# **HPV**



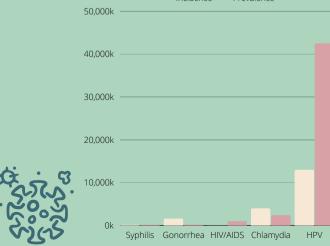
# Prevention

## What is HPV?

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and most of the world.

#### **Prevalence**

- HPV is more common than syphilis, gonorrhea, and HIV / AIDS: it is estimated that more than 40 million people in the United States are living with HPV
- It is estimated that 80% of people will have an HPV infection at least once before the age of 45



### **Transmission**

The most common form of transmission of HPV is through any voluntary sexual relations, but this is **NOT** the only way in which it can be transmitted. Other ways that are <u>not voluntary</u> include:

- Under the nails and on clothes
- A baby can get HPV through the birth canal; this can lead to respiratory papillomatosis in the child and even cancer in later ages
- Infidelity in relationships
- Sexual abuse/assault
  - Sexual abuse/assault <u>can happen to</u> <u>anyone and at any age</u>
  - Several reports inform that in the United States Latinx/os and African Americans have higher cases of assault/abuse/sexual harassment than the white population. It is also estimated that 1 in 6 Latinx/a girls 13 years of age or older will experience sexual assault.

## <u>Importance</u>

- +99% of cervical cancers are caused by a previous infection with an oncogenic variant of HPV
- 40% to 80% of mouth and throat cancers are caused by a previous infection with an oncogenic variant of HPV
- Cervical cancer can only happen to people with a uterus/cervix, but mouth and throat cancers can happen to anyone

- As of 2020, the incidence of mouth and throat cancer among men now exceeds the incidence of cervical cancer.
- Hispanic women have a higher risk of being diagnosed with cervical cancer and a higher risk of dying from cervical cancer than whites.
- Hispanic men also have higher incidences of mouth and throat cancer than white men.



The easiest way to protect ourselves and our family against HPV and its associated cancers is with the HPV vaccine, which should be given during youth

- The vaccine has been approved by the FDA for several years for use in women and men.
- The recommendations are:
  - Between 9 and 14 years old: 2 doses
  - Between 14 and 26 years old : 3 doses
- The vaccine can be found clinics and pharmacies. If you need help making an appointment, contact our organization.

Condoms are an additional form of prevention of all STDs, but they are not always effective.





