HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes the human papillomavirus (HPV) as a very common virus that can lead to cancer. The CDC estimates that nearly 80 million Americans are infected with HPV and, every year, roughly 14 million people – including teens – become infected. Each year, according to the CDC, more than 30,000 people are affected by a HPV-related cancer.

HPV is most commonly spread via vaginal, oral or anal intercourse. HPV typically goes away on its own, and most people who are exposed to it do not experience any health problems. In cases where HPV does not go away on its own, it can lead to genital warts or cancer. The most common cancer in the U.S. associated with HPV is cervical cancer. In 2015, the age-adjusted cervical cancer death rate in Volusia County (4.1) was nearly twice the Florida rate (2.3).

The HPV-related cancers age-adjusted death rates have remained relatively unchanged from 2011 to 2015, staying between 3 and 4 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Twelve cases (50%) of HPV-related cancer deaths were from cervical cancer, the most common HPV associated cancer. Oropharynx and vulvar cancers accounted for 29% and 13%, respectively. Anal and penile combined for 8% of HPV-related cancers.

NOTE: Age-Adjusting*

The frequency with which health events occur is almost always related to age. The age-adjusted rate is a summary measure that eliminates the effect of the underlying age distribution of the population, allowing for comparisons between populations regardless of their age structure.
Volusia County has experienced a 49.8% increase in the number of adolescents and young adults who received the HPV vaccination from 2012 to 2016.

In 2016, of those who were vaccinated, 52% were female and 48% were male. This is a 26% improvement from 2012 when males only accounted for 38% of adolescents and young adults being vaccinated.

CDC recommends that adolescents ages 11 to 12 get vaccinated. In 2012, there were no vaccinations administered to adolescents younger than 14. In 2016, those numbers increased, adolescents between the ages of 10 and 13 accounted for 41.2% of all vaccinations.

Sources:
Florida Department of Health, Immunization Data, Volusia County 2012-2016

For more information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County
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