



# HPV VACCINATION: KNOWLEDGE, BEHAVIOURS AND ATTITUDES AMONG YOUNG FEMALE STUDENTS OF GREEK HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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## Background

Contrary to the pre-vaccination era optimistic forecasts, five years later coverage of HPV vaccination in Greece remains disappointingly low, despite full reimbursement and incorporation into the National Immunization Program

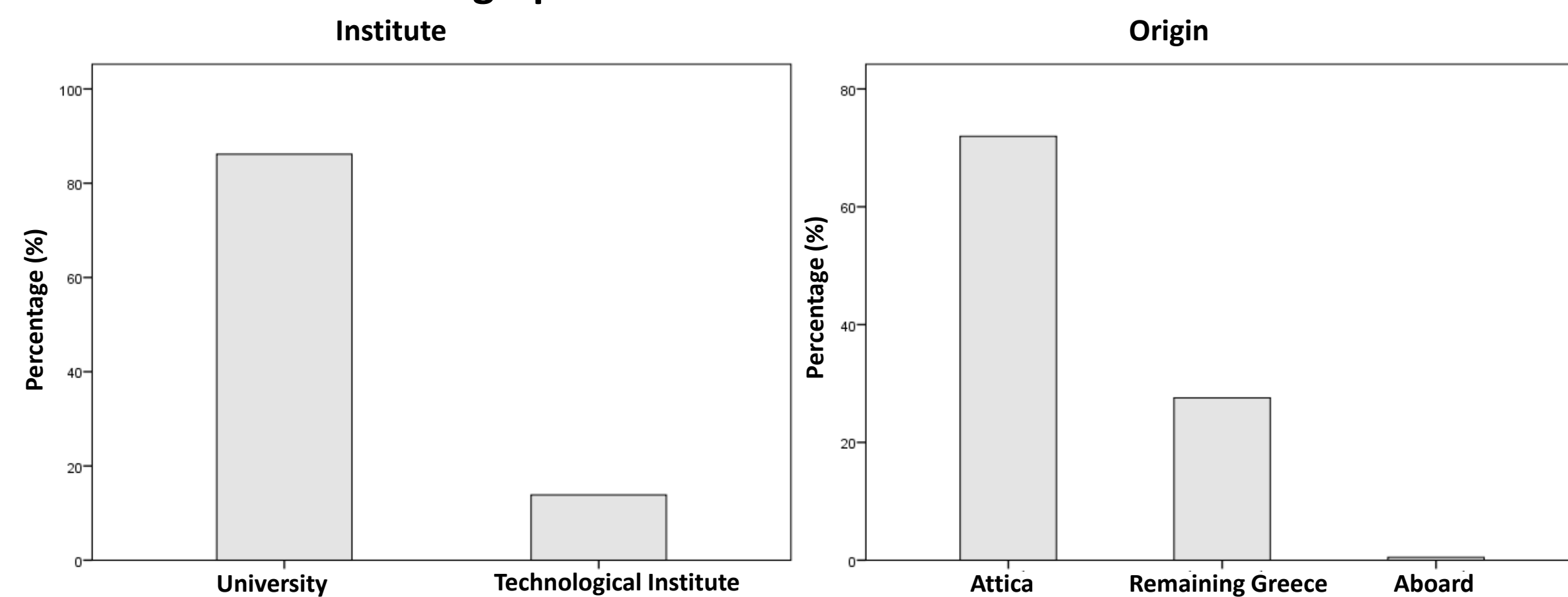
## Aim

The aim of this extended study was to investigate knowledge, behaviors and attitudes of young female students of Greek Tertiary Institutions to cervical screening, HPV infection and HPV vaccination

## Methods

- Sample: 1135 young female students aged 17-25 years
- Study tool: Questionnaires sought data relating to socio-demographic characteristics, health behavior and knowledge about HPV, as well as vaccination status

## Results: Socio-demographic characteristics



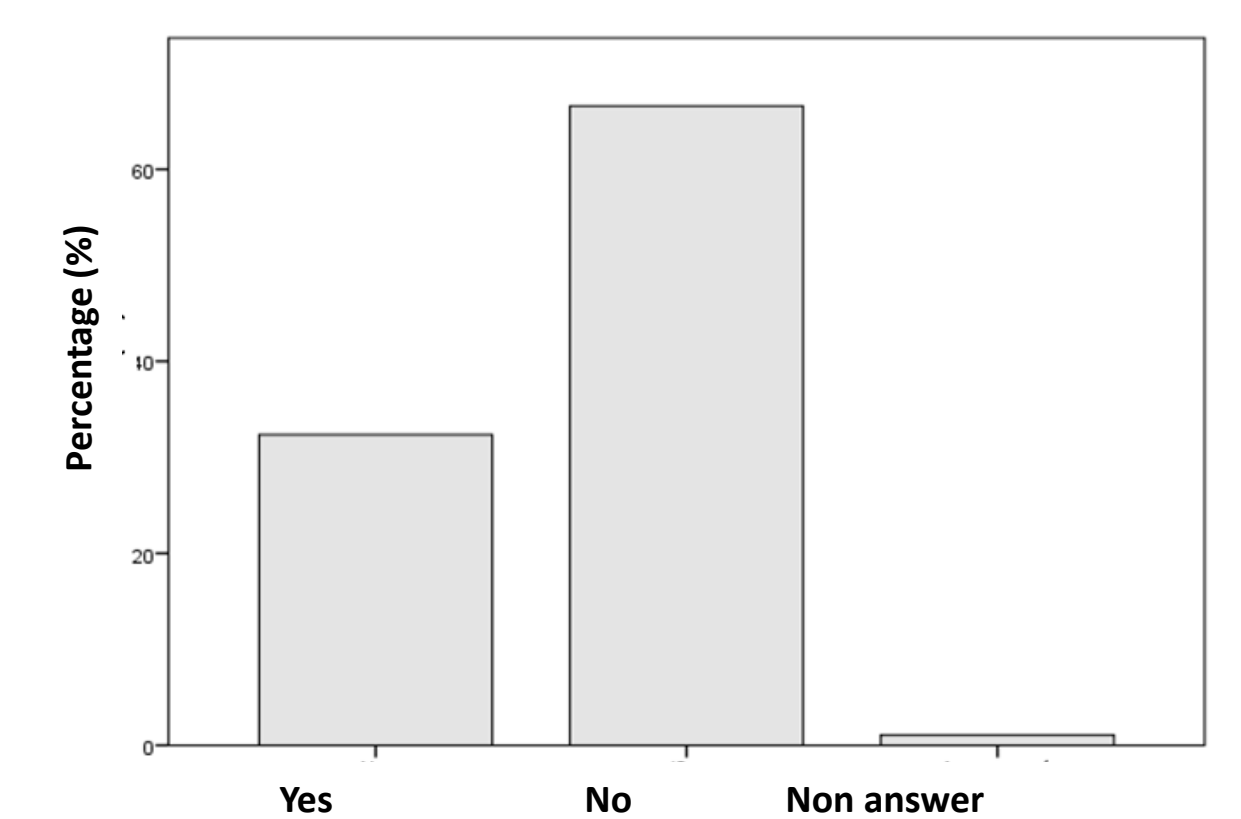
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Nationality</b>		
Greek	1080	95,7
Other	48	4,3
N	1128	100,0
<b>Father's Educational Level</b>		
<6 years	46	4,2
6-9 years	169	15,3
9-12 years	359	32,6
>12 years	527	47,9
N	1101	100,0
<b>Mother's Educational Level</b>		
<6 years	42	3,8
6-9 years	153	13,9
9-12 years	415	37,8
>12 years	488	44,4
N	1098	100,0

## Results: Knowledge, behavior and attitude about HPV

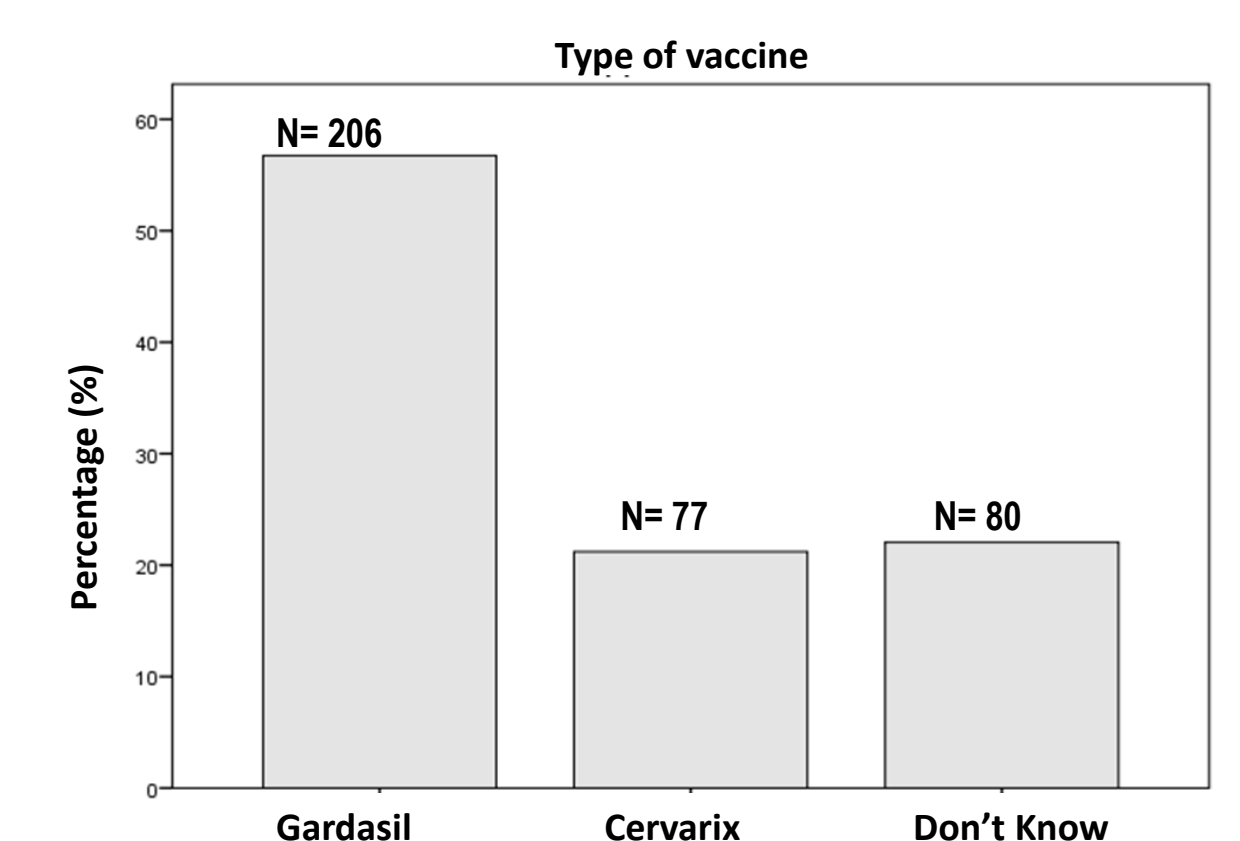
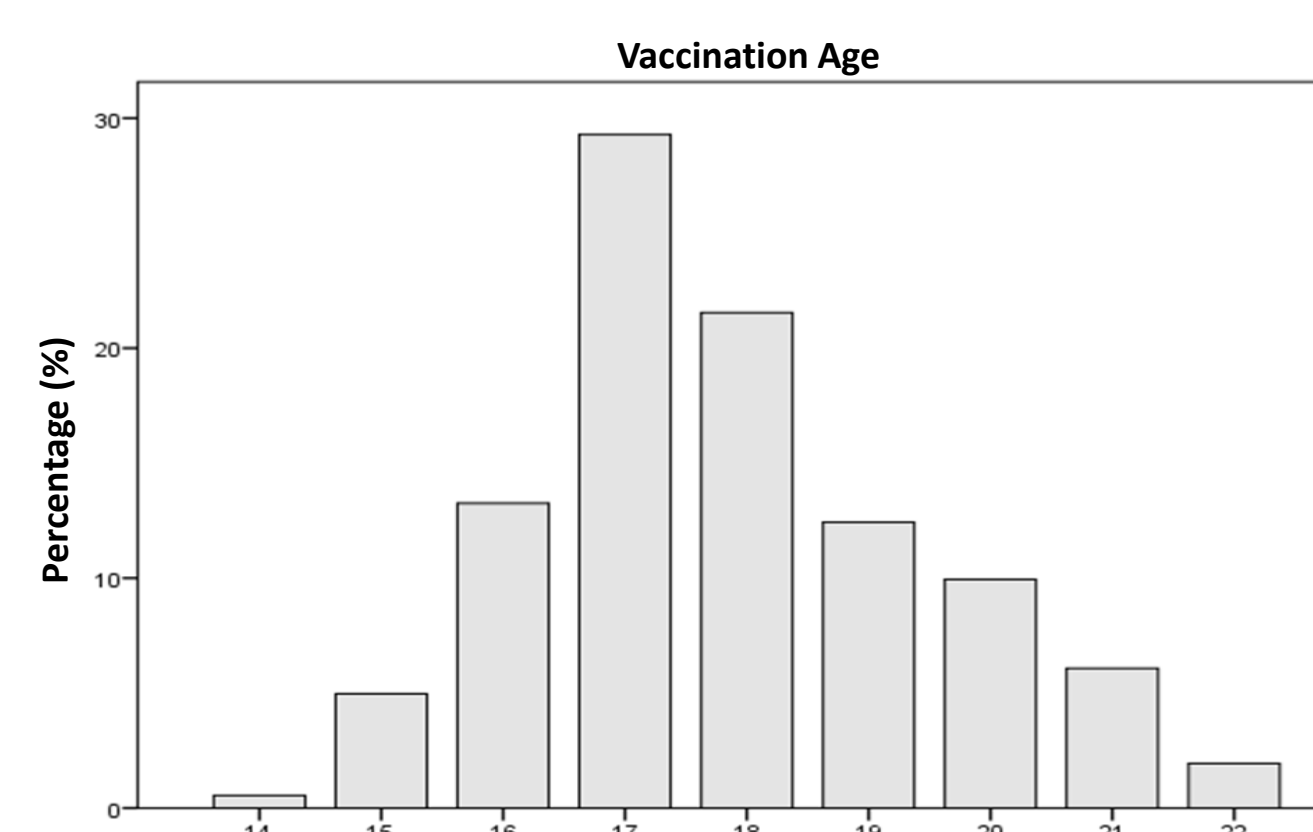
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Knowledge about HPV</b>		
Yes	780	69,1
No	328	29,1
No Answer	21	1,9
N	1129	100,0
<b>If yes, knowledge about its transmission</b>		
Air	4	0,4
Sex partner	782	82,8
Inheritance	16	1,7
Don't know	143	15,1
N	945	100,0
<b>Knowledge about the possible course of HPV infection</b>		
Leads often to cervical cancer	803	71,7
Resolves spontaneously	10	0,9
Don't know	307	27,4
N	1120	100,0

## Results: Vaccination status

- 95.2% of the sample was aware of vaccine availability
- Vaccinated students represented only 32.4%
- Vaccination status was correlated with
  - mother's educational level ( $p < 0.05$ )
  - the frequency of visits at the gynecologist ( $p < 0.000$ )
  - knowledge of the causal association between HPV and cervical cancer ( $p < 0.000$ )



## Vaccinated sample



## Unvaccinated sample

- Causes of non vaccination
  - Fear of side effects (53%)
  - Insufficient information (34.8%)
- The majority of unvaccinated individuals showed positive attitude towards HPV vaccination, providing they received adequate concise information

## Results: Health Behavior- Cervical Screening

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Visits at gynecologist annually</b>		
None	200	18,1
At Least One	908	81,9
N	1108	100,0
<b>Knowledge that a woman has to do cervical screening</b>		
Yes	1048	92,5
No	47	4,1
No Answer	38	3,4
N	1133	100,0
<b>Personal cervical screening</b>		
Yes	621	54,8
No	476	42,0
No Answer	37	3,3
N	1134	100,0
<b>Frequency of Personal cervical screening</b>		
None	529	46,6
At least one	606	53,4
N	1135	100,0

## Conclusions

- In young women of higher education the level of knowledge about HPV and its correlation with cervical cancer seems satisfactory
- Our data highlight the need for further sensitization of the general population. Redistribution of roles among stakeholders might be warranted