



Factsheet HPV Caribbean Netherlands PIENTER 3 study results

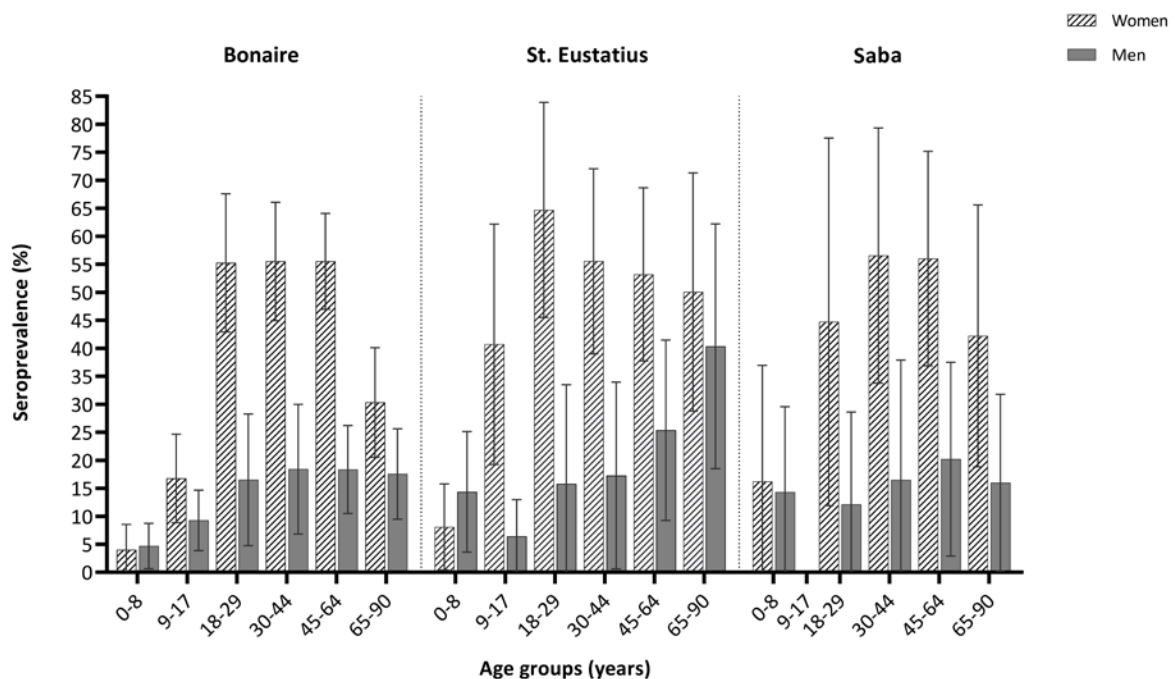
Background

Incidence and mortality of human papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers differs geographically, with high rates in Caribbean countries. Nevertheless, few countries in the region have preventive HPV programs in place. In Caribbean Netherlands (CN), vaccination against HPV has recently started, yet screening of HPV has not been introduced. Knowledge on circulation of HPV in the island populations is lacking, but is key in the decision-making process on future preventive programs. Hence, in this study we used seroepidemiological data from the Health Study CN to provide information primarily on lifetime cumulative HPV exposure, i.e., seropositivity, of seven high-risk (hr, 'oncogenic') types and contributing risk factors in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

Results

In vaccinated individuals we observed robust antibody responses against vaccine types as well as cross-reactivity against types that are not in the vaccine. Among unvaccinated individuals aged ≥ 15 years, overall seropositivity was high (34%), with over half of them being seropositive for at least 2 hr-HPV types. Antibodies against HPV16 and HPV52 were most prevalent (13%). Seroprevalence was substantially higher in women (51%) than men (18%), predominantly peaking in women aged 20–59 years. Highest seropositivity rates were seen on St. Eustatius (38%; on Bonaire and Saba both 33%). Besides age and sex, sexual risk factors were associated with HPV seropositivity.

Figure. Age-specific seroprevalence (%) (with 95% confidence intervals) of any high-risk type human papillomavirus (HPV) IgG antibodies in the unvaccinated general population of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, 2017, by sex.



Conclusion/discussion

Consistent with the Caribbean region, seroprevalence of multiple hr-HPV types was high in CN. These data corroborate the decision regarding introduction of a sex-neutral HPV-vaccination program and the relevance for consideration of a population-based cervical cancer screening program on all islands.

Publication

[High seroprevalence of multiple high-risk human papillomavirus types among the general population of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, Caribbean Netherlands.](#)

Vos RA, Pasmans H, Tymchenko L, Janga-Jansen AVA, Baboe-Kalpoe S, Hulshof K, de Melker HE, van der Klis FRM.

Vaccine 2020; 38(13):2816-2826.