



HPV & Oral Cancers: The Role of Oral Health Professionals

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- Heather Mercer, Research Grant to institution, Pfizer

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Immunize Arkansas receives educational grants from Pfizer.



Objectives

01

Impact of
HPV- related
oral cancers

02

HPV Vaccine
recommendations

03

Oral health
professionals'
unique
position

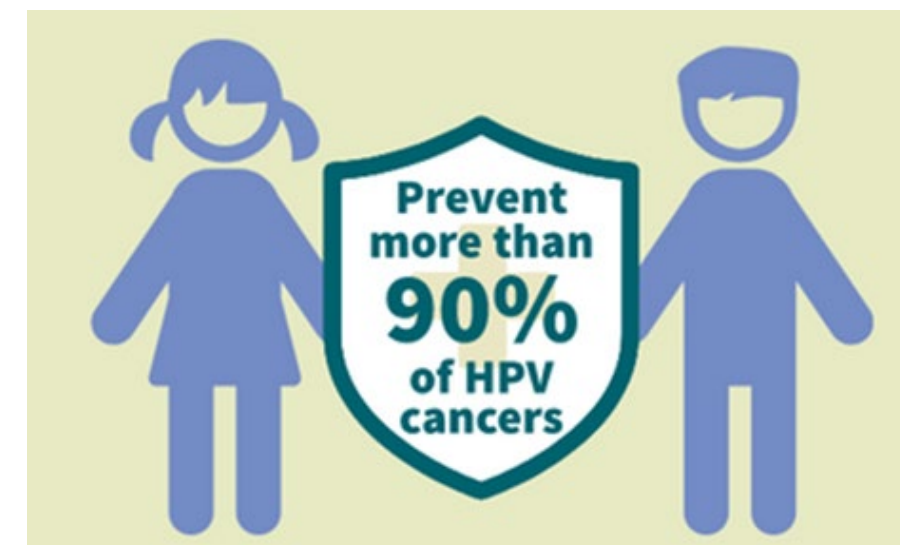


What is HPV?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that can lead to several types of cancer.

HPV is very common. Eight out of ten people will get HPV at some point in their lives.

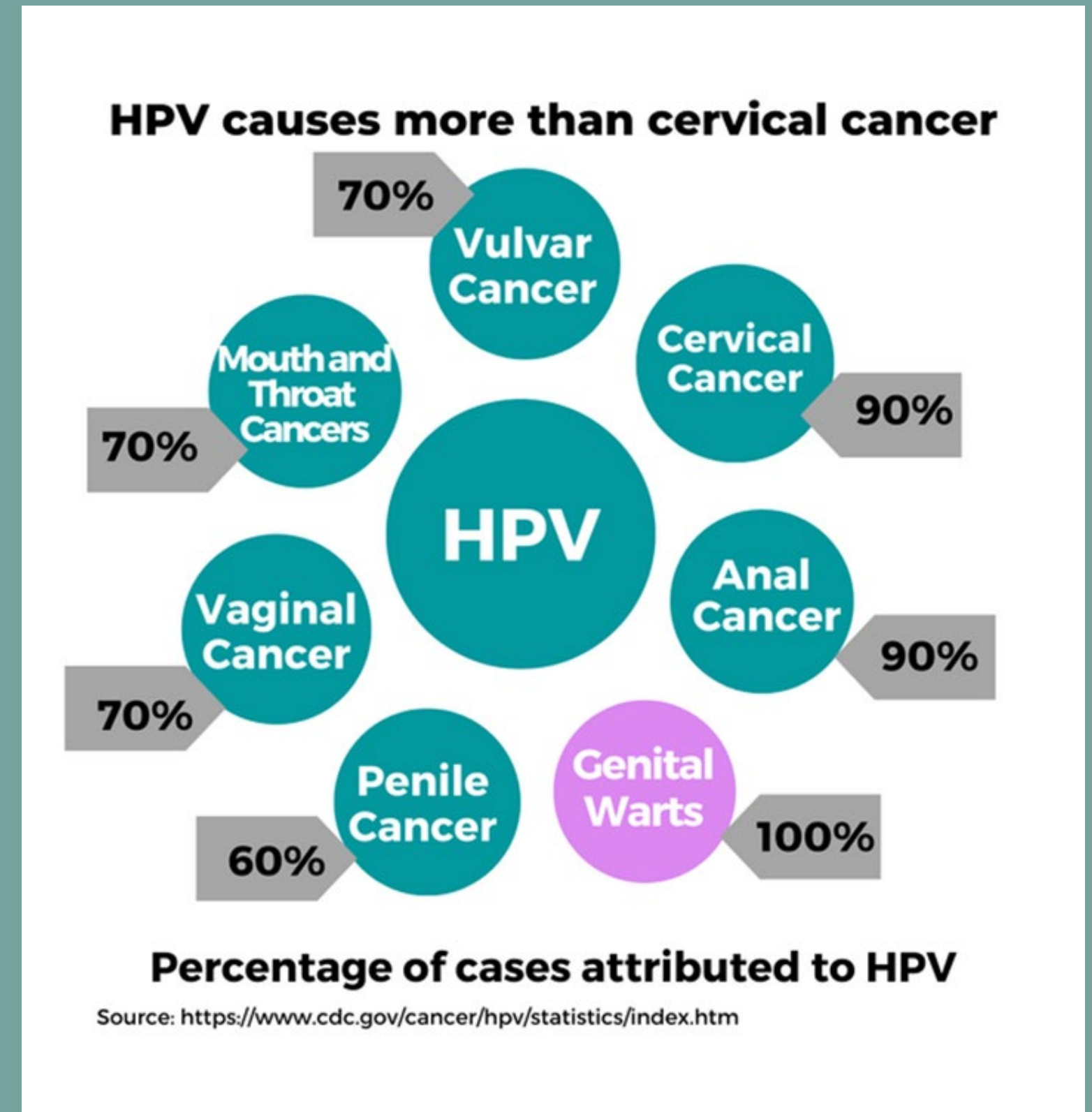
HPV vaccination can prevent more than 90% of HPV cancers when given at the recommended age.





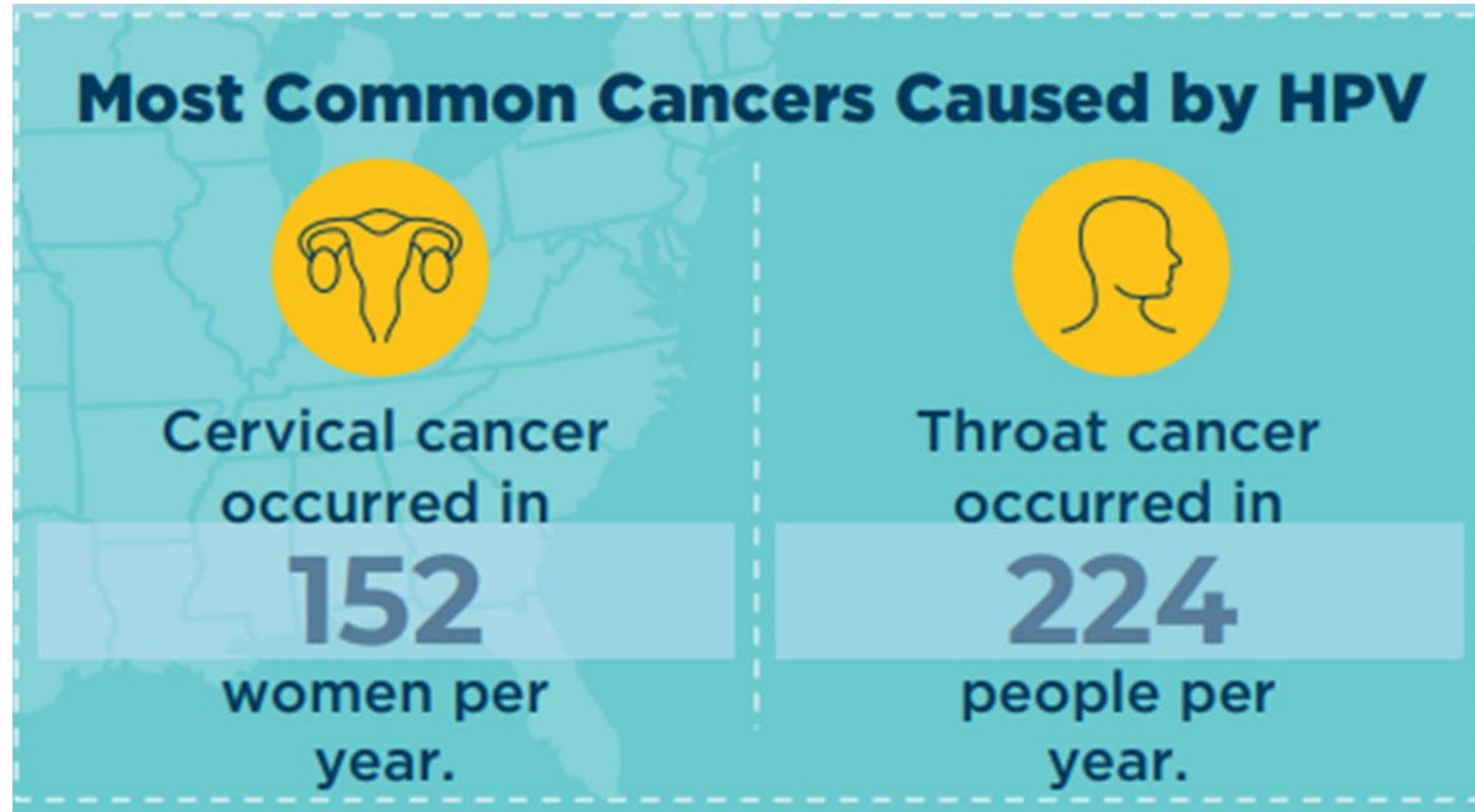
HPV and the Cancer Connection

- Cervical cancer is the most common HPV cancer in women. Arkansas has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the U.S.
- Mouth and throat cancers are the most common HPV cancers in men. Arkansas also has one of the highest rates of mouth and throat cancer in the U.S.





Oropharyngeal cancer is most prevalent



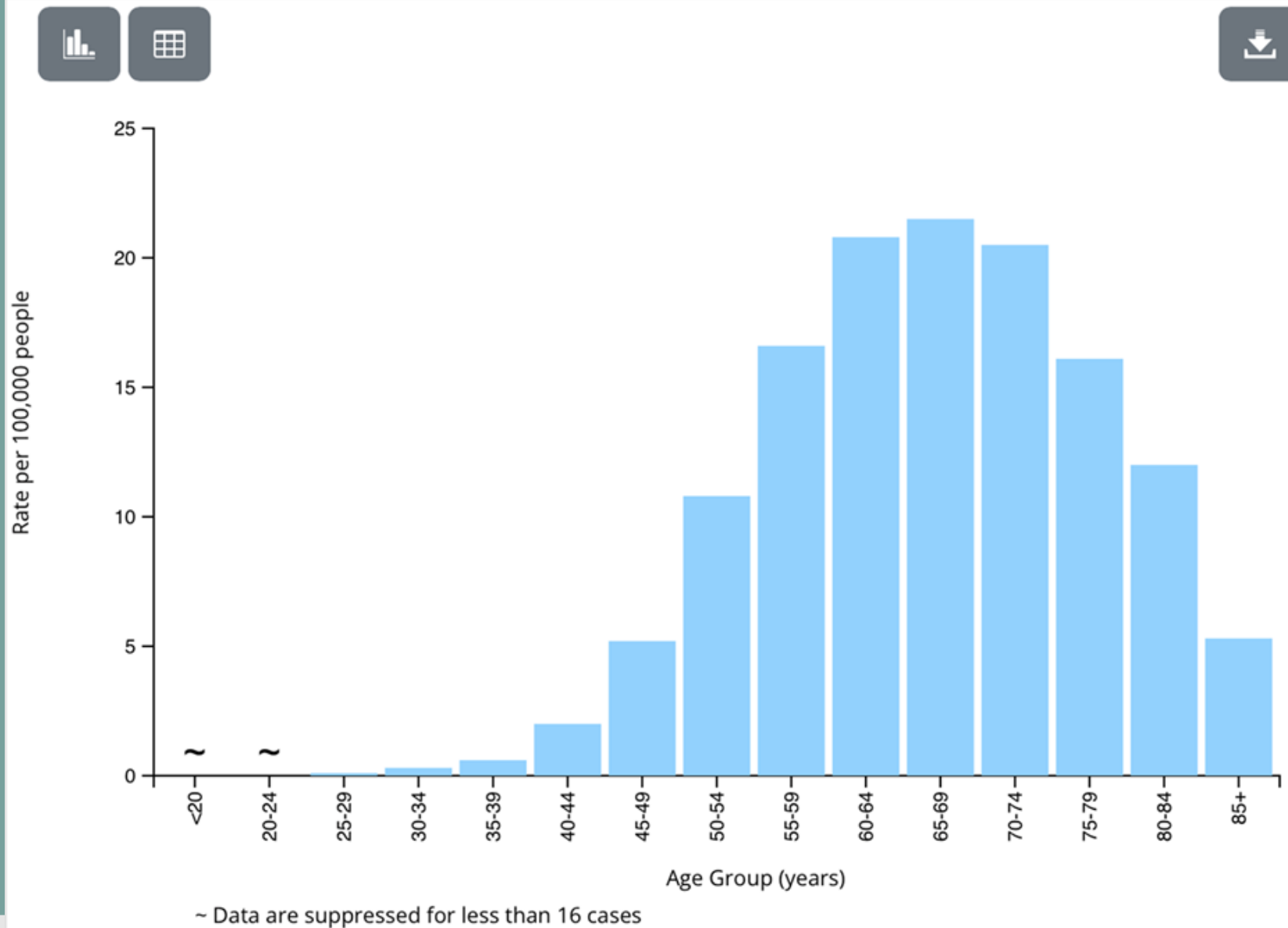
Oropharyngeal cancer has now surpassed cervical cancer as the most common HPV - related cancer



Oropharyngeal cancer rates by age group

Rate of New HPV-associated Cancers By Age Group (years)

Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Male and Female, United States, 2020
Rate per 100,000 people



Oropharyngeal cancer is most prevalent in men ages 55 - 79



Oral Cancer Survivor, Jason Mendelsohn





HPV Transmission





How is HPV Spread?

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases in the US

It is believed that nearly everyone will be exposed to HPV at least once during their lifetime

According to the CDC, there are nearly 80 million Americans currently infected with HPV

There are around 14 million new cases of HPV infections yearly, including teens and adolescents





HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention!

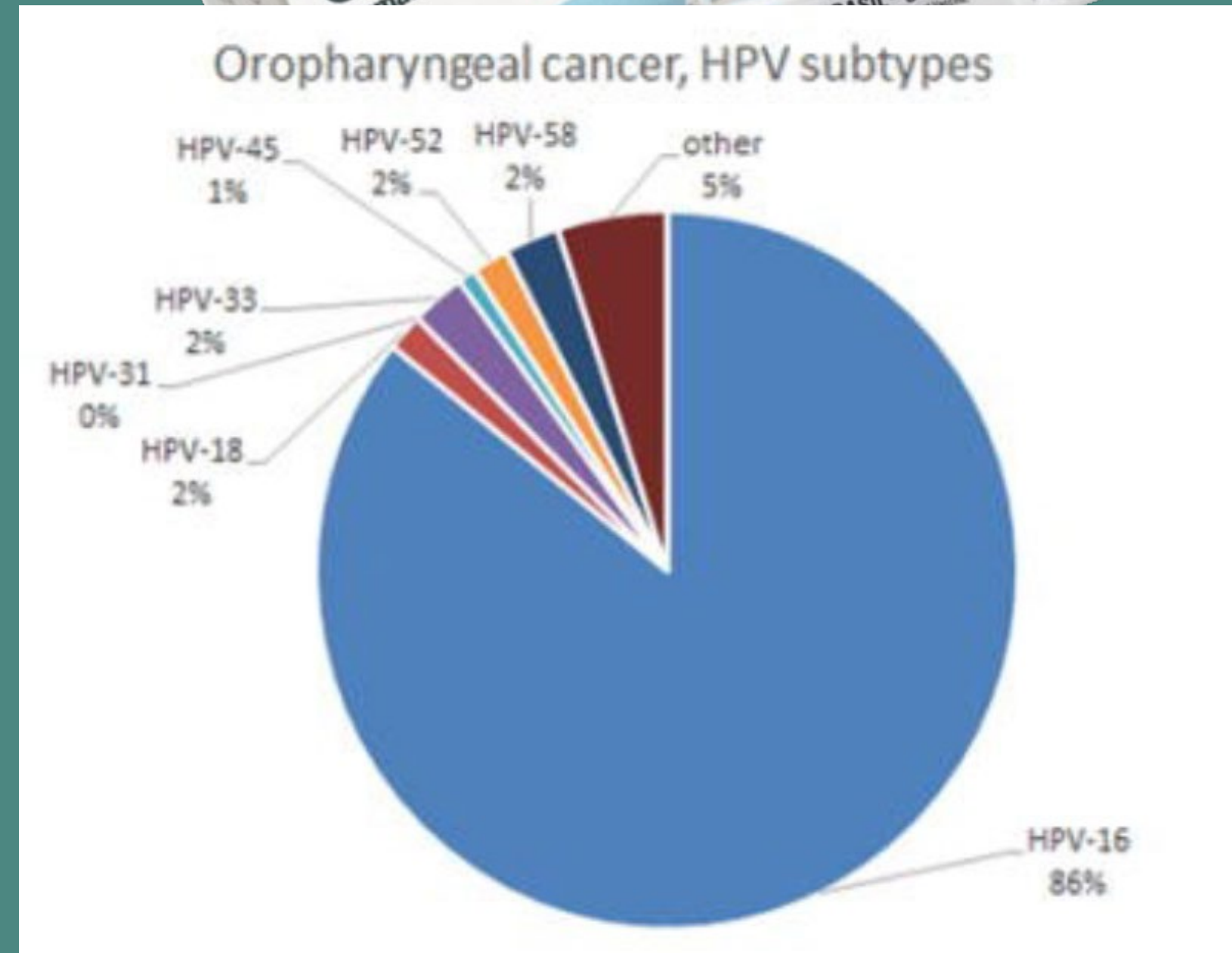




Prevention

Gardasil 9 is FDA - approved for the prevention of HPV - related cancers, including head and neck cancers.

- Vaccinates against HPV types 6, 11, **16**, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58.





Prevention: HPV Vaccination

HPV Vaccination Guidelines For Males and Females

Routine/on - time
vaccination. Optimal
immune response.

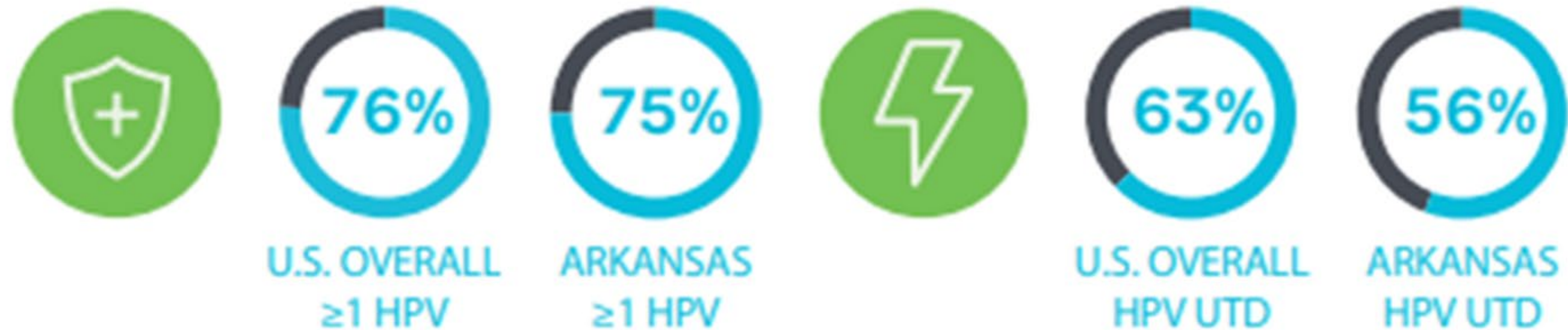
Catch - up vaccination.
Three doses are needed.

Age when starting series	Doses needed	Spacing (months)
9 -14	2	Initial dose. 6-12 months
15 - 45	3	Initial dose 2 months 6 months



Arkansas HPV Vaccination Rates

HPV VACCINATION RATES FOR 13-17 YEAR-OLDS AS OF 2022:



*UTD = Up- to - date



Oral Health Professionals' Role



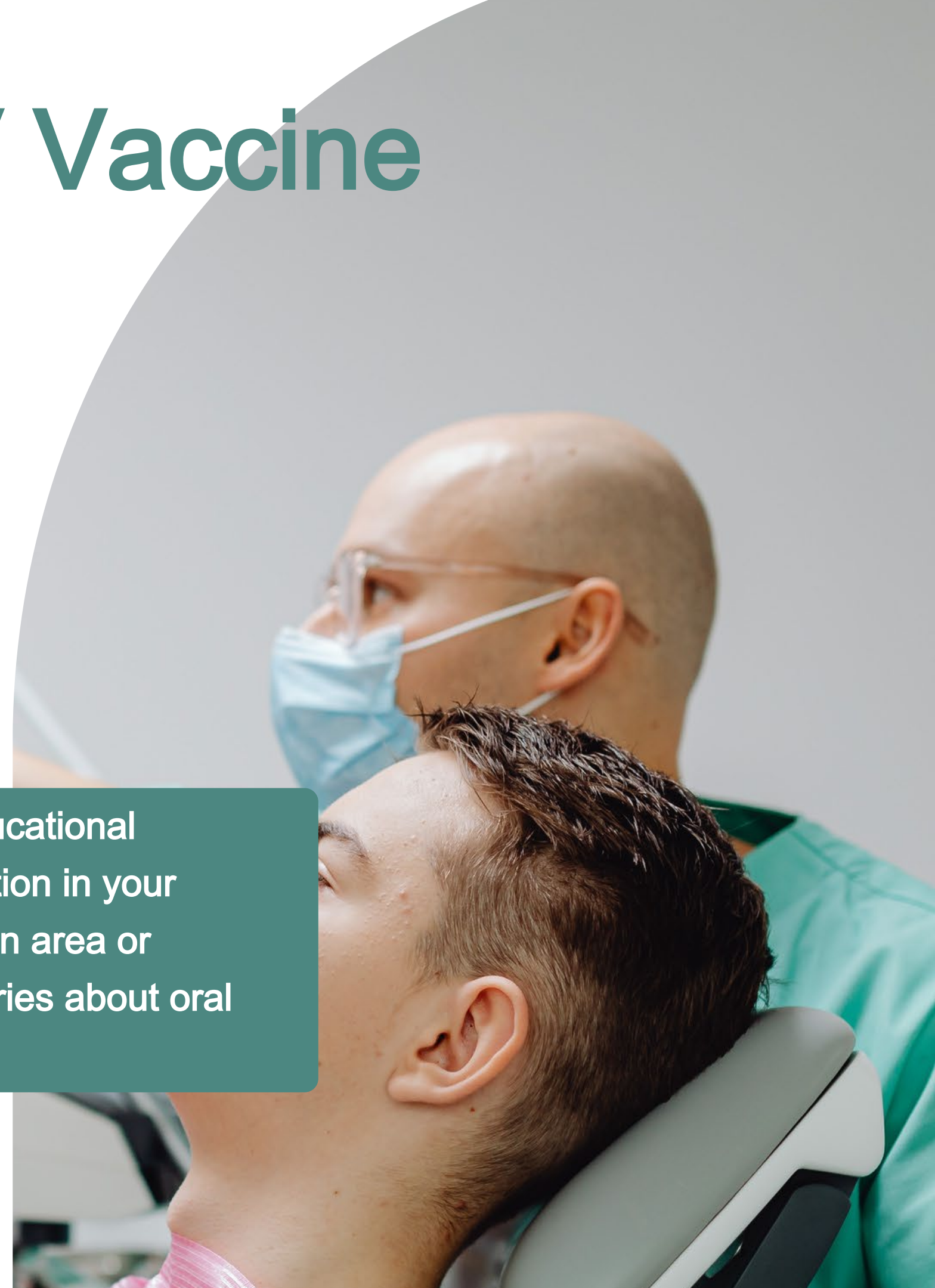


How to Start the HPV Vaccine Conversation

During the
health history
intake

Oral Cancer
Screening

Use educational
information in your
reception area or
operatories about oral
cancer





Address Misinformation



Dental providers play a crucial role in addressing misinformation and providing patients and their families with evidence - based information.

Providing clear and accurate information about the vaccine's benefits, potential side effects, and the importance of preventing HPV - related cancers helps individuals make informed decisions.



Key Takeaways

01

HPV is a leading cause of oral cancers

02

Oral health professionals are critical in prevention

03

Vaccination and early detection save lives



Call to Action

- Refer patients to their primary care physician, pharmacy, or local health unit. Stress the importance of vaccination between ages 9- 14 and follow up with patients on their next visit.
- Work to ensure every patient ages 9 - 45 receives a recommendation to get the HPV vaccine.
- Stay informed





Resources on the ImmunizeAR Website

HPV VACs

Vaccinate Adolescents against Cancers

FACT 1 The HPV vaccines are safe.

Scientists from the CDC, the FDA, and other organizations in the US and around the world continue to monitor and report any adverse events and side effects related to HPV vaccines. Monitoring in 2007 revealed that most side effects related to HPV vaccines were mild and were similar to those seen with any other vaccine. Several studies from 2011-2015 looking at more than four million women and girls who were vaccinated show that there is no relationship between HPV vaccines and autoimmune disorders, blood clots, or other serious disorders.¹

TALKING POINT: More than 270 million doses of vaccine have been distributed worldwide, with more than 100 million doses in the US. Like with all vaccines, HPV vaccine safety is constantly monitored. These studies continue to show that HPV vaccination is very safe. All medications and vaccines have side effects. The most common side effects seen with HPV vaccination are mild and are very similar to the reactions from other vaccines.^{1,2}

FACT 2 HPV vaccination does NOT cause fertility issues.

There is no evidence that HPV vaccination causes fertility or reproductive problems. HPV vaccines actually help protect fertility by preventing gynecological problems related to the treatment of cervical cancer. It's possible that the treatment of cervical cancer could leave a woman unable to get pregnant. It's also possible that treatment for cervical pre-cancer could put a woman at risk for problems with the cervix, which could cause preterm delivery or other problems.³

TALKING POINT: There are no data to suggest that getting the HPV vaccine will have any effect on future fertility. In fact, getting vaccinated and protecting against cervical cancer will help a woman's ability to get pregnant and have healthy babies.³

JUST THE FACTS

Talking to Parents about HPV Vaccine

Recommend HPV vaccination in the same way and on the same schedule as you would any other vaccine. Do you have any questions? Taking the time to listen and understand concerns more effectively.

Why does my child need HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccine is important because it prevents infections that can cause cancer. That's why we need to start the shot series today.

How do you know the vaccine works?

Studies continue to prove HPV vaccination works extremely well, decreasing the number of infections and HPV precancers in young people since it has been available.

Why do they need HPV vaccine at such a young age?

Vaccines protect your child before they are exposed to a disease. That's why we give the HPV vaccine earlier rather than later, to protect them long before they are ever exposed. Also, if your child gets the shot now, they will only need two doses. If you wait until your child is older, they may end up needing three shots.

Why do boys need the HPV vaccine?

HPV vaccination can help prevent future infections that can lead to cancers of the penis, anus, and back of the throat in men.

Are all of these vaccines actually required?

I strongly recommend each of these vaccines and so do experts at the CDC and major medical organizations. School entry requirements are

Yes, HPV vaccination is very safe. Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects, including pain, swelling, or redness where the shot was given. That's normal for HPV vaccine too and should go away in a day or two. Sometimes kids faint after they get shots and they could be injured if they fall from fainting. We'll have your child stay seated after the shot to help protect him/her.

HPV VACCINE: Long-Lasting Cancer Protection

Vaccination prevents over **90%** of cancers caused by HPV.



In Arkansas

The HPV vaccination rate is just **35%**

47%

of girls completed their HPV vaccination series in 2017.

25%

of boys completed their HPV vaccination series in 2017.

Most Common Cancers Caused by HPV

Cervical cancer occurred in **152** women per

Throat cancer occurred in **224** people per

Why does my child need the HPV vaccine?

HPV is a common virus that infects teens and adults. Most people get infected at some point during their life. Infection with some types of HPV can lead to several types of cancer, including cancer of the mouth and throat. In Arkansas, the rate of mouth and throat cancers is very high, and it is going up. The HPV vaccine can protect from the specific types of HPV that cause most mouth and throat cancers.

Questions dentists and hygienists may get about HPV vaccination.

About human papillomavirus

HPV stands for human papillomavirus. HPV is spread by intimate skin-to-skin contact with someone who has the virus, even if they don't have signs or symptoms. It only takes one encounter or one partner to transmit the infection.

Why is the HPV vaccine given at ages 9 to 12?

HPV vaccine must be given before a person is exposed. Every visit after age 9 is an opportunity to provide the vaccine to preteens and teens. Almost no 9- to 12-year-olds have HPV infection. Current evidence shows that protection from HPV vaccination does not wear off!

Common side effects of the HPV vaccine

The HPV vaccine is very safe. The HPV vaccine, like any vaccine, can cause injection site pain, swelling, or redness. Some adolescents may have a headache or even faint after they get shots.



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References:

[Risk perceptions and subsequent sexual behaviors after HPV vaccination in adolescents](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/133/3/404).

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/133/3/404>



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Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- Currently over 200 HPV types identified, with ~30 affecting the oral mucosa
- Categorized as high- or low-risk

Clinical Features - HPV

- Oral Squamous Papilloma
 - The most common human papillomavirus (HPV) associated lesion in the oral cavity
 - Types 6 and 11 are most commonly associated with oral papillomas

Squamous Papilloma – Clinical Features

- Any site, with the tongue and soft palate most frequently involved
- Typically solitary
- Usually pedunculated
- Variable color

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Clinical Features - HPV

- Condyloma Acuminatum
 - Sexually transmitted (venereal warts) most often associated with HPV types 6 and 11 in the oral regions.
 - Other types include 2, 16, and 18

Condyloma Acuminatum – Clinical Features

- Typically multiple
- Sessile
- Cauliflower surface

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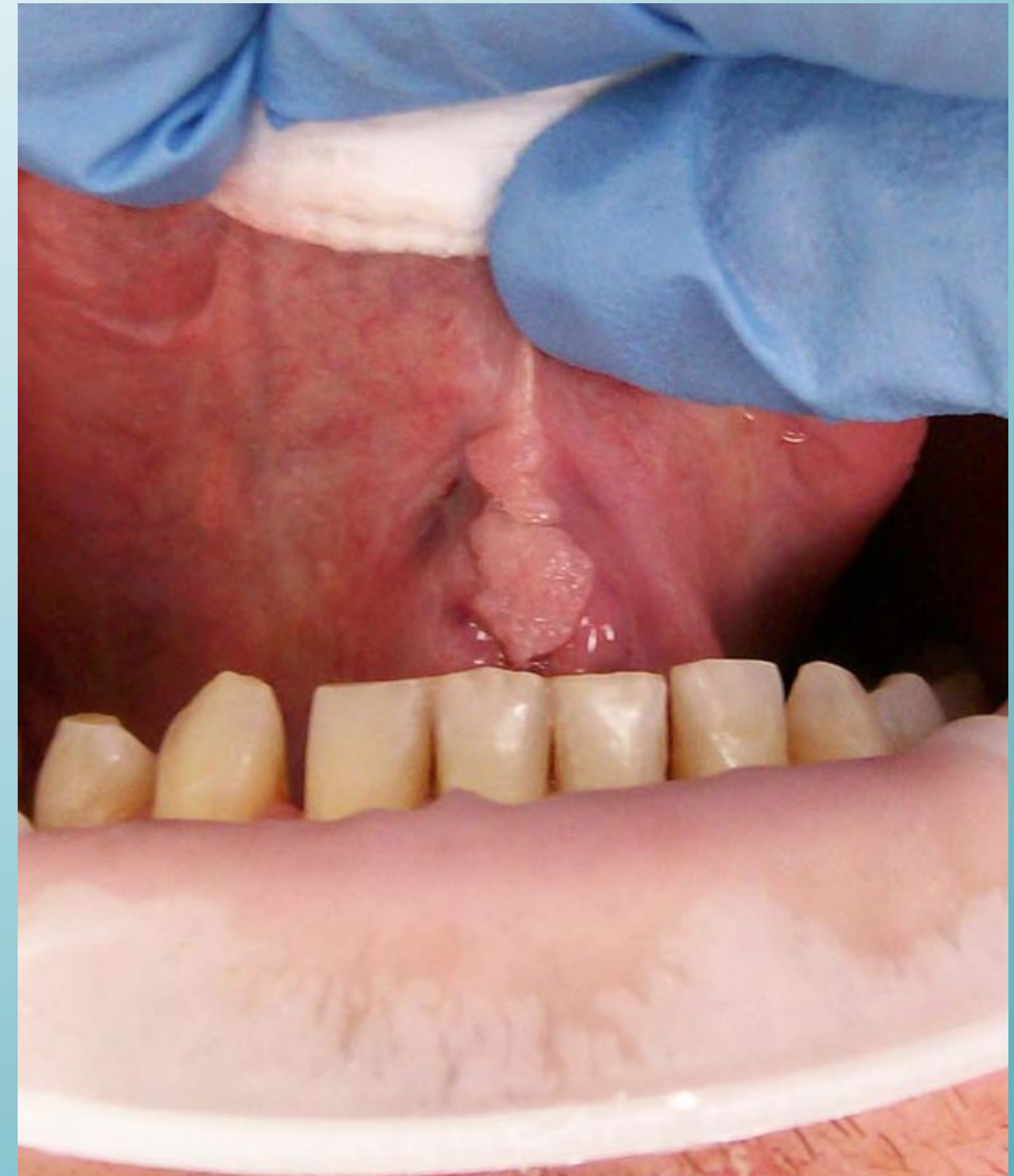
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Human Papillomavirus

- Currently, a 9-valent recombinant vaccine (Gardasil 9) targeting HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58 is recommended for adolescents 11-12 and catch-up through 26 years.
- The vaccine is indicated for the prevention of benign and malignant neoplasia of the anogenital regions and head and neck.