

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 RATES FOR 13-17 YEAR-OLDS AS OF 2021:



U.S. OVERALL
≥1 HPV



PUERTO RICO
≥1 HPV



U.S. OVERALL
HPV UTD

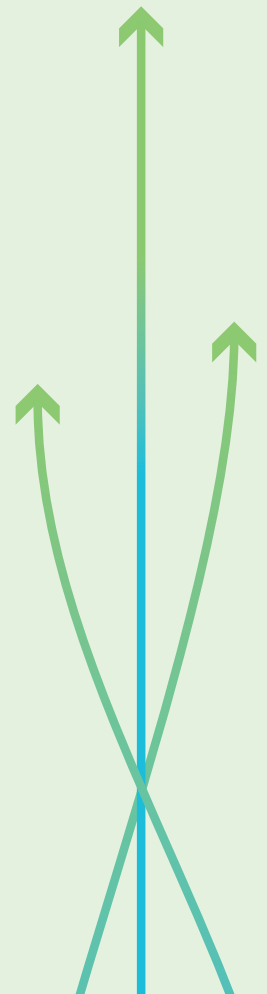


PUERTO RICO
HPV UTD

Puerto Rico has increased HPV vaccination coverage of **>1 dose by 10% and up-to-date (UTD) by 14% since 2016** and has one of the highest levels of HPV vaccination coverage. However, UTD coverage remains **below the Healthy People 2030 goal of 80% UTD**. Compared to meningitis and whooping cough (Tdap) vaccines, HPV vaccination coverage is very similar among 13-17-year-olds with **88% vaccinated against meningitis and 85% against whooping cough in 2021**.



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



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 for cervical cancer are higher in Puerto Rico compared to the U.S. averages.**

New Cases

	All HPV Cancers	Oropharyngeal Cancer	Cervical Cancer
United States Overall	12.5	5.2	7.2
Puerto Rico Overall	12.9	3.0	11.7
United States	Male: 11.2, Female: 13.9	Male: 9.1, Female: 1.7	Puerto Rico ranks in the Top 3 Nationally in cervical cancer incidence rates.
Puerto Rico	Male: 9.1, Female: 16.4	Male: 5.8, Female: 0.7	

Incidence rates shown are cases per 100,000 persons.

ACTION STEPS:

Identify and engage key stakeholders in HPV vaccination efforts through vaccination and cancer prevention stakeholders in Puerto Rico to develop, implement, and evaluate an action plan for increasing HPV vaccination coverage:

- Align with existing efforts to promote vaccinations to optimize impact.
- Increase on-time HPV vaccination overall and specifically focus on completion rates among adolescents who have initiated the HPV vaccination series.
- Monitor and mitigate the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on HPV vaccination and co-administer HPV vaccination with other recommended vaccinations.

HPV Vaccination School-entry Requirement

- In 2018, Puerto Rico made HPV vaccination a school-entry requirement for adolescents aged 11-12. With already high levels of HPV vaccination coverage, this strategy is likely to result in further increases reaching the Healthy People 2030 goal of 80%.

Pingali C, Yankey D, Elam-Evans LD, et al. National Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years – National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:1101–1108. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7135a1>, released in September 2022, accessed December 2022

U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2021 submission data (1999–2019): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz, released in November 2022, accessed December 2022

Colón-López V, Vázquez-Otero C, Rivera-Figueroa V, Arroyo-Morales GO, Medina-Laabes DT, Soto-Abreu R, et al. HPV Vaccine School Entry Requirement in Puerto Rico: Historical Context, Challenges, and Opportunities. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2021;18:210035. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd18.210035>external icon.