

HPV-HIV Key Points

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 80 percent of all people who are sexually active will be infected with human papillomavirus (HPV) at least once in their lifetime. HPV infection can lead to cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, and anal cancers, and cancer of the back of the throat. Certain types of HPV can cause genital warts.
2. Current HPV statistics show that 79 million people in the United States are infected with HPV. About 14 million people are newly infected with HPV each year. Each year about 20,700 women and 14,100 men develop cancers caused by HPV.
3. The HPV vaccine can be given starting at age nine. Catch-up vaccination is recommended through age 26. Adults age 27 through 45 may choose to get the HPV vaccine after talking with their health care provider. HPV vaccine is not recommended during pregnancy, but can be given after birth and while breast/chest feeding.
4. People with weakened immune systems and those who are Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-positive should get HPV vaccine through age 26, if they were not fully vaccinated when they were younger.
5. If the HPV vaccine series is started before the 15th birthday, the series can be completed with two doses. The second dose is given 6 to 12 months after the first dose. *HPV vaccine produces a better immune response in preteens than in older teens or adults.* If vaccination is started at age 15 or older, the three-dose series is given at 0, 1-2, and 6 months. The three-dose series should be given to those who are immunocompromised or HIV-positive regardless of age.
6. The HPV vaccine provides strong protection against new HPV infections, but it does not treat established HPV infections or disease caused by HPV. For those infected with one type of HPV, getting the HPV vaccine may prevent infection with other types, especially high-risk types that cause cancer.
7. HPV vaccination has not been associated with initiation of sexual activity or an increase in sexual risk behaviors.
8. There is no way to know which people who have an HPV infection will develop cancer or other health problems. People with weak immune systems and people who are HIV-positive may be less able to fight off an HPV infection, and are more likely to develop health problems from it.
9. Having a sexually transmitted infection (STI), like HPV, can increase a person's chances of getting HIV, and vice versa.
10. When compared with HIV-negative cis-gender women, HIV-positive cis-gender women are more likely to have persistent HPV infection and are five times more likely to develop cervical cancer. They are also more likely to develop another cancer.
11. An estimated 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the United States. Of those, about 14 percent, or 1 in 7, did not know they had HIV. Overall, an American has a 1 in 99 chance of being diagnosed with HIV at some point in their life. In Washington state, lifetime risk of HIV diagnosis is 1 in 185.
12. Settings that provide STI or sexual health services should either administer the HPV vaccine to eligible patients who have not started or completed the vaccine series, or refer them to another facility equipped to provide the vaccine. They should also administer or provide referral for other immunizations to support someone's sexual health (mpox vaccine, hepatitis A and B vaccine, meningococcal vaccine etc.)