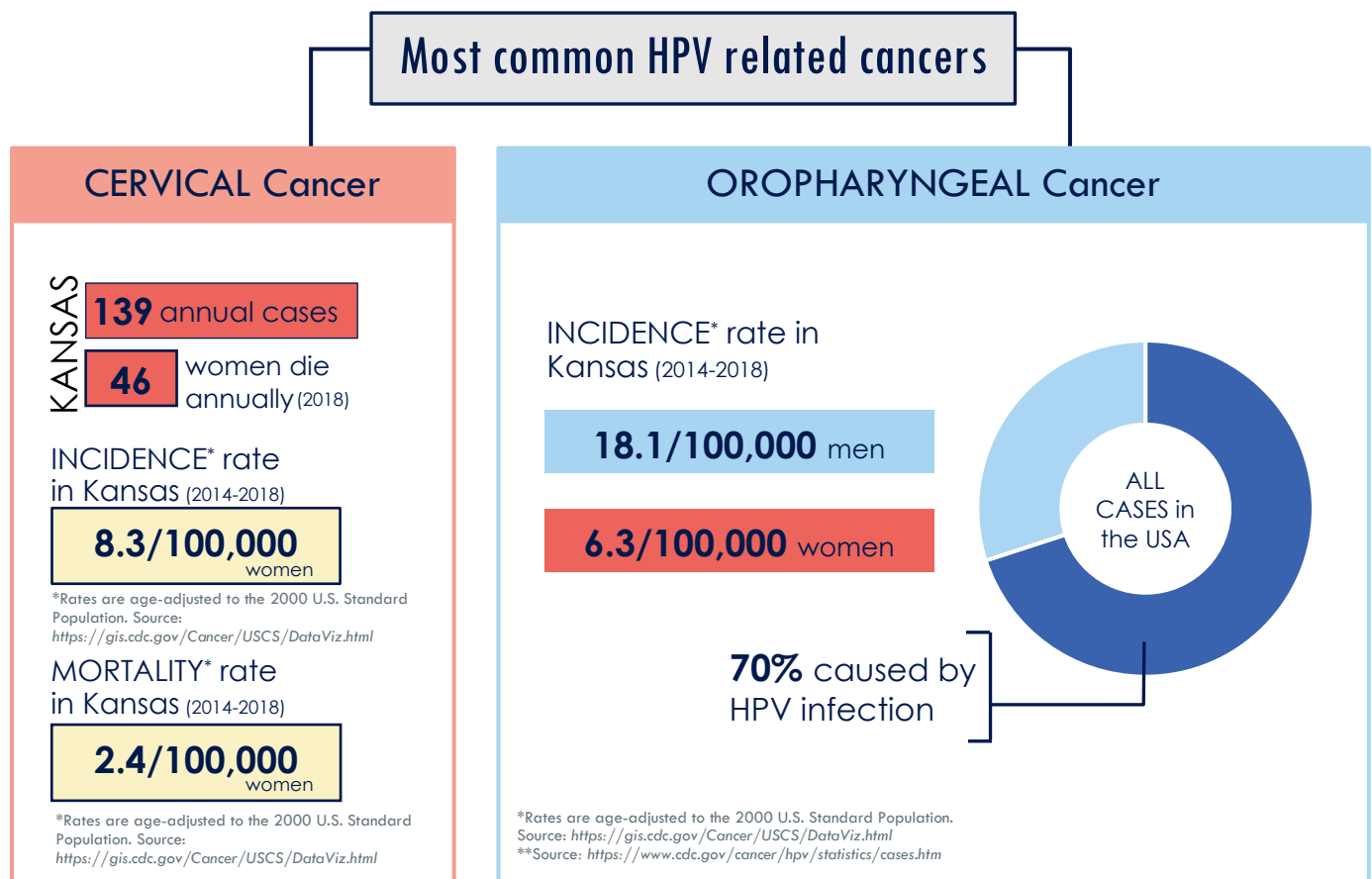


## What is HPV?

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).



## 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.”

[Read Dana’s complete story at tinyurl.com/kurtisstory.](http://tinyurl.com/kurtisstory)

The Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) has narrowed its focus for the upcoming year to target low rates of adolescent vaccination in Kansas. Kansas ranks very low by comparison to other states in both initiation and completion of the HPV vaccine series. These rates are well below the Healthy People 2030 target of 80%. Completing the series of HPV vaccine doses to children at ages 11 and 12 provides the best protection against HPV-related diseases.

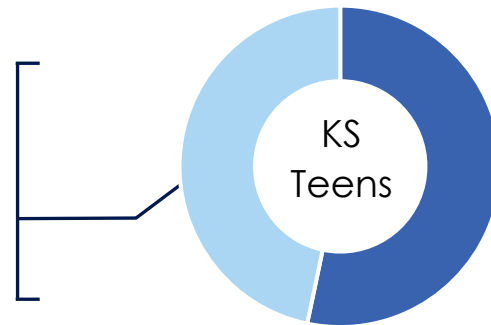
IKC Goal

**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

**53.3%**  
have completed the  
HPV vaccine series.



Source: HPV vaccination coverage among adolescents 13-17 years by State, HHS Region, and the United States, NIS-Teen, 2020

## KNOW the FACTS about the HPV vaccine and TAKE ACTION:

HPV vaccine is cancer-prevention for girls and boys.

HPV vaccine works best when given at ages 11 and 12 for the strongest immune response. Teens and young adults can still be vaccinated.

Talk to those you love about HPV vaccine and encourage them to schedule an appointment with their health care provider to get vaccinated.

Always ask your health provider, during any visit, about HPV vaccine and other vaccines your teen needs.

[www.immunizekansascoalition.org](http://www.immunizekansascoalition.org)