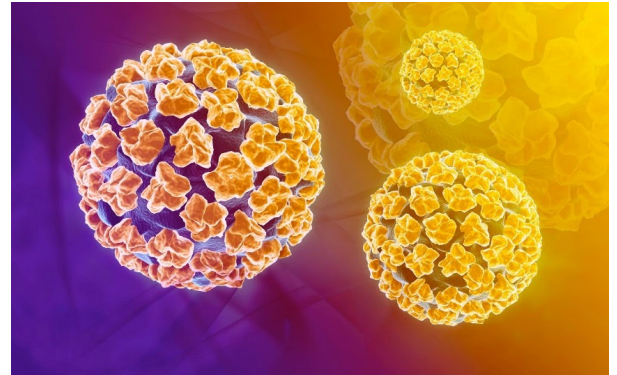


## Safe and Sound: The HPV Vaccine

The HPV vaccine is the most effective form of prevention against HPV-associated cancers and illnesses, and is highly effective in preventing most serious types of HPV. There are many misconceptions surrounding HPV transmission and the HPV vaccine, and it is important to know that the HPV vaccine can be safely administered to teen children starting between ages 9-12.

### HPV affects both **men** and **women**.

- Most common sexually transmitted virus in the U.S.
- **80% of people** will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.
- Spread through vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- Mostly undetectable and asymptomatic.
- Can often disappear on its own in healthy people, but if not resolved can cause serious health problems like warts and cancer.



Cancer	Cases in Women	Cases in Men
Back of the Throat	2,200	11,800
Cervical	11,000	0
Anus	4,400	2,100
Vulva	2,800	0
Penis	0	800
Vagina	700	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,100</b>	<b>14,700</b>

Rates of HPV-Associated Cancers in U.S. per Year  
Source: CDC  
Data as of August 2020

### HPV causes **6 types of cancer**.

- Most common HPV-associated cancer is oropharyngeal cancers (mouth and throat).
- HPV is believed to cause about 70% of all oropharyngeal cancers.
- Cervical cancer rates have decreased over the past ten years, but **rates of oral cancers** have dramatically increased.
- Highly preventable with screenings and administration of the Gardasil® vaccine.

## Common HPV Vaccine Myths

**DEBUNKED**

**Myth:** The HPV vaccine has many harmful side effects.

**The Truth:** Studies show the HPV vaccine to be incredibly safe with minor side effects.

**Myth:** A referral from a physician is required to receive the HPV vaccine.

**The Truth:** Many health professionals can administer the HPV vaccine, including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, midwives, pharmacists and dentists.

**Myth:** Teens will be more likely to engage in sexual activity if they have the HPV vaccine.

**The Truth:** Experts have confirmed that HPV vaccine does not promote sexual activity in teens.

**Myth:** Boys do not need the HPV vaccine since they are not at risk for cervical cancer.

**The Truth:** Although cervical cancer is only a concern for women, men can still get oral cancer which is the most prevalent HPV-associated cancer.

Sources:

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