



HPV Cancer Prevention Program

Preventing HPV Cancers with Rural Communities:

Quarterly Updates Meeting

Summary

February 19, 2025

1:00 – 2:00 PM ET / 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Access the presentation slides and recording of the [February 2025 Rural HPV Vaccination Quarterly Updates Meeting](#)

Presenters:

- Julia Brown, MPH, Program Manager, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Nicole Williams, MPH, Program Coordinator, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Ashley Lach, Program Manager, HPV Disparities, American Cancer Society
- Christina Turpin, Director, National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, American Cancer Society

Introduction of New St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program Team Members

- Nicole Williams, MPH, Program Coordinator, HPV Cancer Prevention Program
- Maddy McNee, MPH, Program Coordinator, HPV Cancer Prevention Program

Nicole and Maddy will be coordinating the St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program's efforts to increase HPV vaccinations with rural communities.

Progress on Priority Action Steps to Increase HPV Vaccination Coverage with Rural Communities – Julia Brown, MPH

- Progress continues to be made on the six priority action steps to increase HPV vaccination with rural communities. During this meeting the following updates were provided:
 - **Rural Priority Action Steps: Starting at Age 9 & Training Providers - Immunize Kansas Coalition: Shutting the Door on HPV Cancers**
 - Immunize Kansas Coalition recently launched a free, self-paced training designed for healthcare provider audiences to help increase HPV vaccination rates. 0.5-hour CE available at no cost to physicians, pharmacists, physician assistance, nurses, and nurse practitioners.
 - Enroll in Immunize Kansas Coalition: [Shutting the Door on HPV Cancers](#)
 - **Rural Priority Action Steps: Existing Resources & Training Providers (ACS Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community)**
 - The ACS and the ACS National HPV Vaccination Roundtable (HPVRT) invite rural healthcare partners to join a collaborative learning community aimed at connecting partners and improving on-time HPV vaccination rates among adolescents aged 9–12. The 2025 learning community will offer virtual sessions and peer-based learning to

- enhance vaccine rates through quality improvement (QI) methodologies and evidence-based practices.
 - Register for the next meeting of the [ACS Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community](#)
- **Rural Priority Action Steps: Existing Resources & Training Providers – Cancer in Rural Communities: A George Washington (GW) Cancer Center Community of Practice**
 - The GW Cancer Center Technical Assistance Program (TAP) invites you to join a new Community of Practice (CoP) to enhance your knowledge of cancer in rural communities! Open to all CCC program staff and coalition representatives.
 - Register [here](#).
- **Rural Priority Action Steps: Communication – February Quarterly Communication**
 - Access the [2025 February Quarterly Communication](#)
 - We are looking for contributors for our monthly 2025 Wide Open Spaces article series. We would love to highlight your work. Email us at PreventHPV@stjude.org.
- **Rural Priority Action Steps: Data – Cancer Map Stories: Rural-Urban Disparities in Cancer**
 - The National Cancer Institute (NCI) discusses the rural-urban disparities in cancer using a map-based explanation. The importance of preventative cancer care and HPV vaccination is emphasized by acknowledging that Rural communities experience elevated incidence and mortality of human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancers and correspondingly lower HPV vaccination rates.
 - Explore [The Cancer Map Stories: Rural-Urban Disparities in Cancer](#)

We encourage you to access [St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program Rural HPV Vaccination Resources](#) and use and share the following rural HPV vaccination resources from the St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program:

- Access [Wide Open Spaces Articles](#) – read the latest article [Using Data as Our Guide](#)
- Preventing HPV Cancers with Rural Communities: Quarterly Updates and Opportunities
 - November 2024 Quarterly Updates [recording](#) and [newsletter](#)
 - August 2024 Quarterly Updates [recording](#) and [newsletter](#)
 - May 2024 Quarterly Updates [recording](#) and [newsletter](#)
 - February 2024 Quarterly Updates [recording](#) and [newsletter](#)
 - November 2023 Quarterly Updates [recording](#) and [newsletter](#)
 - [January 2023: St. Jude Rural HPV Vaccination Introductory Meeting](#)
- [International HPV Awareness Day 2024: Rural Reach: Accelerating HPV Vaccination Coverage](#)
- [Factsheet: Preventing HPV Cancers with Rural Communities](#). Printed copies are also available upon request.
- Tell us what you are working on related to rural HPV cancer prevention.
 - We would love to showcase your work with rural communities to increase HPV vaccination and prevent HPV cancer.
 - Contact us at PreventHPV@stjude.org

Using Data as Our Guide – Wide Open Spaces, February 2025 – Nicole Williams, MPH

- Rural females had significantly higher rates of cervical, vaginal, vulvar, oropharyngeal, and anal cancer compared to urban peers. Rural males had higher rates of penile cancer.
- Rural incidence of HPV-associated cancers is rising faster than urban and metro incidence for the first time in at least 20 years.
- Recommended actions to close the rural-urban HPV vaccination rate towards prevention of HPV-associated cancers were presented.
- Access [Using Data as Our Guide \(February 2025\)](#)

HPV Vaccination in Rural Communities- Ashley Lach and Christina Turpin

- National HPV Vaccination Roundtable and American Cancer Society are under the same umbrella with a vision to end cancer as we know it for everyone through the lenses of advocacy, prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship.

- ACS focused on on-time HPV vaccinations, starting at age 9, for females and males. Only 41% US adolescents fully vaccinated against HPV by 13th birthday. Opportunity for improvement and progress towards Health People 2030 goal to double this in 6 years.
- Studies out of Scotland, England, and Sweden proving HPV vaccination is more effective at preventing cervical cancer when given by age 13
- HPV vaccination at age 9 works
 - Studies shared showing positive provider experiences, higher rates of completing the series by age 13, and that updating EMR prompts have helped providers and staff to promote HPV vaccination at age 9.
 - When you start at 9, you see up to 30% higher rates of HPV completion, larger increases in vaccine rates with those who have access barriers, and higher acceptance from providers and clinics
- Unique barriers cause lower HPV vaccination rates and higher HPV-related cancer incidence in rural than urban communities=ACS focused strategies on HPV vaccination in rural communities.
 - Mountain West HPV Project launched in 2020 in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming to focus on decreasing geographic and gender gaps. Project highlights include bringing together diverse stakeholders, successful pilot of 2-year learning collaborative that saw substantial increases in 9–10-year-old HPV vaccination initiation rates and higher completion by age 13 and learning that both traditional and non-traditional vaccinators are thirsty for HPV education. Led to creation of ACS Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community and ACS HPVRT Rural Advisory Group.
 - ACS and HPVRT are collaborating towards priority actions of Rural Think Tank from HPV Cancer Prevention Program at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
- ACS Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community launched in March 2024 with a 10-part series of virtual sessions and peer-based learning, using quality improvement (QI) and evidence-based interventions as the framework to increase HPV vaccine rates. Learning community has had robust participation.
 - Landing page with resources now available.
 - 2025 ACS Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community will run 2nd Wednesday of every month (March-December)

Helpful Links

- [American Cancer Society](#) and [ACS HPV Vaccine Prevention](#)
- [ACS National HPV Roundtable \(HPVRT\)](#)
- Learn more about the [ACS Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community](#) and view 2024 recordings [here](#).
- Register for the [2025 Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community Series](#)
- [Rural HPV Vaccination Learning Community Resource Roundup](#)
- [ACS HPVRT co-brandable fliers, social media posts, and posters](#)
- [ACS On-Demand HPV Pharmacy Education](#)
- [ACS On-Demand HPV Dental Education](#)
- [Team Maureen](#) has more great oral health provider resources and a toolkit.
- St. Jude has a coloring book/activity book for kids if you would like them, please email us at PreventHPV@stjude.org

HPV Cancer Prevention Program Seminars

- [Register for the 2025 HPV Awareness Day Seminar Series, March 3-7, 2025.](#)
 - There will be a rural focus on Friday, March 7, 2025: **Harvesting Best Practices to Prevent Rural HPV Cancers.**
- **Empowering and Strengthening Community, Culture, and Connection to Prevent HPV Cancers Seminar Series - Addressing HPV Vaccination Inequities and HPV Cancer Disparities Experienced by African American and Black Communities**
 - [Unedited recording](#) and [presentation slides](#)

Next Preventing HPV Cancers with Rural Communities: Updates and Opportunities (Quarterly Updates)

- May 14, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET / 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT.

- Click [here](#) to register
- Visit our website at stjude.org/hpv-rural
- Email PreventHPV@stjude.org with any questions.