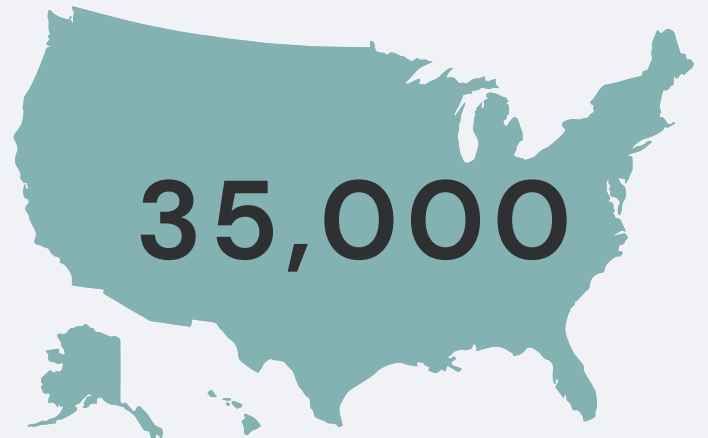


PREVENTING CANCER *At the Dentist!*

What is HPV?

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that spreads from skin-to-skin contact. **Almost everyone will have HPV at some point in their life.**

HPV usually has no symptoms, so most people with HPV don't know they have it. Most cases of HPV go away on their own, but other cases can go on to cause cancer.



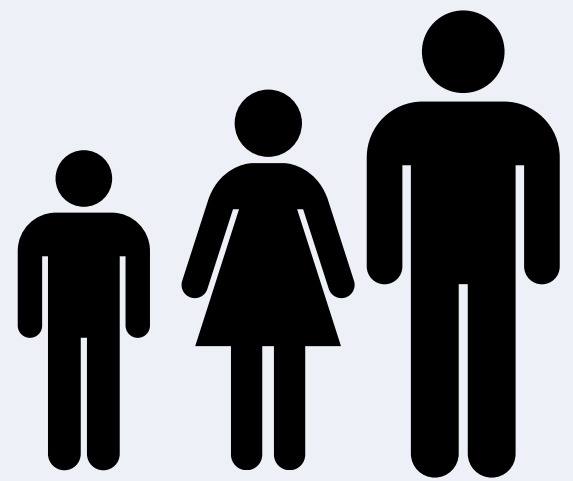
HPV causes over 35,000 cases of cancer in the US every year. About 21,000 cases are found in women and 14,000 are found in men.

HPV & Cancer

HPV causes 6 types of cancer. The most common are oropharyngeal and cervical cancer. The oropharynx is the area in the back of the tongue and throat.



80% of oropharyngeal cancer cases are found in men. Cervical cancer is found in women and people with a cervix.



The vaccine is for everyone ages 9 to 26.

The HPV vaccine protects you or your child from the most cancer-causing strains of HPV and 90% of genital warts.

The best time to get the HPV vaccine is between ages 9 and 12. This is because children have a stronger immune response.



The vaccine is given in **2 or 3 doses** over several months. If you are 14 or younger, you need 2 shots. After age 14, you will need an extra catch-up shot to be fully protected.

Prevent Cancer Checklist:



Get Vaccinated!



Check your mouth, throat or neck each month for any changes.



See your doctor and dentist regularly.



Talk to your doctor or dental professional about cancer screening.



**New York State
HPV Coalition**
Working to Prevent HPV Cancers

Adapted with permission from the Massachusetts HPV Coalition and Team Maureen. Visit mahpvcoalition.org for more information.