

Cervical cancer is preventable

 **4,000**

More than 4,000 women die of cervical cancer each year.

93% 

As many as 93% of cervical cancers could be prevented by screening and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination.

 **8 Million**

In 2012, 8 million US women ages 21 to 65 reported they had not been screened for cervical cancer in the last 5 years.

More than 12,000 women get cervical cancer every year. Up to 93% of cervical cancers are preventable. Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination helps prevent infection with the HPV types that cause most cervical cancers. The Papanicolaou (Pap) test screens for abnormal cells that may develop into cancer and the HPV test screens for the HPV virus that causes these cell changes. Even though screening works, 10% of women in the US in 2012 reported they had not been screened in the last 5 years. Every visit to doctors and nurses is an opportunity to discuss cervical cancer prevention. No woman should die of cervical cancer.

Doctors, nurses, and health systems can:

- ◇ Help women understand what screening tests are best for them and when they should get screened.
- ◇ Screen or refer all women as recommended at any visit.
- ◇ Make sure patients get their screening results and the right follow-up care quickly.
- ◇ Use reminder-recall systems to help doctors, nurses, and patients remember when screening and HPV vaccination are due.
- ◇ Strongly recommend that preteens and teens get vaccinated against HPV.

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Want to learn more? Visit

www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns

Problem

Too many women have not been screened.

To prevent more deaths, screening efforts must continue.

- ◇ Widespread use of the Pap test led to dramatic declines in deaths from cervical cancer. Deaths from cervical cancer did not continue to decrease in the US from 2007 to 2011.
- ◇ The percentage of women screened decreased slightly from 2008 to 2010.

The HPV vaccine can reduce risk of cervical cancer.

- ◇ HPV causes most cervical cancers.
- ◇ Only 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys had received the recommended 3 doses of the HPV vaccine in 2013.

- ◇ Adolescents are not getting HPV vaccination as often as other recommended vaccines, even though it is safe and effective.

Almost there: fewer missed opportunities can help get women ages 21 to 65 screened.

- ◇ More than 50% of all new cervical cancers are in women who have never been screened or have not been screened in the previous 5 years of their lives.
- ◇ About 7 in 10 women who have not been screened in the last 5 years have a regular doctor and had health insurance.

Missed opportunities for cervical cancer screening

In 2012, **8 million women** were not screened in the last **5 years**.



7 out of 10 women who were not screened had a regular doctor and health insurance.

SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2012.

How HPV infection can lead to cervical cancer

It could take years to decades

Normal cervical cells

HPV infection
(Most infections do not turn into precancers)

Precancers
(May still go back to normal)

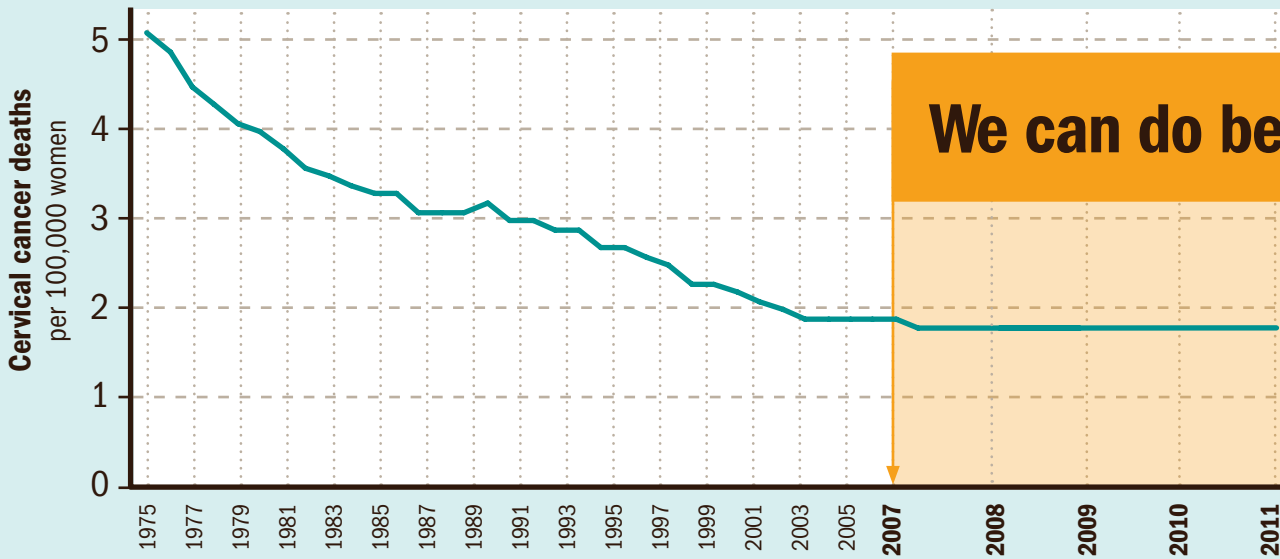
Cervical cancer

Vaccination opportunity
11-12 years old

Screening opportunities
21-65 years old

No woman should die of cervical cancer

Screening leads to fewer deaths



SOURCE: National Cancer Institute, 2014

Current vaccination and screening recommendations

Use HPV Vaccination



Vaccinate both girls and boys ages 11 to 12 against HPV

- Girls and boys have the best protection when they receive all doses as recommended before they are exposed to HPV.
- Girls ages 13-26 and boys ages 13-21 should get the vaccine if they have not received it already.

Screen Women for Cervical Cancer



Use Pap tests every 3 years for women ages 21-29

- Doctors or nurses collect cells for the Pap test during an exam.
- The Pap test can find abnormal cells that may develop into cancer, if left untreated.

Choose 1 of 2 options for women ages 30-65

Doctor and patient decide together which screening approach is preferred:

- 1) Pap test every 3 years, or;
- 2) Pap test plus HPV test every 5 years. The HPV test can find the HPV virus by testing cells collected at the same time as a Pap test.



- Women should get screened as recommended. More frequent screening does not provide more protection.
- Some women may need a different screening schedule because of their health history.
- Women over age 65 should ask their doctor if they need to continue screening.
- Women should talk with their doctors and nurses to understand their screening results.
- Women who had the HPV vaccine should still start getting screened when they reach age 21.

What Can Be Done



Federal government is

- ◇ Through the Affordable Care Act:
 - Ensuring that most health plans cover cervical cancer screening as recommended at no additional cost to the patient.
 - Ensuring that most health plans cover HPV vaccination as recommended for males and females at no additional cost to the patient.
 - Helping people sign up for insurance coverage offered in the Health Insurance Marketplace.
 - Investing in community health centers to expand women's access to health care services.

◇ Increasing access to immunizations through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html

◇ Supporting federal programs that increase cervical cancer screening rates.
www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/
www.hhs.gov/opa/title-x-family-planning/



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www.cdc.gov/vaccines/youarethekey



Women can

- ◇ Learn about screening options and get the test that is right for them and follow-up on any abnormal results.
- ◇ Encourage other women to be screened for cervical cancer.
- ◇ Contact their local health department to learn how they can get screened for cervical cancer.
apps.nccd.cdc.gov/dcpc_programs/
- ◇ Use every health care visit to ask if it's time to get screened.
- ◇ Get their sons and daughters vaccinated against HPV as recommended.
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens

State and local public health can



- ◇ Encourage women to get screened by working with state Medicaid programs, community health centers, and community-based groups.
- ◇ Help women get screened, get medical appointments, and get treated as needed.
- ◇ Promote reminder-recall systems for screening and HPV vaccination.
- ◇ Promote recommended screening options and HPV vaccines to the public.

www

www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/cervical-cancer

www

www.cdc.gov/mmwr

For more information, please contact

Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348

Web: www.cdc.gov

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