

# **Knowledge, Attitude and Perceptions toward HPV Vaccination in Nepal: Comparison between Girls and Mothers of Girls**

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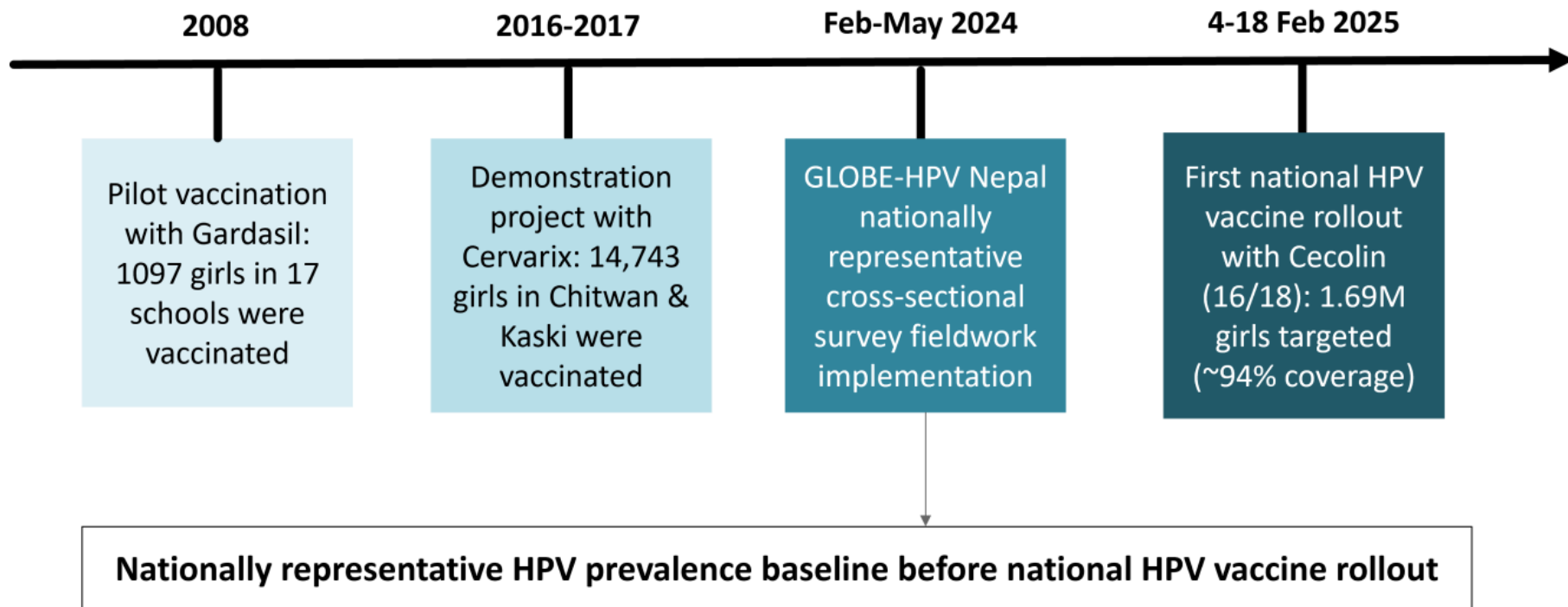
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# Background

- Cervical cancer is a leading cause of cancer-related illness and death among Nepali women, mainly caused by **HPV**.
- Nepal Launched **HPV vaccination** campaign in **Feb 2025** for girls aged 10–14 years; now part of the **National Immunization Schedule**.
- Understanding **knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions** of target groups is critical for **high vaccine uptake**.

# Context

- HPV Vaccination History in Nepal



# Objectives

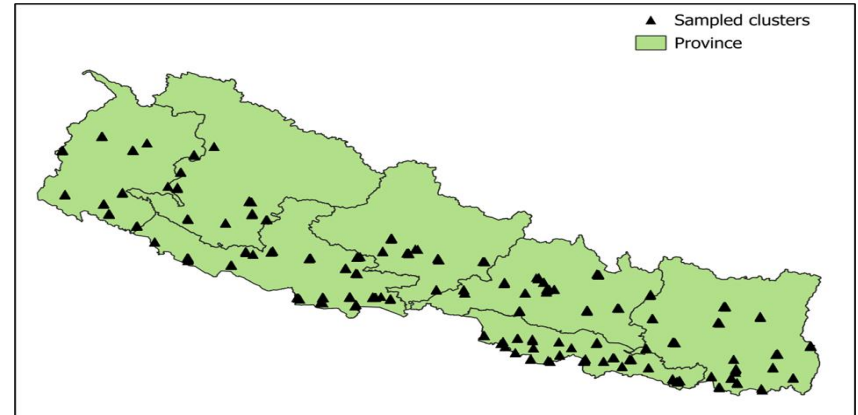
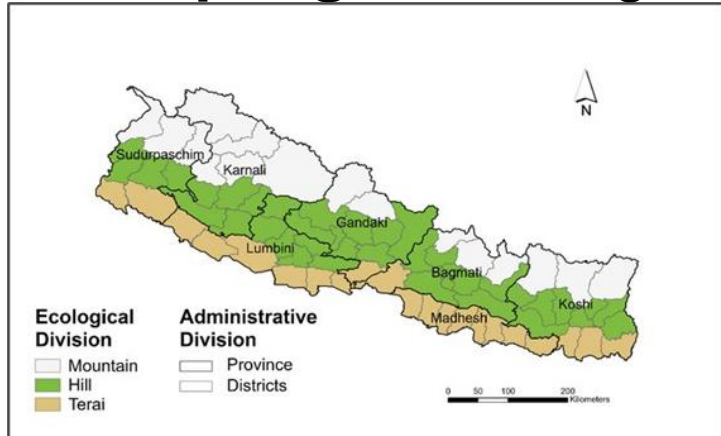
To assess and compare knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of adolescent girls and their mothers regarding HPV vaccination, and identify gaps affecting vaccine uptake.

# Methodology

Nationally representative **cross-sectional survey** conducted in 2024. (Pre-Vaccination Rollout)

Participants: 2,876 Girls: 1,996 (aged 9–20 years) Mothers: 880 (aged 21–50 years)

**Sampling:** Multistage cluster sampling: 100 clusters



# Methodology contd..

## Data collection

**Structured questionnaire** on socio demographics, knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions

- **Girls** reported on self-awareness and vaccination
- **Mothers** reported on decisions for daughters

## Data Analysis

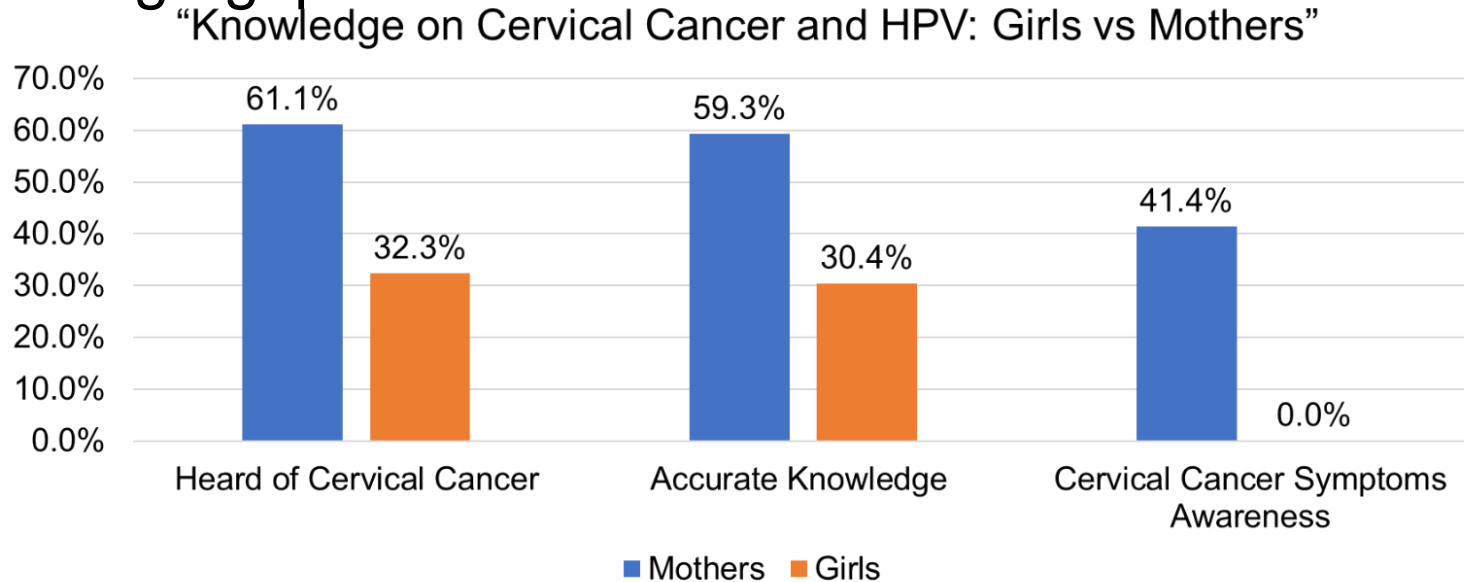
- **Wilcoxon rank-sum test** for continuous variables
- **Chi-square** test for categorical variables

# Ethical considerations

- **Informed consent obtained**  
*(assent from girls + parental consent)*
- **Voluntary participation**  
*(right to withdraw at any time)*
- **Privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity ensured**

# Results

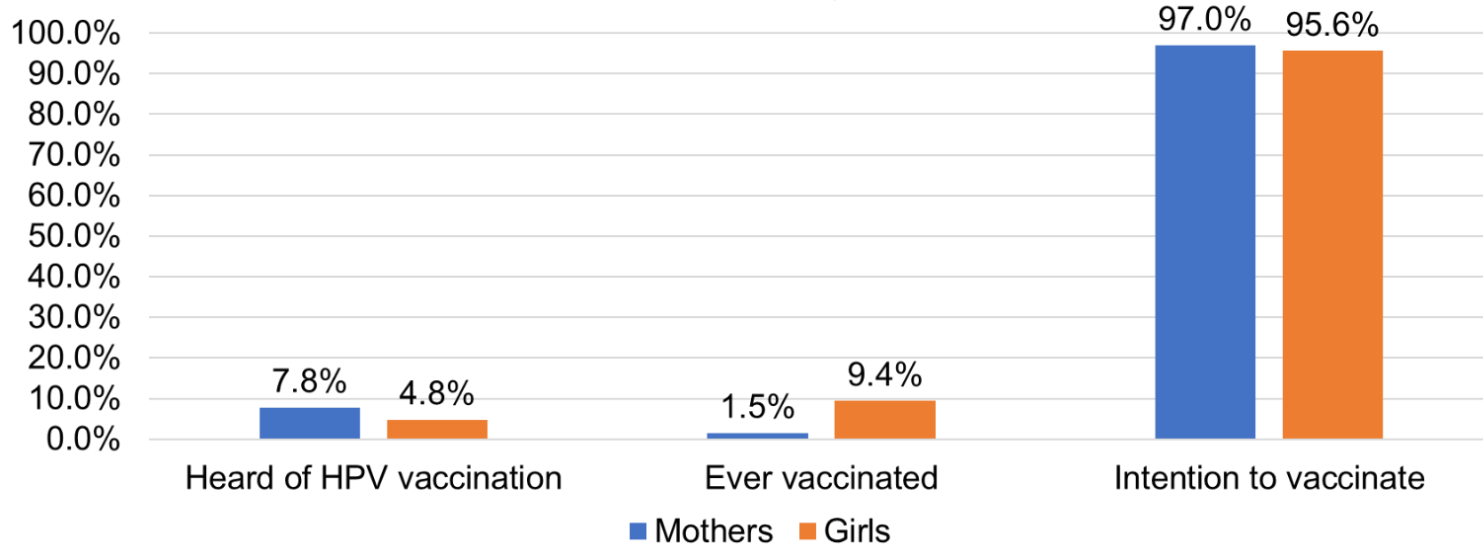
- Mothers have **higher awareness and knowledge** than girls.
- **Girls have minimal symptom awareness**, highlighting a knowledge gap.



# Results contd..

Mothers knew more than girls ( $p < 0.001$ ), but both groups showed very high willingness to vaccinate ( $\approx 96\%$ ), despite low awareness (4.8–7.8%;  $p = 0.001$ – $0.004$ ).

“HPV Vaccination: Awareness, Status and intention”



# Results contd..

## Perceptions and Concerns Influencing Vaccine Uptake

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Girls (%)</b>	<b>Mothers (%)</b>
Screening is beneficial	87.7	96.4
Having concerns	49.5	54.4

Most participants viewed HPV vaccination as beneficial, although over half expressed concerns about the vaccine.

# Conclusion

- **High intention, low awareness:** Both girls and mothers were willing to vaccinate, but knowledge especially among girls was limited before rollout.
- **Need for targeted education:** Tailored programs for adolescents and caregivers are essential to improve understanding.
- **Sustaining uptake:** Ongoing sensitization, community engagement, and school-based initiatives can maintain high coverage.
- **Policy implication:** Integrating knowledge-building into the national HPV program will strengthen acceptance and support long-term cervical cancer prevention.

# Key Takeaway

- Enhancing awareness through focused education is as critical as vaccine availability to ensure the success of Nepal's HPV immunization program.

# Acknowledgment



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