HPV & Cervical Cancer
Policy & Legislative
Presentation
Women In Government Foundation, Inc. is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization of women state legislators providing leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums, and educational resources.
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What are HPV and Cervical Cancer?

- **HPV:**
  - HPVs, or human papillomaviruses, are common viruses that can cause warts. There are over 150 types, or strains (small mutations of the same virus), of HPV and related viruses, many of which are harmless to humans.

- **Cervical Cancer:**
  - Cervical cancer is cancer that starts in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that opens at the top of the vagina.
  - Cervical cancer frequently starts as a precancerous condition which can be detected by a Pap smear and is 100 percent treatable.
How are HPV and Cervical Cancer Related?

- Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV.
- Roughly 40 types of HPV can be spread by skin to skin contact. Of these types, several are linked to cervical cancer or warts.
- HPV converts normal cells on the cervix into cancerous ones.
  - These cells can be detected by a Pap tests, or smears, and treated.
- Most women who are diagnosed with cervical cancer have not had regular Pap tests or have not followed up with abnormal Pap test results.
Important Statistics on HPV and Cervical Cancer

- In 2015:
  - An estimated 12,900 new cases of invasive cervical cancer are expected to be diagnosed.
  - Approximately 4,100 deaths from cervical cancer are expected.
  - Cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority populations, especially African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Alaskan Native populations.
  - African American women are twice as likely to die from cervical cancer as their white counterparts.
Important Statistics on HPV and Cervical Cancer

- Most recent estimates have determined that, in the United States, approximately 79 million people, or 25 percent of the population, are currently infected with HPV.

- There are an estimated 14 million new HPV infections diagnosed each year in persons between the ages of 14 and 44.
HPV’s Link to Other Cancers

HPV is also linked to cancer of the vagina and vulva in females, cancer of the penis in males, and cancer of the anus and oropharynx (head and neck) in both sexes.

### Incidence Counts and Rates of HPV-Associated Cancers by Sex and Site, 2006–2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Site</th>
<th>Average Number of Cases Per Year</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Cancer Caused by HPV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>11,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulva</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>3,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagina</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penis</td>
<td>1,048</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anus</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>2,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oropharynx (Head and Neck)</td>
<td>9,974</td>
<td>2,443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Can We Do? – Screening

- Pap test
  - Helps find abnormal cells on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately.

- HPV DNA test (also known as the HPV test)
  - Uses cells from the cervix to test for the virus that can cause abnormal cell changes on the cervix. The HPV DNA test may be used to screen for cervical cancer, with the Pap test (referred to as ‘co-testing’) in women aged 30 years or older. The HPV test may also provide more information when a Pap test has unclear results.
Who Should Get Screened and When?

- **Start screening:** Females aged 21
  - Pap test: Every three years
    - This differs for individuals who have had abnormal test results. If you have had abnormal Pap test results, check with your physician to determine screening schedule.
  - HPV DNA test: Not recommended for routine use until age 30, then recommended every 5 years with Pap test.

- Screening frequencies can differ depending on the individual needs of the patient. Be sure to ask your doctor for the appropriate screening schedule for you.
What Can We Do? - Vaccination

- Two FDA-licensed vaccines exist to protect against the most “high risk” types of HPV (6, 11, 16, 18).
  - HPV types 6 and 11 are responsible for 90 percent of genital warts cases.
  - HPV types 16 and 18 are responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancers.

- Types of vaccines:
  - Gardasil®
    - Protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18
  - Gardasil-9®
    - Protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58
  - Cervarix®
    - Protects against HPV types 16 and 18.
Who Should Be Vaccinated?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommend that both males and females ages nine through 26 receive the three-shot series.
Where Can I Get Vaccinated?

- The HPV vaccine must be given by a licensed clinician.
- Most commonly, individuals are vaccinated in a clinic-setting, but vaccinations may also be available through the local health department or additional offices of public health.
- Many major insurance companies cover the HPV vaccine.
- The HPV vaccine is covered under Medicare Part D and most state Medicaid programs cover the vaccine.
What Can We Do?
Awareness & Outreach

- Support policies and programs that promote education, awareness, screening, and vaccination.
- Ask the state to dedicate funds to support screening services for low-income women.
- Attend a town hall meeting and bring a friend.
- Visit a health fair.
- Identify wellness and prevention programs within your community and share this information with other women.
- Participate in any local or national cervical cancer awareness campaigns.
WIG HPV & Cervical Cancer Awareness & Education Toolkit

- [http://womeningovernment.org/](http://womeningovernment.org/)

- Provide materials to enhance public awareness and a springboard for legislator action
  - Sample legislation
  - FAQ
  - Sample constituent letter
  - And more!