

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Public Health Brief

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WHAT IS HPV?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a viral infection that can be transmitted through skin-to-skin intimate contact. HPV is one of the most common viruses and about 1 in 4 people in the United States, nearly 80 million, are currently living with HPV. There are many different types of HPV and some cause different forms of cancer, but there is a vaccine that can help stop the health problem before it starts.

Who should receive the HPV Vaccine*:

- **Children 11 or 12 years old**, before they have any sexual contact
- **Boys and men through age 21 and girls and women through age 26** should get catch-up vaccines if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger

The vaccine is also recommended for the following people if they did not get vaccinated when they were younger*:

- **Young men who have sex with men**, through age 26
- **Transgender persons** through age 26
- **People with certain immunocompromising conditions** (including HIV) through age 26

HPV Prevention

The Harford County Health Department (HCHD) is committed to stopping the spread of HPV, with the HCHD Clinical Services and Cancer Prevention teams providing the following services in Harford County:

HPV Vaccine: Children with Medical Assistance and those who are uninsured or underinsured can receive the HPV vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC). HCHD also participates with most private insurances to provide HPV vaccine for children and adults through age 26.

Pap Smears/Cervical Cancer Testing: On-site pap smears and cervical cancer screenings are offered as part of a routine gynecological exam to test for abnormal and precancerous cells within the cervix to help detect HPV. HCHD offers no-cost cervical cancer screenings for women over 40 years of age, without insurance or who need help paying copays and deductibles.

Colposcopy: Services are available for Family Planning clients who are uninsured or underinsured and need follow-up for abnormal Pap smear results. Family Planning clients are referred to private providers for follow-up abnormal Pap smear results.

Health Education: Education is given on cervical cancer and HPV to local organizations and individuals in our community.

US AND MD HPV DATA, 2011-2015*

# of HPV-associated cancers in the U.S.	42,700
# Women	24,400
# Men	18,300
% of cervical cancer caused by HPV in the U.S.	91%
HPV-Associated Cancer Rate, Maryland	10.71 of 100,000

SPOTLIGHT: HPV and Cancer

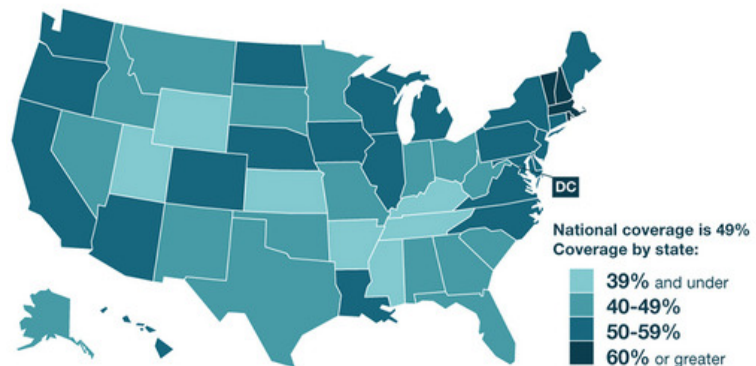
HPV is one of the most common viruses to contract, so common that most men and women who have ever had sexual contact will contract HPV at some time in their lives. There are HPV-attributable cancers that are most likely caused by HPV and are responsible for about 91% of cervical cancers, 75% of vaginal cancers, 69% of vulvar cancers, 63% of penile cancers, 91% of anal cancers, and 70% of oropharyngeal (throat) cancers.

Screening for cervical cancer in women to detect HPV in the cervix (pap smears) is currently available, but screening for other cancers caused by HPV do not exist yet. Therefore, it is very important to prevent cancer and infection with HPV vaccination. HPV vaccination is *the only vaccination* available that protects against cancer. *

Harford County Health Department Cancer Prevention: 410-612-1780
Family Planning Services: 410-612-1768
Immunizations: 410-612-1774

The map below represents the percentage of adolescents in the United States who are up-to-date on HPV vaccination. In Maryland, 52.9% of adolescents are up-to-date, which is higher than the national average of 49%.* Even though we are doing better than many other states on vaccination efforts, there is still a lot we can do to help prevent the spread of HPV and protect against cancer. Start by asking your provider today about getting the vaccine for yourself or your child.

Percentage of adolescents in the United States who are up-to-date on HPV vaccination



Source: MMWR August 24, 2018

www.cdc.gov/hpv



*Sources: National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/teenavxview/data-reports/hpv>
Maryland Department of Health 2017 Cancer Data Cigarette Restitution Fund Program
HPV- Associated Cancer Statistics <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/index.htm>