

# Preventing cancer with the HPV vaccine

## HPV causes six types of cancer.

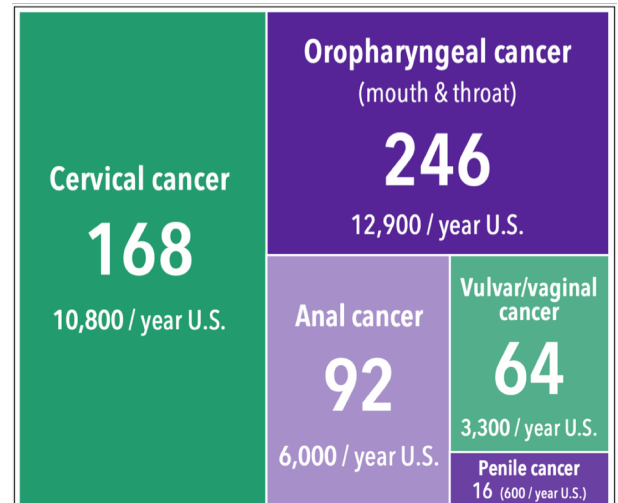
Almost 600 Wisconsinites are diagnosed with HPV-attributable cancers each year.

**That's a dozen new cancer cases in Wisconsin every week.**

Across the United States, HPV caused **32,500 new cancer diagnoses** in 2017.

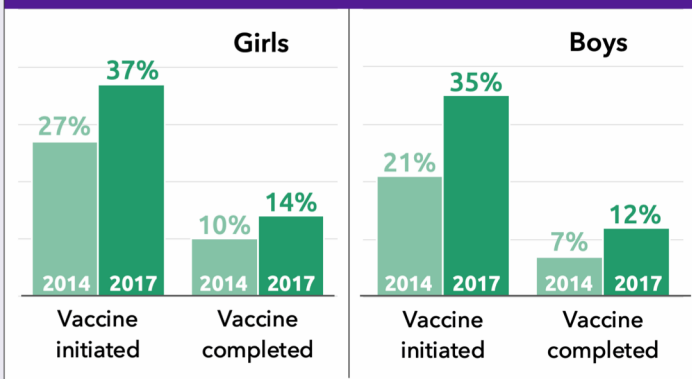
The HPV vaccine can **prevent** these cancers.

## HPV-caused cancers in Wisconsin per year

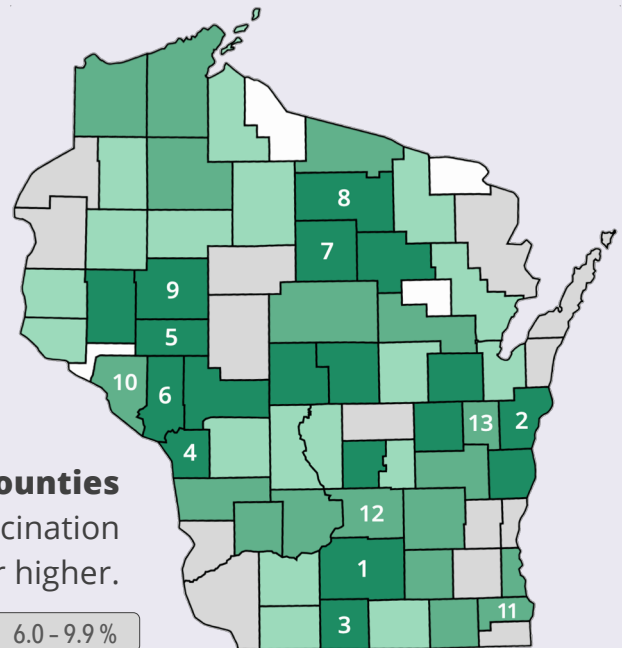


Annual averages from 2011-2015

## Vast majority of 11-12 year old Wisconsin children are going unvaccinated against HPV



Though Wisconsin's HPV vaccination rates are slowly improving, we are falling dramatically short of the state's goal of **80% vaccination completion by 2020.**



**Only 13 of Wisconsin's 72 counties** have an 11- 12 year old vaccination completion rate of 15 percent or higher.

15.3 - 21.9%

12.0 - 14.8%

10.2 - 11.9%

6.0 - 9.9%

## Recommendations

The CDC recommends girls and boys be vaccinated for HPV at **ages 11 or 12** to protect against cancers caused by the virus.

If initiated at age 11 or 12, **two vaccine doses** are recommended, 6-12 months apart.

If initiated at age 15 or older, **three vaccine doses** are recommended.

## Why it's so important

The HPV vaccine is **cancer prevention**.

Although cervical cancer is the most well-known link to HPV, the virus also causes approximately **20,000 non-cervical cancers every year** in the U.S., including throat, anal, vaginal, and penile cancers.

Of the HPV-attributable cancers, **only cervical cancer is routinely screened for**. Therefore, preventing infections that can lead to other cancers is a priority.

## 7 things you can do to help prevent HPV cancers

- 1 Avoid missed opportunities** by strongly recommending the HPV vaccine to parents of 11-12 year olds on the same day and in the same way that you recommend Tdap and meningococcal, since research shows **a strong doctor's recommendation is the #1 reason parents opt to vaccinate**.
- 2** Talk about the HPV vaccination in terms of **cancer prevention**, educating all clinic staff to frame the vaccine this way.
- 3** Track and measure HPV vaccination rates among your patients, with **a goal of 80 percent vaccinated by age 13**.
- 4** Develop and follow a protocol to check immunization status at **every patient visit**.
- 5** Implement a vaccination **reminder system**.
- 6** Engage with public health departments, schools, colleges, pharmacies, policymakers, and other partners to **identify innovative ways to collaboratively boost vaccination rates**.
- 7** Support policies that increase access to the HPV vaccine and educate families about the importance of being vaccinated.



Comprehensive  
Cancer Control  
Program

Cancer Council

### Sources:

"How Many Cancers Are Linked with HPV Each Year?" - <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm>  
Wisconsin Cancer Registry System  
Wisconsin Immunization Registry  
"HPV Vaccine Information for Clinicians" - <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/need-to-know.pdf>

**Additional and more-detailed statewide and county data can be found at [www.wicancer.org](http://www.wicancer.org).**