



What Women Should Know About Cervical Cancer

What is Cervical Cancer?

Cervical cancer starts in the lower part of the uterus (the cervix). It's most often caused by a virus called HPV (Human Papillomavirus). The good news? Cervical cancer is one of the easiest cancers to prevent with routine screening and vaccination.

What All Women Should Know

Even though we have the tools to prevent and treat cervical cancer, not all women are getting the care they deserve – and this can lead to serious consequences.

- Black and Native American women are about 65% more likely to die from cervical cancer than White women.
- The chance of surviving cervical cancer is about 67% overall, but drops to 57% for Black women and 47% for women over the age of 65.
- Many women – especially in certain communities – aren't getting regular screenings or the HPV vaccine.

The HPV Vaccine: Powerful Prevention

Every year in the United States, HPV causes about 36,000 cases of cancer in both men and women. The HPV vaccine is the only vaccine that prevents cancer – and it works!

Recommendations:

Age 9: Since HPV vaccines can be given starting as early as 9 years old, ask your pediatrician when your child should be vaccinated.

Ages 11-12 years old: All girls and boys should be vaccinated.

Through age 26: Any teens and young adults who have not previously been vaccinated.

Ages 27-45: If you have not been vaccinated, ask your doctor about your risk for HPV infection and whether you should be.

Be Empowered!

- **Women** – Take charge of your health! Get screened and vaccinated as recommended. If diagnosed, speak up – ask about all treatment options and whether clinical trials are available.
- **Caregivers** – Advocate for your loved ones' health! Remind them to get the recommended vaccinations and screenings to help prevent cervical cancer. Encourage open conversations with your loved ones' healthcare providers.
- **Communities** – Support one another! Join initiatives and push for policies that make it easier for people to receive better healthcare, including HPV screening and vaccinations. This is even more important in communities that are often overlooked!

Every woman deserves the chance to prevent cervical cancer. Let's make sure no one is left behind.



To learn more, go to
hoparx.org/clinical-trials