



April 2025

Dear Ohio Health Providers,

Each year, the human papillomavirus (HPV) is estimated to cause 36,000 new cancer cases across the U.S.<sup>1</sup> According to the recent report, "Cancers Associated with Human Papillomavirus in Ohio," an average of 1,958 HPV-associated cancer cases were diagnosed annually between 2016–2020 in Ohio.<sup>2</sup>

### Key Statistics from the Ohio HPV Report

- **Increase in HPV-associated cancers:** The incidence rate increased by 63% among males and 8% among females from 1996 to 2020.
- **Regional impact:** Most counties with Ohio's highest HPV-associated cancer rates are in the Appalachian region.
- **Gender differences:**
  - The overall incidence rate of HPV-associated cancers was 24% higher in females than in males.
  - HPV-associated anal cancer incidence in females was double that of males.
  - Oropharyngeal cancer incidence was more than five times higher in males than females.
- **Racial disparities:**
  - The incidence rate was 30% higher among white Ohioans compared to Black Ohioans, and nearly four times higher than Asian/Pacific Islander Ohioans.
  - White Ohioans had higher incidence rates of oropharyngeal and vulvar cancers, while rates among Asian/Pacific Islander Ohioans were notably lower across all HPV-associated cancers.<sup>2</sup>

### HPV Vaccination: A Critical Opportunity for Prevention

Despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine that prevents six HPV-associated cancers, many individuals remain unvaccinated. The American Cancer Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that boys and girls get the HPV vaccine between the ages 9 and 12.

In Ohio, approximately 62% of boys and 65% of girls 13-17 years of age were fully vaccinated in 2023 against HPV-associated cancers.<sup>3</sup> Nationally, approximately 27% for men and 54% for women between the ages 18-26 years are vaccinated.<sup>4</sup>

The national goal is to reach an 80% vaccination coverage rate. HPV vaccines can significantly reduce disparities in HPV-associated diseases and cervical cancers, yet trends show low uptake among adolescents, especially among Hispanic, rural, uninsured, and low-income populations.<sup>5,6</sup>

### Call to Action: Steps for Providers

To increase HPV vaccination rates and help eradicate HPV-associated cancers, we ask you to take the following steps:

1. **Make a strong recommendation** for HPV vaccines for all eligible patients aged 9–45 years.
  - By starting vaccination at age 9 increases vaccine completion by 22 times.<sup>6</sup>
2. **Set electronic health records and pharmacy notifications** to remind patients to get vaccinated.
3. **Review medical records of patients ages 9-14** who have not completed their two series and proactively call parents/guardians to encourage vaccination.
4. **Review medical records of patients aged 15-45** who have not completed their two- or three- dose series and proactively call patients or parents/guardians (whichever is most appropriate) to encourage vaccination.

5. For adults aged 26 years through 45 years, **engage in shared decision making** to help determine the benefits of vaccination.
6. **Encourage same-day vaccination** in your facility.
7. **Engage dental providers to:**
  - Ask patients about their HPV vaccine status during dental health history reviews.
  - Discuss the link between HPV and oropharyngeal cancer and refer patients to a vaccine provider if needed.
8. **Collaborate with local healthcare providers** (e.g., pharmacies, health departments) to facilitate vaccination.
9. **Identify an immunization champion** at your facility to oversee these efforts.
10. **Implement standing orders** for vaccination, available through the [Vaccine Standing Orders for Healthcare Providers](#).

### Medical Coverage for the HPV Vaccine

- The Ohio Department of Health, through the Vaccines for Children Program, provides free HPV vaccines for eligible children. This includes children ages 18 years or younger who meet at least one of the following requirements: uninsured children, American Indian or Alaska Native children, or Medicaid-eligible children.
- The HPV vaccine is covered by insurance up to age 26. For those aged 26–45, over 95% of insurances provide coverage under shared decision-making, which can be documented with an e-prescription.

Your commitment to improving the health of Ohioans and your dedication to increasing HPV vaccination rates are appreciated. Please review the resources and links provided to further support your efforts in preventing HPV-associated cancers in Ohio.

For more information, please visit the *Ohio Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan's 2021-2030*, [Objectives #20-22](#) on pages 33-35.

Thank you for your continued partnership in this crucial public health initiative.

Sincerely,

Ohio Partners for Cancer Control  
Vaccine for Cancer Prevention/HPV-Associated Cancers Workgroup

<sup>1</sup> National Cancer Institute. HPV and Cancer. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-and-cancer>

<sup>2</sup> *Cancers Associated with Human Papillomavirus in Ohio*. Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System, Ohio Department of Health and The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, August 2023. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-cancer-incidence-surveillance-system/resources/cancers-associated-with-hpv-2023>

<sup>3</sup> McElfish PA, Narcisse MR, Felix HC, Cascante DC, Nagarsheth N, Teeter B, Faramawi MF. Race, Nativity, and Sex Disparities in Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among Young Adults in the USA. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities*. 2021 Oct;8(5):1260-1266. doi: 10.1007/s40615-020-00886-5. Epub 2020 Oct 8. PMID: 33033889; PMCID: PMC9753349.

<sup>4</sup> Jeudin P, Liveright E, Del Carmen MG, Perkins RB. Race, ethnicity, and income factors impacting human papillomavirus vaccination rates. *Clin Ther*. 2014 Jan 1;36(1):24-37. doi: 10.1016/j.clinthera.2013.11.001. PMID: 24417783.

<sup>5</sup> O'Leary ST. Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9. *Hum Vaccine Immunotherapy*. 2022 Nov 30;18(6):2146434. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2022.2146434. Epub 2022 Nov 20. PMID: 36404635; PMCID: PMC9746363.

<sup>6</sup> Pingali C, Yankey D, Elam-Evans LD, et al. National Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13-18 Years – National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2021, *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:1101-1108. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7135a1>

## Resources

### Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

- Ohio AAP webpage featuring HPV Quality Improvement (QI) and additional resources <https://ohioaap.org/qi-programs-moc-iv/hpv-qi-project>.
- HPV Best Practices in Your Clinic! Podcast from Ohio AAP includes best practices to increase HPV immunization rates [Let's Chat-HPV Best Practices in Your Clinic!](#)

### American Academy of Pediatrics

- AAP webpage featuring HPV toolkit and resources <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/human-papillomavirus-hpv>.
- AAP webpage featuring HPV vaccination patient care resources <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations/human-papillomavirus-vaccines/>.
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- Full article: [Why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends initiating HPV vaccine at age 9.](#)

### National HPV Roundtable

- Resource Library <https://hpvroundtable.org/resource-library/>.
- Start at Age 9 Toolkit [https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FINAL\\_NW-Summit-Clinic-Toolkit-Print-On-Demand-Kits.pdf](https://hpvroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FINAL_NW-Summit-Clinic-Toolkit-Print-On-Demand-Kits.pdf).

### Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- HPV Vaccine dosage and schedule <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/hcp/administration.html#dosage>.
- [Five Ways to Boost Vaccination Rates | HPV | CDC](#).
- [Top 10 Tips for HPV Vaccination Success](#).
- [Talking to Parents About Infant Vaccines and HPV Vaccines-July 2019](#).

### Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

- [Breast & Cervical Cancer CME Series – Ohio Academy of Family Physicians \(ohioafp.org\)](#).
- HPV Webinar CME Series - <https://www.ohioafp.org/education/hpv-webinar-series/>.

### American Dental Association

- American Dental Association On-Demand Webinar: [Preventing HPV Cancers in Action Part 1: The Critical Role of the Dentist](#).