

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

What is HPV?

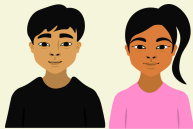
The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common and contagious virus that can cause genital warts and growths on the skin. **HPV can cause serious complications, including cancer.**

What Do I Need to Know?

Almost 42 million people in the United States have HPV. **Nearly 4 out of 5 people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.** Due to how common HPV is, it is difficult to prevent it without getting vaccinated. **The best way to prevent HPV is vaccination.** The Gardasil 9 series can be started as early as 9 years old and can prevent up to **90%** of HPV-related cancers from ever developing.



HPV is the #1 cause of cervical cancer in females & throat cancer in males.



Most people are not aware they have HPV and **may have no symptoms but they can still spread the virus.**

Signs & Symptoms

- Cauliflower like warts or flesh-colored lesions on the genitals.
- Itching or discomfort in genital area.



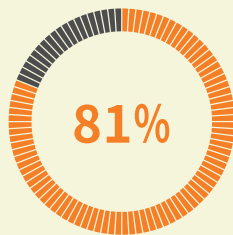
Prevention



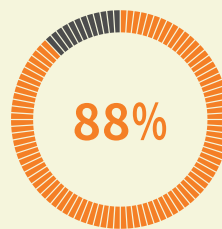
- Getting vaccinated as early as 9 years old, or catch up if over 15 years old.
- Getting regular physical exams.
- Leading an abstinent lifestyle.

HPV infections, genital warts, and cervical pre-cancers (abnormal cells on the cervix that can lead to cancer) have dropped since the vaccine has been in use in the United States.

Infections with HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped by:



81% among young adult women



88% among teen girls



**CONNECT WITH A COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**CALL: 1 (866) 358-2966 OPTION 5
EMAIL: PHS-IZPHN.HHSA@SDCOUNTY.CA.GOV**

