



HPV Vaccination Facts

"Hecel Oyate Kin Nipi Kte"- "So That the People May Live"

HPV and Cancer

HPV Vaccination Fact Sheet

HPV by the Numbers

14 million

Each year 14 million individuals will be infected with some form of HPV¹

40%

Less than 40% of women and girls are vaccinated against HPV²

31,500

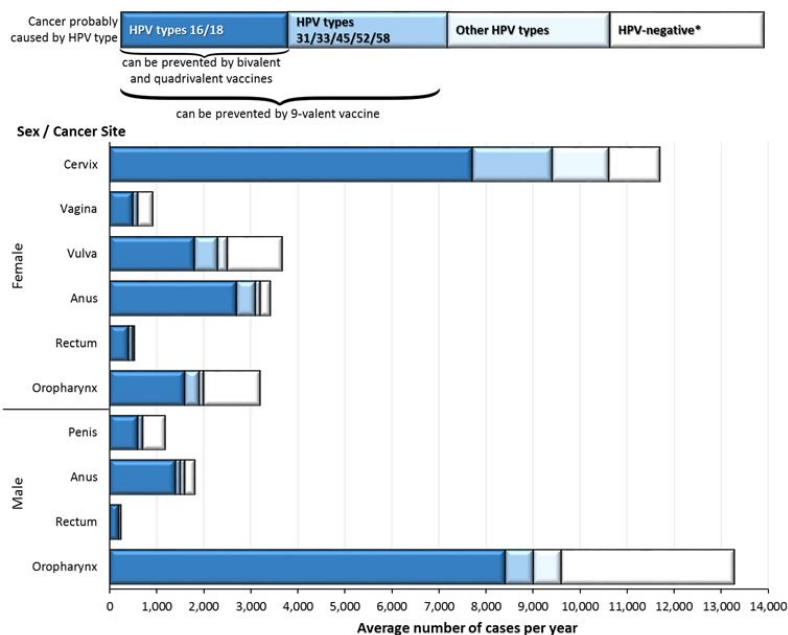
Number of cancer cases caused by HPV each year¹

46%

Percent of Great Plains 13-17 year olds protected from developing HPV related cancer during their lifetime¹

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HPV is the short hand name for the Human Papillomavirus (*pap-loh-mah virus*). This virus is very common.¹ Almost 80% of individuals will come into contact with the virus in their lifetime.² HPV is spread by sexual activity or contact between regions of the body linked with sexual activity. Typically an HPV infection clears up on its own and does not present any physical symptoms.³ In some cases HPV can cause genital warts or even cancer. There are 7 different cancers that are related to HPV. These cancers affect parts of the human body that are linked with sexual contact. Cancers that are most often related to HPV include cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal, rectal, penile, and



head and mouth cancers.³ According to Dr. Hunter Handsfield, "people should look at HPV as a natural and expected component of human sexuality."²

If we look at HPV as a guarantee, future health can look pretty frightening. Luckily, there are ways to prevent HPV-related cancers and infections. Getting the HPV vaccine at 11 or 12 years old reduces HPV-related cancer risk greatly.³ This means you are in control of your child's HPV-related cancer risk. What you decide now about this vaccine could save your child's life in the future, as well as secure them a life with limited risk of developing HPV-related cancers.

Why Vaccinate Now?

- At 11 and 12 a child's immune response is better; at this age your child will have time to develop a full immune response before ever coming into contact with the virus.¹
- If parents decide to begin the vaccine series before their child's 15th birthday, they will only need two doses. HPV vaccines started after the 15th birthday require three doses for completion.³
- Your child can receive this vaccination when they go in for other planned vaccines, like the TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) and meningitis vaccines.³
- This vaccination can prevent nearly 92% of newly diagnosed HPV attributable cancers per year.¹
- Early vaccination puts you and your child in control of their future health.

Your Child's Future

Due to the role of HPV in the development of cervical cancer, not vaccinating may result in a loss of fertility. This is because the treatment for cervical cancer can cause a loss of the ability to have children in women. When deciding whether or not to have their child vaccinated many parents are concerned about infertility. There is no evidence that vaccines cause infertility in men or women. The overall risk of the HPV vaccine is similar to other common vaccines given to children. Most individuals experience no or extremely mild side effects, for example soreness or redness from the shot. These side effects pale in comparison to the pain, trauma, financial burden, and heartache that an individual and their family may face when a loved one is diagnosed with cancer.⁴



Getting Vaccinated

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program offers vaccines at no cost for eligible children through doctors enrolled in the program. Vaccinating on time means healthier children, families and communities.

Children under 19 years of age that meet one of the following requirements: Medicaid-eligible, Uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native are eligible for the VCF program.

Visit this web page to find out if your child qualifies

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/contacts-state.html>

