HPV and Cancer

Between 9 and 26 Years of Age?
Get Vaccinated to Prevent Cancer
WHAT IS HPV?
Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus; nearly 80 million people—about one in four—are currently infected in the United States. Most HPV infections (9 out of 10) go away by themselves within two years. But, sometimes, HPV infections will last longer, and can cause certain cancers and other diseases. HPV cancers include cancer of the cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, or anus. HPV infection can also cause cancer in the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils. Every year in the United States, HPV causes 30,700 cancers in men and women. HPV vaccination can prevent most of these cancers, about 28,000, from occurring.1

HPV VACCINE
Gardasil-9 is the only HPV vaccine available in the United States. Gardasil-9 prevents infection with HPV types that are associated with many cancers, including: cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancers in females, anal and throat cancer in females and males, and penile cancer in males. In addition, HPV vaccine prevents infection with HPV types that cause genital warts in both females and males.2

Adolescent males and females age 11 or 12 years old should get two shots of HPV vaccine six to twelve months apart. Adolescents who receive their two shots less than five months apart will require a third dose of HPV vaccine. Teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years will need three doses of HPV vaccine to protect against cancer-causing HPV infections.1

Gardasil-9 is available to eligible adolescents through the Vaccines for Children Program. To learn more about the VFC program visit: https://doh.sd.gov/family/childhood/immunization/.

HPV CANCER SCREENING
Cervical cancer can be detected with routine cervical cancer screening (Pap test) and follow-up of abnormal results. The Pap test is recommended for all women between the ages of 21 and 65 years old, and can be done in a doctor’s office or clinic. An HPV DNA test, which can find certain HPV types on a woman’s cervix, may also be used with a Pap test in certain cases (called co-testing). The Pap test can find abnormal cells on the cervix so that they can be removed before cancer develops. Abnormal cells often become normal over time, but can sometimes turn into cancer. These cells can usually be treated, depending on their severity and on the woman’s age, past medical history, and other test results. Even women who were vaccinated when they were younger need regular cervical cancer screening because the vaccines do not protect against all cervical cancers.3

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-
1https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccine.html
2http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs380/en/ and
STAGE AT DIAGNOSIS

The earlier the stage of cancer at diagnosis, the better the chances of survival. The table above displays the HPV-related cancers diagnosed in South Dakota by stage of diagnosis and primary cancer site for years 2001-2014. In situ cancers are least progressed and distant cancers are most progressed (widespread) throughout the body. The actual number of in situ cervical cancer cases is not known in South Dakota or nationwide. According to the National Cancer Institute, 3.5 million abnormal Pap tests are reported each year in the U.S., and require medical follow-up. The CDC attributes almost 100% of cervical cancer cases to HPV, however, the other cancers are less than 100% attributable to HPV.
INCIDENCE
More than 7.5% of all cancers diagnosed in South Dakota from 2001 to 2014 were in a primary site that may have been caused by HPV. According to CDC estimates, the following percentages of cancer are caused by HPV in the U.S.

- 91% Anus/Rectum
- 91% Cervix
- 70% Head/Neck/Oral
- 63% Penis
- 75% Vagina
- 69% Vulva

Applying these same percentages to cancers diagnosed in South Dakota shows that if HPV were prevented then significant numbers of cancer diagnoses would be stopped.

Cancers Diagnosed in South Dakota, 2001-2014

MORTALITY
Cancer Deaths in South Dakota, 2001-2014

Four percent of the total cancer deaths in South Dakota in 2001-2014 were from HPV-associated cancers. HPV vaccination saves lives in South Dakota. Get vaccinated today.

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