



# A Health Provider Call to Change

## What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that affects both men and women. In fact, HPV is so common that most adults become infected at some point in their lives. Transmission of HPV most commonly occurs through sexual contact, but also occurs non-sexually. Both boys and girls are affected by HPV and are at risk for cancers and other diseases caused by HPV. Fortunately, the HPV vaccine is available for both boys and girls and can prevent our children from experiencing the burden of HPV infection and cancer. In 2010, the American Academy of Obstetrics and Gynecology estimated the economic impact related to HPV disease in the U.S. to be \$8 billion annually (Chesson, H.W. et al., Vaccine 30 (2012): 6016-019. Elsevier. 4 Aug. 2012. Web. 20 Apr. 2016).

### Most common HPV related cancers

#### CERVICAL Cancer

KANSAS

**118** annual cases

**27** women die annually (2021)

INCIDENCE\* rate in Kansas (2017-2021)

**8.2/100,000** women

\*Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.  
Source: <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/DataViz.html>

MORTALITY\* rate in Kansas (2018-2022)

**2.5/100,000** women

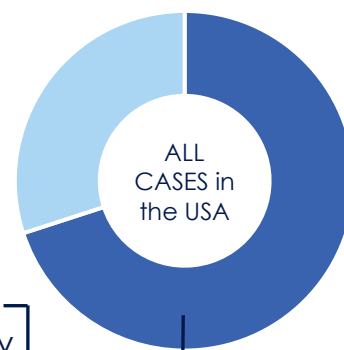
\*Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.  
Source: <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/DataViz.html>

#### OROPHARYNGEAL Cancer

INCIDENCE\* rate in Kansas (2017-2021)

**17.8/100,000** men

**6.4/100,000** women



**70%** caused by HPV infection\*\*

\*Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.  
Source: <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/DataViz.html>  
\*\*Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm>

## Dana & Kurtis' Story

**“I promised him that I would be his voice, for him.”**

**- Dana Montgomery**

On February 20, 2014, Dana Montgomery of Hutchinson, Kansas lost her husband Kurtis to oropharyngeal cancer. In her personal story she states, “I promised him that I would be his voice, for him. Oral/head and neck cancer caused by the HPV is rapidly becoming more and more common. This is serious. Look it up, learn about it, learn what causes it, and learn what can make it worse. Here is what we have learned. HPV is prevalent in most of us at one point in time or another. Don’t let this happen to your kids, this can be prevented, get vaccinated. Kurtis was adamant that not only girls be vaccinated but boys too. Educate yourself, educate others. Cancer sucks but cancer sucks worse when it can be prevented.” Dana’s complete story can be read at [www.kfmc.org/images/Kurtis.pdf](http://www.kfmc.org/images/Kurtis.pdf)

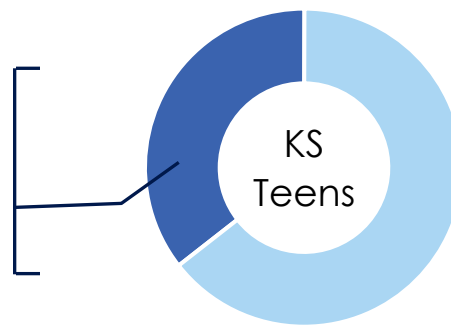
The Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) strives to target low rates of adolescent vaccination in Kansas. These rates are below the Healthy People 2030 target of 80%. Completing the series of HPV vaccine doses to children at ages 11 and 12, starting as early as age 9, provides the best protection against HPV-related diseases.

IKC Goal  
**2026**

IKC's goal is to increase HPV vaccine series completion in Kansas youth ages 13-17. By 2026, increase HPV vaccine series completion to 80% for both boys and girls.

## Kansas Teens 13 to 17 yrs. Who Completed the HPV Vaccine Series

**60.4%**  
have completed the  
HPV vaccine series.



Source: National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years, United States, 2023

### Provider Recommendation:

A strong recommendation from clinicians is the best predictor of HPV vaccination! The IKC encourages all Kansas providers to strongly recommend the HPV vaccine to Kansas families.

#### A strong recommendation from clinicians:

Emphasize that the HPV vaccine is cancer prevention.

Bundle HPV vaccine with meningococcal and Tdap vaccines on the same visit (offer same day, same way).

Provide for preteens ages 11-12 (starting as early as age 9) because preteens have a higher immune response to the vaccine than older teens.

**“Your child is due for vaccinations today to protect against meningitis, HPV cancers, and pertussis. We’ll give those shots at the end of the visit.”**

Sample language

If a parent has concerns about the vaccine, listen respectfully, clarify their concern, then discuss the vaccine in a nonjudgmental way, seeking to address the parent’s concerns.