



A PATH TO PREVENTION:

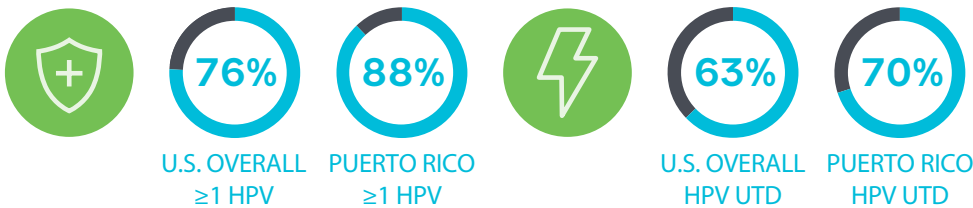
State Profile: Puerto Rico

HPV vaccination is recommended for routine vaccination at **age 11 or 12 years and may be started at age 9**. Adults age 27 to 45 should talk to their doctors to see if HPV vaccination is recommended for them.

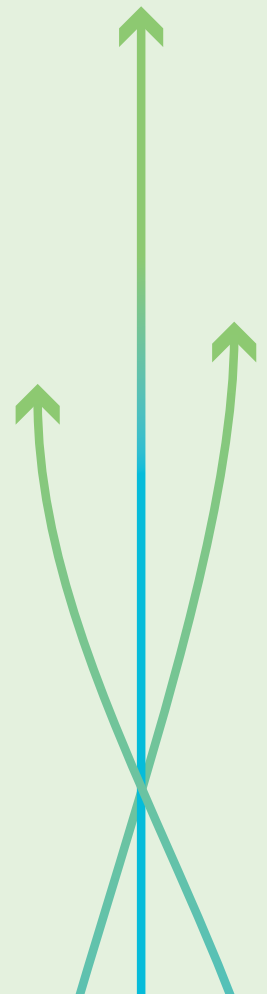


HPV vaccination protects against more than 90% of HPV cancers.

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



Puerto Rico has increased HPV vaccination coverage of **≥1 dose by 13% and up to date (UTD) by 18% since 2016**. Coverage remains **higher than the U.S. average**, but below the Healthy People 2030 goal of 80% UTD. Compared to meningitis and whooping cough (Tdap) vaccines routinely recommended for adolescents, HPV vaccination coverage lags. Puerto Rico vaccination rates **among 13-17 year olds were 90% for meningitis vaccine and 86% for Tdap vaccine in 2022**.



HPV CANCERS:

HPV is a common virus linked to six types of cancer. The two most common HPV-associated cancers are oropharyngeal and cervical cancers. **Incidence rates of HPV cancers overall and oropharyngeal cancer are lower in Puerto Rico compared to the U.S. averages.**

New Cases

	All HPV Cancers	Oropharyngeal Cancer	Cervical Cancer
United States Overall	11.8	5.0	6.5
Puerto Rico Overall	11.2	2.7	9.6
United States	Male: 10.8, Female: 12.9	Male: 8.8, Female: 1.6	Puerto Rico ranks in the Top 3 Nationally in cervical cancer incidence rates.
Puerto Rico	Male: 8.2, Female: 14.0	Male: 5.1, Female: 0.8	

Incidence rates shown are cases per 100,000 persons.

ACTION STEPS:

Identify and engage key partners in HPV vaccination to develop, implement, and evaluate priority evidence-based interventions to increase HPV vaccination coverage in clinical, community and policy settings in Puerto Rico:

- Encourage starting HPV vaccination at age 9 to increase series completion by age 13.
- Capitalize on school-entry requirement to improve HPV vaccination initiation and completion.
- Prioritize efforts and populations where HPV vaccination coverage lags, such as rural communities.
- Provide education to parents, caregivers, and youth regarding HPV, HPV cancers, and HPV vaccination in the community, such as in partnership with the University of Puerto Rico.

Pingali C, Yankey D, Elam-Evans LD, Markowitz LE, Valier MR, Fredua B, Crowe SJ, DeSisto CL, Stokley S, Singleton JA. Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years - National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2023 Aug 25;72(34):912-919. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7234a3. PMID: 37616185; PMCID: PMC10468222.

U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2022 submission data (1999-2020): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>, released in June 2023.

Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan: 2015-2020. Puerto Rico Cancer Control Coalition and Puerto Rico Comprehensive Control Program San Juan, Puerto Rico, December 2014.