

Human Papillomavirus: Awareness and Vaccination

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Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection, with some strains causing genital warts and various types of cancer, including cervical cancer. Early HPV vaccination and regular screening are vital to preventing cervical cancer and reducing its long-term impact.

In Measurement Year (MY) 2024, Neighborhood's Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS®) HPV vaccination rate for adolescents by age 13 was **49.54%**, an increase from **47.16%** in MY2023

How can you help?

1. **Early Vaccination:** Begin HPV vaccinations for both girls and boys at ages 11 or 12. The vaccine may be administered as early as age 9.
2. **Opportunistic Vaccination:** Use every office visit as an opportunity to administer or schedule the HPV vaccines, especially for adolescents within the recommended age range.
3. **Appointment Scheduling:** Schedule the next appointment before the member leaves the office.
4. **Rhode Island Department of Health Guidelines:** Follow the American Academy of Pediatrics' adolescent [immunization schedule](#) to ensure proper timing and effectiveness of the vaccination series.

Resources

For additional guidance, providers can refer to [the Rhode Island Department of Health Youth and Young Adult Sexual Health App: Right to Know](#).

Additional RIDOH resources include: [“What to Know About Health” fact sheets](#), available to print and share with patients in **English, Spanish, Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, and Khmer**.

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