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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Parents' intention to vaccinate their daughters against HPV in Greece: the use of COM-B model

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Background: The study used the COM-B model and the Theoretical Domain Framework to identify the main factors influencing Greek parents' intention to vaccinate their 11-18-year-old daughters against HPV.

Methods: A national cross-sectional study took place from September 2021 to March 2022 among a representative sample of parents/guardians. A probabilistic multi-stage group sampling technique was applied. 6329 students in 48 selected secondary schools received closed envelopes with the questionnaire they handed over to their parents/guardians. 3205 questionnaires were returned (50.6% response rate) referring to 4697 daughters. Descriptive statistics and binary logistic regression models were used to analyse the data.

Findings: 1358 parents had not vaccinated their single daughter or any of their daughters. 448 (33%) of them reported they did not intend to proceed to vaccination. In the first logistic regression model on Capability, TDF components of knowledge of HPV and the vaccine ($p < 0.0001$) and behavioral regulation ($p < 0.0001$) were significantly associated with parental intention. In the second model on Opportunity, the influence of experts TDF component ($p < 0.0001$) was associated with intention. Finally, in the third model, the TDF components referring to beliefs ($p < 0.0001$), emotions ($p < 0.0001$) and the reinforced actions of the state ($p < 0.0001$) significantly predicted parental intentions.

Discussion: The specific COM-B model's components seemed to contribute to parents' intention to vaccinate their daughters; thus, they could feed interventions to enhance HPV vaccination intentions so that Greece meets the WHO objective for 90% vaccination coverage of girls up to 15 years old.