What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of over 200 related viruses. HPVs are very common - nearly everyone will be infected in their lifetime. HPV infection is transmitted by intimate skin-to-skin contact. The infection usually clears the body without any symptoms or health problems. However, persistent infection with certain high-risk HPVs can lead to cancer. HPV is a known cause of seven cancers: cervical, throat, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal, and rectal.

HPV Vaccination is Cancer Prevention

HPV vaccines prevent infection with the most common types of HPV, including high-risk HPVs that cause cancer. HPV vaccination is recommended for preteen girls and boys at age 11 or 12 years. Teens and young adults who did not start or finish the vaccination series also need HPV vaccination.

Call to Action

Over 80% of all HPV-associated cancers can be prevented by vaccinating all pre-teens and teens. Help prevent new HPV-associated cancers by:

Clinicians

- Stay up to date with HPV and HPV prevention
- Make a strong recommendation for HPV vaccination
- Make HPV vaccines a routine part of the immunization visit and focus on ways to reduce missed opportunities during a patient visit
- Inform office staff to ensure consistent messaging in the practice

Health Educators

- Stay up to date with HPV and HPV prevention
- Collaborate with local stakeholders to promote HPV vaccination
- Use consistent and clear messages to inform the community about HPV vaccination
Mouth and Throat Cancer

- Mouth and throat cancer is more common in men. In Maryland, rates were highest among white men for 2011-2015, increasing 50% since 2001-2005.
- Over the past decade, rates increased among white women by 46%.

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<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
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Source: Maryland Cancer Registry

Cervical Cancer

- New cases of cervical cancer are declining, but disparities remain.
- For 2011-2015, cervical cancer rates were higher among black women compared to white women.

See https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/cancer/Pages/HPV.aspx for more information on HPV-associated cancers and HPV vaccination efforts in Maryland

1 www.cdc.gov/hpv/
3 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4838063/

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