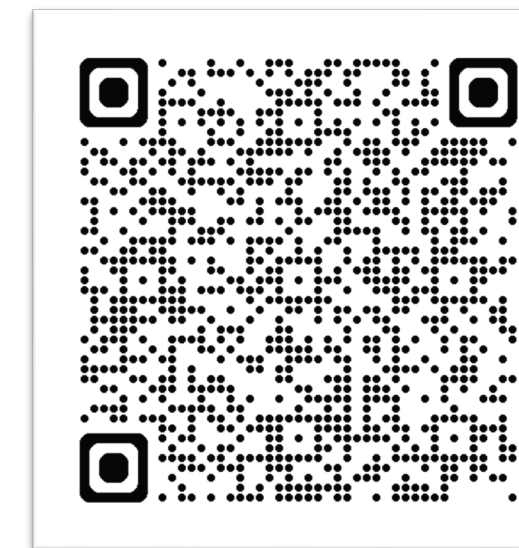


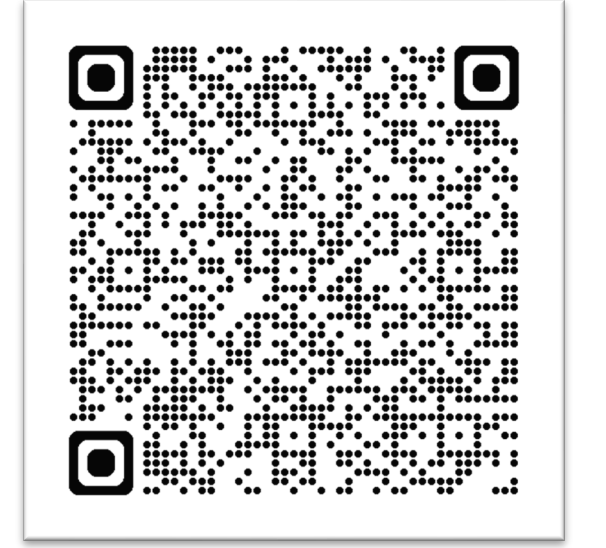
Convening to Improve HPV Vaccination across the Southeastern U.S.

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Access the Southeast Roundtable



Sign up for Southeast Roundtable updates and resources

Background

- The HPV Vaccination Roundtable of the Southeast (Southeast Roundtable) includes 12 states and 2 jurisdictions in the southeastern U.S. – Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. These states and jurisdictions have HPV vaccination completion rates between 1% and 24% *lower* than the national average based on recent NIS-Teen data also have HPV cancer rates that are generally *higher* than the U.S. average. The Southeast Roundtable was opportune to convene and work collectively to address these disparities.
- Building on the previous work of the ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable and in continued partnership, the focus on the southeast region that occurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic provided a strong foundation for regional collaborations to improve HPV vaccination and allow us to work collaboratively in this space to amplify our efforts through collective impact and also cultivate a rich learning environment. While each state and jurisdiction may have unique attributes, similarities in context, conditions, and determinants offer fertile ground.
- Beginning in September 2022, select representatives of Southeast Roundtable states and jurisdictions along with representatives from St. Jude, ACS, and the ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable united to discuss improving HPV vaccination. The formation of the Southeast Roundtable resulted in identification of priority action items to guide strategic implementation for improved HPV vaccination coverage.

Methods

- An in-person meeting was held in January 2024. Prior to the in-person meeting, with the guidance of the Southeast Roundtable Planning Committee, possible evidence-based interventions (EBIs) were identified and considered by attendees in advance and then during the in-person meeting. (Figure 1)
- Following the in-person meeting, three virtual follow-up meetings were held to continue discussions with attendees to develop the ideas underlying each of three priority actions. Primary champions and implementation team members for each priority action were identified and commenced with planning activities. (Figure 2)

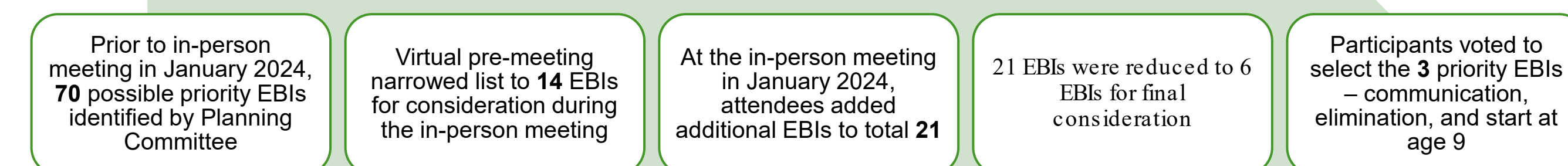


Figure 1. Overview of the priority action selection process

Priority Actions to Improve HPV Vaccination Coverage

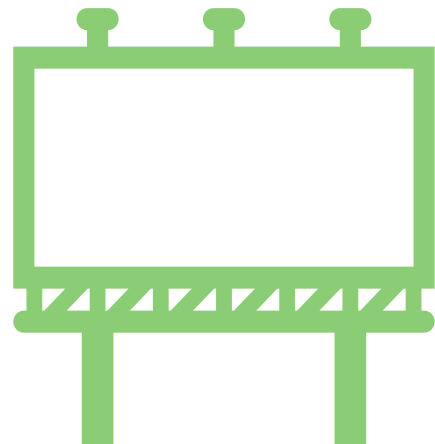


-  **Communication:** Develop and implement a communication campaign and messages for the Southeastern region
-  **Elimination:** Develop and disseminate a plan for HPV cancer elimination in the Southeast, beginning with cervical cancer as a public health problem
-  **Start at Age 9:** Accelerate efforts to start HPV vaccination at age 9

Figure 2. Priority actions for the Southeast Roundtable

Acknowledgments

We express sincere gratitude to the ACS; ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable; and the Southeast Roundtable Planning Committee members, champions, implementation teams, and member organizations for their active engagement and support of these priorities to prevent HPV cancers in the southeast. We also thank Carol Minor for her previous contributions.

Results

- Primary champions and implementation team members, with backbone support provided by the St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program team, have been working to implement the three priority actions and associated strategies. Southeast Roundtable members receive updates quarterly via email and are invited to join working group meetings.
- Communication:** The communication implementation team has focused on establishing a relationship with a communication vendor and identifying key features of an ideal campaign with products and messages in English and Spanish that can be co-branded with the Southeast Roundtable logo. The campaign will focus on HPV vaccination as cancer prevention for everyone (gender-neutral) and include appropriate imagery and messaging. The campaign will be launched in January 2025.
- Elimination:** To address the elimination priority, the implementation team continues to work on developing and disseminating a regional elimination plan for the Southeast. Such an elimination plan is a way to garner support and catalyze action to improve HPV vaccination, cervical cancer screening, and cervical cancer treatment, aiming for the elimination of HPV cancers starting with cervical cancer. A virtual seminar focused on elimination was held in June 2024, and in August 2024, a needs assessment will be administered to explore and better understand the landscape and context of elimination planning in the region. The elimination plan will be released in January 2025.
- Start at Age 9:** To address the start at age 9 priority, the implementation team continues to work on developing and disseminating targeted messaging to key partners and health care providers to drive improved knowledge of the benefits of starting HPV vaccination at age 9 and encourage initiation of HPV vaccination at age 9. The implementation team is actively working on creating and sharing specific messages to key partners and healthcare providers and will host a healthcare provider training in September 2024.

Next Steps

- The formation of the Southeast Roundtable over the last two years has resulted in greater synergy among states and jurisdictions in this region and allowed for concerted focus on three priority action items determined by key people and partners representing the best interests of their respective communities served.
- The Southeast Roundtable will continue to focus on implementing activities to support the priority actions and meeting the needs of membership and communities served.
- Specific deliverables include: Planning a virtual annual meeting in January 2025 to revisit priorities and plan for future initiatives; Release the Southeast Roundtable elimination plan in January 2025; and Launch the Southeast Roundtable communication campaign in January 2025.