

## Human Papillomavirus (HPV): How to Increase Vaccination Rates

### Neighborhood News – October 2024

Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection, can cause genital warts and various cancers. Early HPV vaccination and regular screening are essential in preventing cervical cancer and mitigating other severe consequences of the virus.

In Measurement Year (MY) 2023, our HPV vaccination rates for adolescents by age 13 decreased to 47.16% from 52.55% in MY2020.

### How You Can Help Increase Vaccination Rates

1. **Early Initiation:** Start HPV vaccinations for both girls and boys at ages 11 or 12, though it can be administered effectively as early as age 9.
2. **Proactive Discussions:** Begin conversations about the HPV vaccine with parents or guardians starting at the 9-year well-child visit.
3. **Leverage Every Visit:** Use any office visit as an opportunity to administer vaccines, not just well-child visits.
4. **Ensure Continuity:** Schedule the next appointment before the patient leaves the office, ideally before their next birthday.
5. **Adhere to Guidelines:** Follow the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention immunization schedule](#) for adolescents.

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