

# Assessing Community-facing Opportunities to Improve Adolescent HPV Vaccination Rates

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HPV Cancer Prevention Program



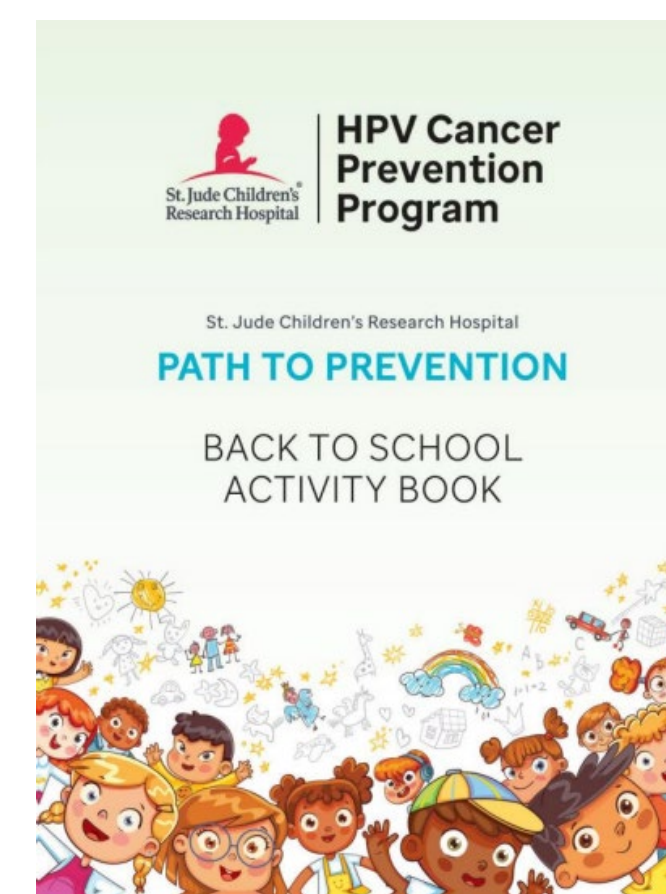
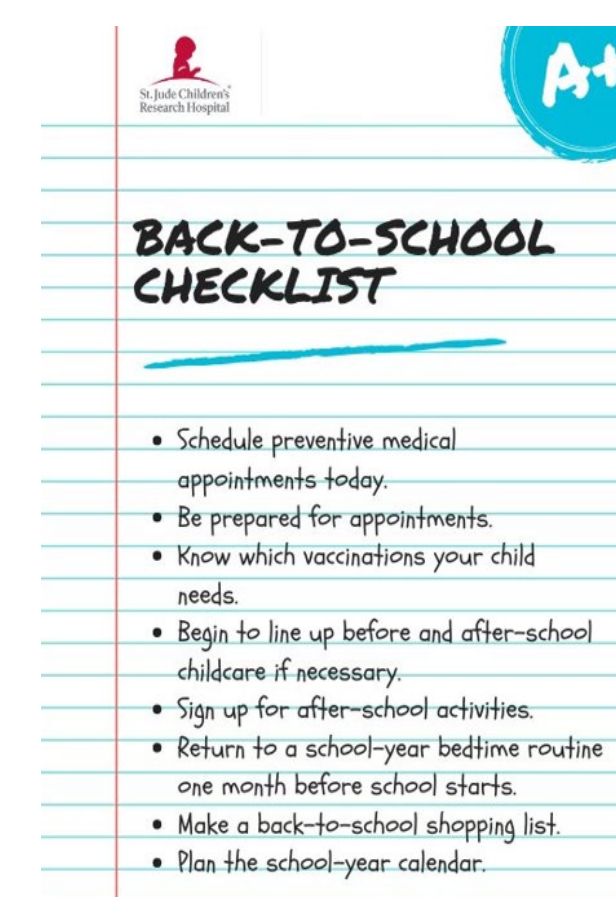
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## INTRODUCTION

- HPV vaccination is recommended for routine vaccination at ages 9-12 years and through age 26 and for some people ages 27-45 who were not vaccinated when younger.
- Up-to-date (UTD) HPV vaccination coverage was 64% for 13–17-year-olds in Tennessee, based on 2021 NIS-Teen data, but remains lower than the United States *Healthy People 2030* goal of 80% UTD.
- In Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee, HPV vaccination coverage was 39% UTD for 11-17-year-olds, based on most recent Tennessee Immunization Information System (TennIIS) estimates, which is about half of the *Healthy People* goal.
- Overall, HPV vaccination coverage is also much lower compared to other routinely recommended vaccines for adolescents, meningitis and whooping cough, in this same age group in Tennessee and in Shelby County.
- Combined approaches that couple education and same-day HPV vaccination administration in community settings have shown promise for increasing coverage.
- **The purpose of this community-facing, collaborative effort was to join forces by leveraging organizational commitments to improve HPV and other routinely recommended vaccination coverage in the community.**

## METHODS

- Beginning in 2022, a planning committee of community partners was convened to design vaccination events to offer all routinely recommended, including HPV vaccination, and school-entry vaccinations for K-12 children who were students in Memphis and Shelby County Schools at no charge to the student and their families.
- **Partners:** Memphis Shelby County Schools, Shelby County Health Department, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Shot RX, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Latino Memphis, and Memphis Area Transit Authority, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- **Setting:** Vaccination events were held in central locations in Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee that were easily accessible to parents and children. Memphis Shelby County Schools is the largest school district in Tennessee and a top 25 largest public education system in America, serving over 106,000 students.
- **Population:** School-aged children K-12 in need of vaccinations required for school-entry and also specifically those aged 9-18 eligible for HPV vaccination.
- **Community Vaccination Events:** In 2022, there were five vaccination events, and in 2023, there were another five events. Three of the 2023 events had St. Jude HPV Program team member in-person participation, while HPV vaccination information was provided at the other two. Subject matter experts provided information to attendees on HPV vaccination, provided handouts, and monitored attendance.
- **Evaluation:** The Shelby County Health Department collected and provided data on the number of HPV vaccinations given.



## RESULTS

- Year 1 (2022), an estimated 500 adolescents received required back-to-school vaccinations and 118 adolescents, who might have otherwise gone unvaccinated, received a recommended dose of the HPV vaccine (24% of those who attended and received at least one other vaccination). (*Figure 1*)
- Year 2 (2023), an estimated of 380 adolescents received required back-to-school vaccinations and 197 adolescents received a recommended dose of HPV vaccine (52% of those who attended and received at least one other vaccination). (*Figure 2*)
- Results demonstrated a significant increase in adolescent HPV vaccination from the first to second year. These increases, while modest, represent additional children protected from HPV cancers in our community.

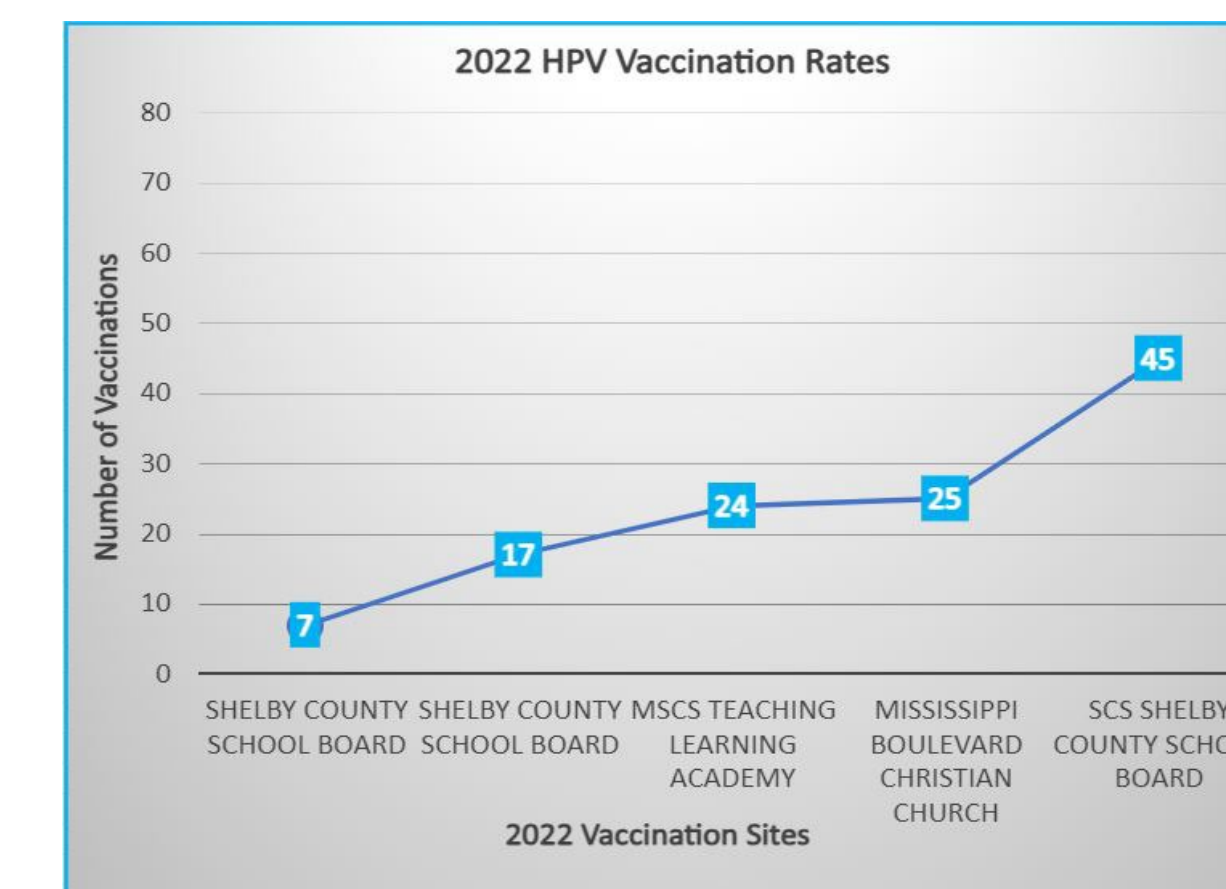


Figure 1. The total number of vaccinations during the 2022 back-to-school drive efforts was 118. The highest number of vaccinations administered was 45 at Teacher Learning Academy.

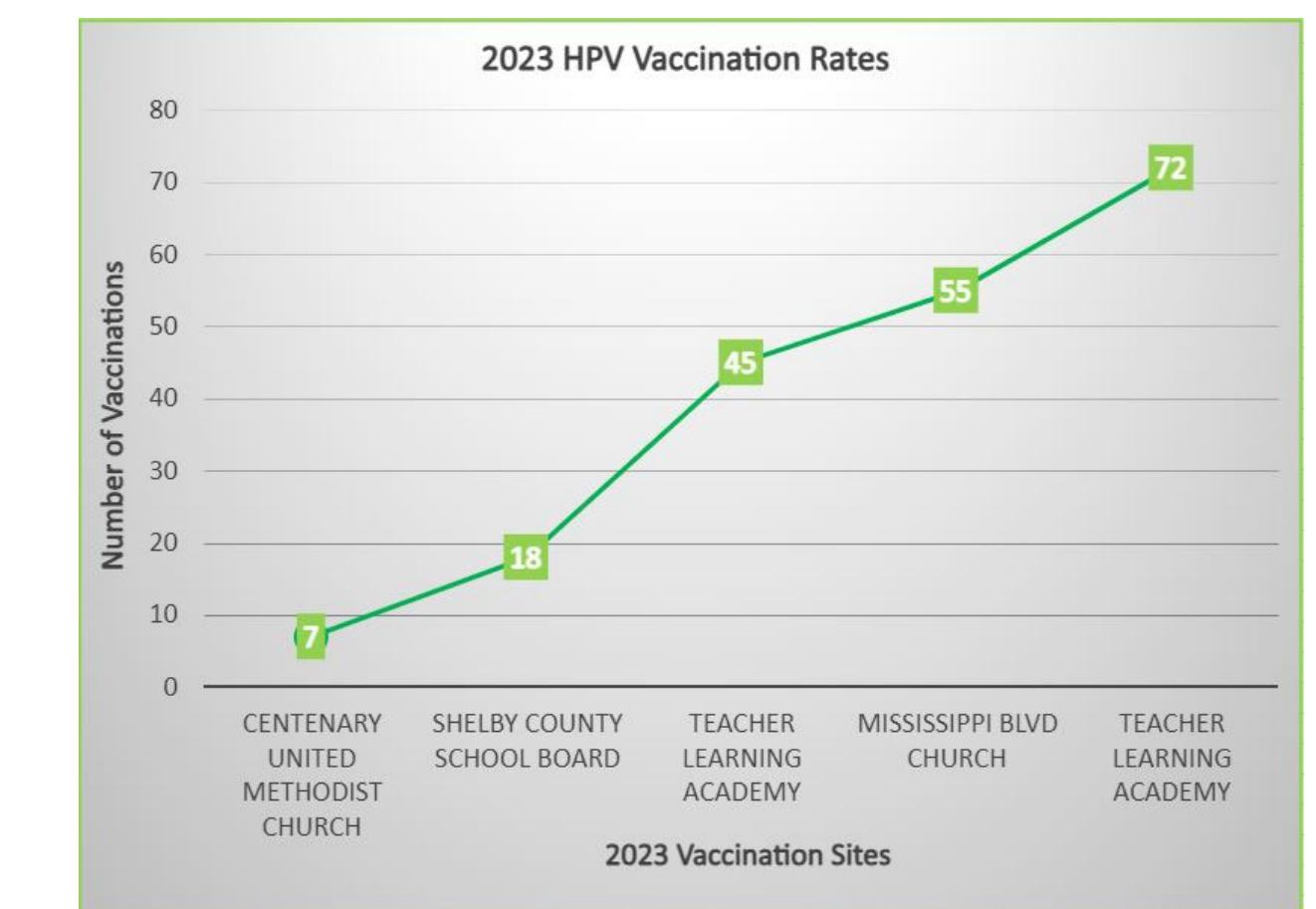


Figure 2. The total number of vaccinations during the 2023 back-to-school drive efforts was 197. The highest number of vaccinations administered was 72 at Teacher Learning Academy.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Findings from previous years' events provided useful implications for developing effective interventions for increasing HPV vaccination through local collaboration with community partners and supported continued offerings. One such example is the need to ensure materials are available in Spanish, which was immediately implemented at subsequent vaccination events.
- Children in Memphis and Shelby County Schools still need vaccination events to catch up on missed doses during the pandemic and prepare for the upcoming school year. Vaccination events for 2024 are already underway and would ideally be offered throughout the calendar year to meet demand.
- Careful attention to evaluation to understand the best approaches to providing information to attendees will be a priority in the future.

