

# HPV Vaccination Is Cancer Prevention



September 1, 2025

**Dear West Virginia Healthcare Providers,**

**We need your help.** West Virginia (WV) has the highest rate of Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers in the nation. In WV, the rates of both cervical cancer in females and oropharyngeal and other head and neck cancers in males exceed U.S. rates. WV's current up-to-date HPV vaccination rate is 49.8% among adolescents aged 13-17 which is significantly lower than the vaccination rates for MenACWY (91.8%) and Tdap (90.7%).

HPV vaccination is a valuable tool for protecting West Virginians against cancer. The HPV vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing these cancers. It offers crucial protection, especially if the series is completed by age 13 before a child's first HPV exposure. The HPV vaccine is shown to have almost 100% efficacy in HPV cancer prevention.

**What can you do to help?**

**Recommend starting the HPV vaccination series at ages 9-12**

- Consistent with American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics, and National HPV Roundtable recommendation

**Provide a strong recommendation for the HPV vaccination**

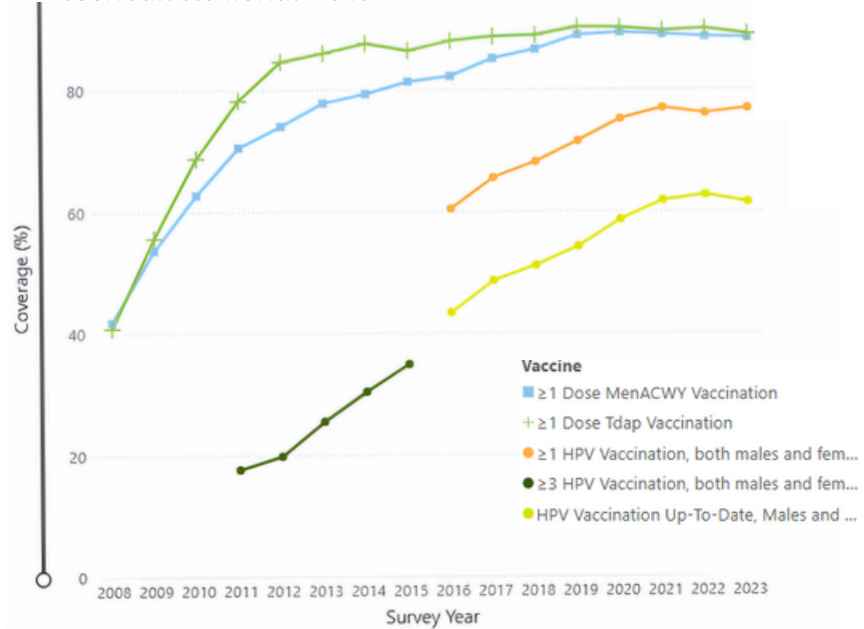
- Providers are highly influential in parental decision making
- Your recommendation carries immense weight with patients

## Why Start at Ages 9-12?

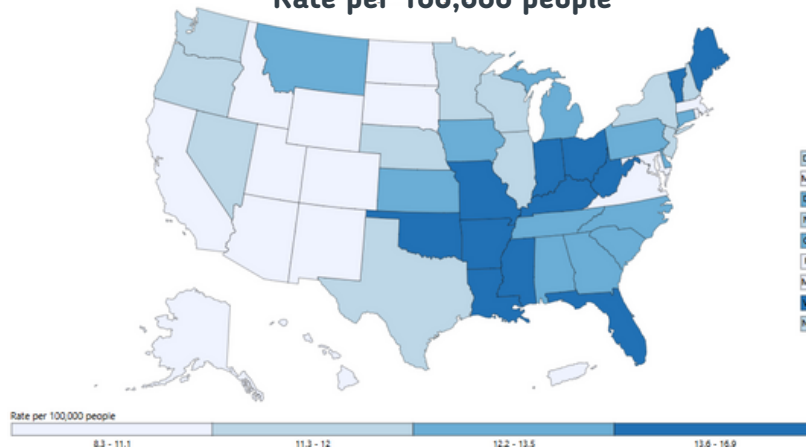
Maximizes protection with a stronger immune response

Allows more time to complete series by age 13

TeenVax National Data



All HPV-associated Cancer, Male and Female, US, 2022  
Rate per 100,000 people



Provides protection before a child's first HPV exposure

Reduces number of shots given from three to two

By working together and prioritizing HPV vaccination, we can create a better future for our youth and reduce the burden of cancer in the mountain state.

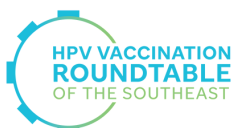
Thank you for your dedication to the health of West Virginians!



HPV Cancer Prevention Program



West Virginia Immunization Network  
A PROGRAM OF The Center for Rural Health Development



West Virginia DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

