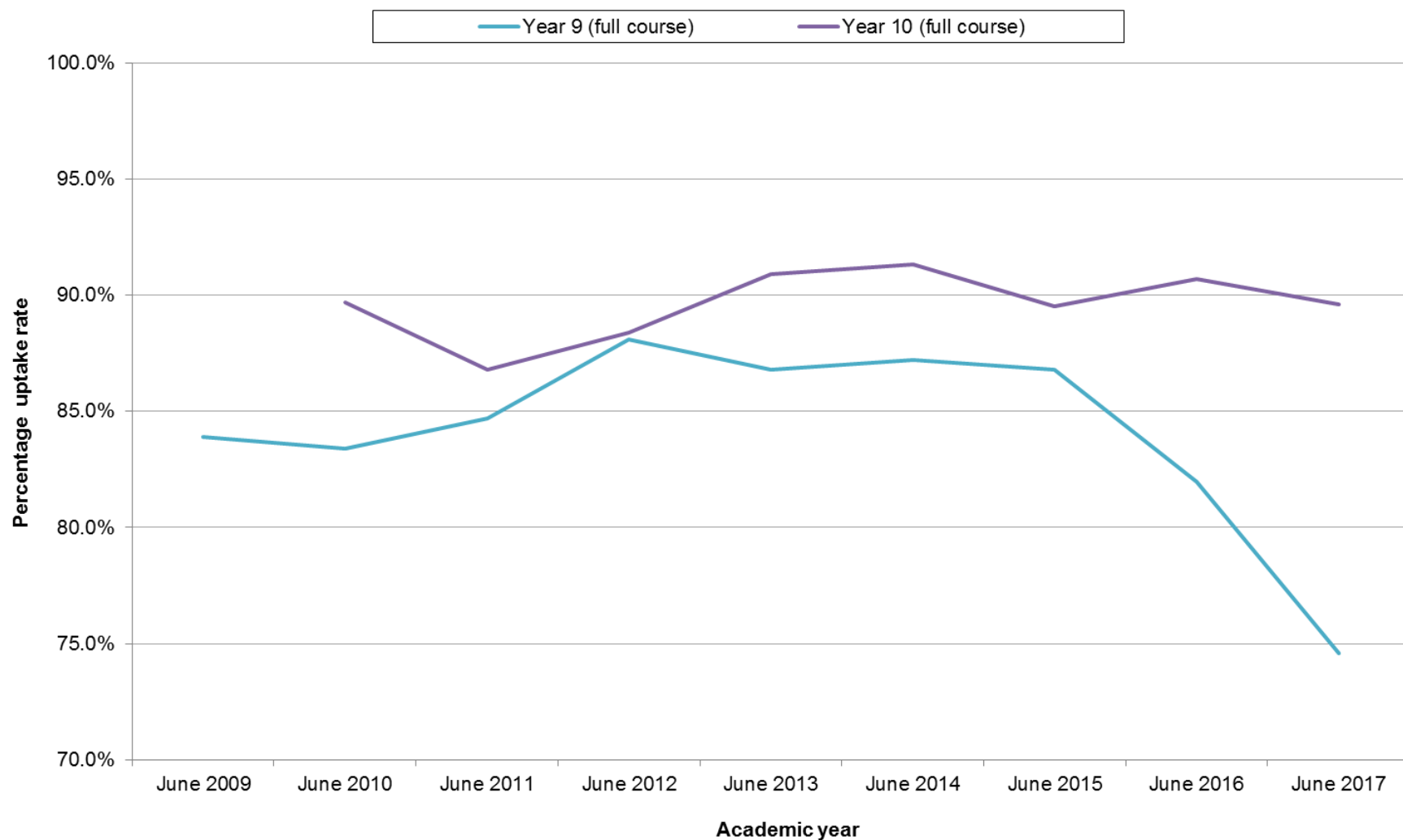
HPV vaccination uptake rates in Northern Ireland, year 10 girls, 2010-2017



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HPV vaccination uptake rates in Northern Ireland, year 9 and year 10 girls completing full course, 2009-2017



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Intelligence from School Nurses

Border areas noted larger proportion in 16/17 of:

- Consent not returned
- Refusal with reason stating vaccine safety
- Withdrawal of consent

No significant mention of vaccine safety concerns or decreased consent in other Trusts

How have we responded so far?

Updated all our programme materials – included longer duration of protection, more info on side effects and link to PIL.

Provided comprehensive training for all school health teams so they are confident to promote vaccine

Updated our dedicated HPV website

Press releases and frequent posts on social media just before vaccine sessions

Plans for the future

Monitor second dose uptake

Review anti-vaccine group activity

Liaison with RoI

Provide information targeted at teachers

? Wider media campaign