

HPV VACCINE: WHY IOWANS NEED THIS CANCER PREVENTION VACCINE

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

HPV-related cancer incidence is high in Iowa, and impacts both men and women. We have a safe, effective vaccine that can prevent 90% of the 6 cancers caused by HPV including: cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal, penile, and throat cancer.

NEW IOWA HPV-RELATED DISEASE RANKING

Newly released cancer data show that: **Iowa ranks #2** in the country in oral cavity and pharynx cancer, which can be HPV-related. It is estimated that 70% of oralpharyngeal cancers (a type of throat cancer) are caused by the HPV virus.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- HPV affects everyone- both men and women.
- About **80%** of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.
- Every year, HPV infects **13 million people**

VACCINES ARE SAFE!

- There is over **10 years** of HPV vaccine safety data!
- 109 studies of 2.5 million people in 6 countries have shown **NO** serious side effects.

VACCINES WORK!

The HPV vaccine works extremely well. Since HPV vaccination was introduced in the U.S. in **2006**, among vaccinated women, the percentage of cervical precancers caused by the HPV strains most often linked to cervical cancer has dropped over 80%.

IOWA'S HPV VACCINE COMPLETION RATES ARE NOT WHERE WE WANT THEM TO BE:

- In 2024, 45.2% of eligible Iowa adolescents completed their HPV series
- The Healthy People 2030 goal is 80% completion

Sources: CDC, Iowa HHS, WHO, NIH



CALL TO ACTION:

- Promote vaccinations to constituents and friends/family in social media posts, newsletters, and town hall meetings.
- Support pro-immunization legislation.
- Vote against bills that would weaken Iowa's immunization laws, increase vaccine hesitancy, or decrease access to vaccines.