

What is cervical cancer?

2026

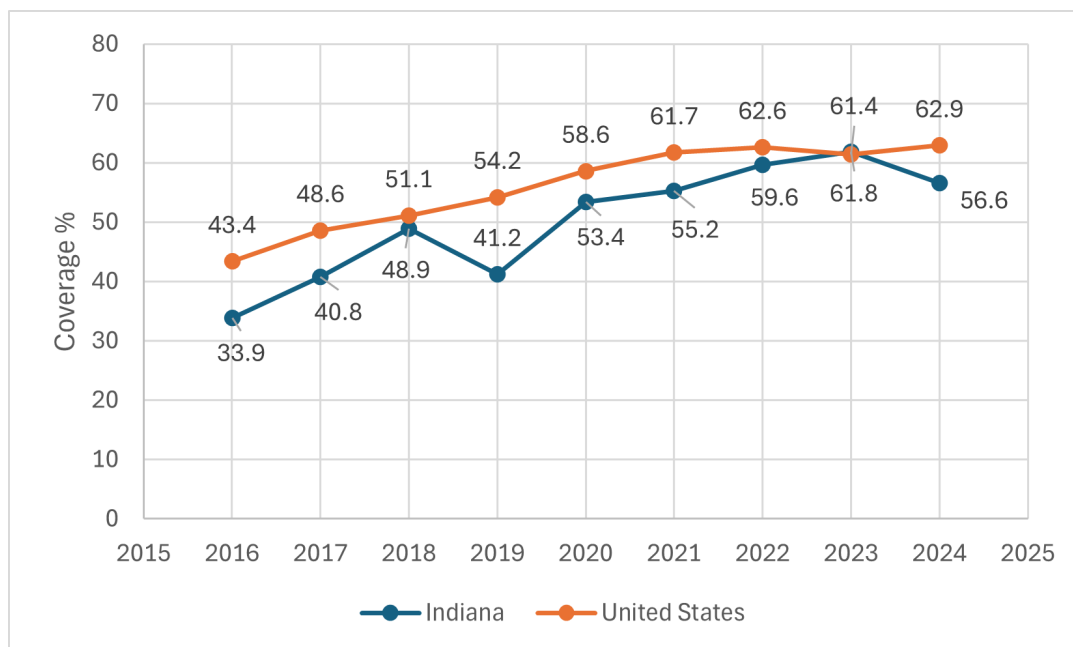
Cervical cancer begins in the cells lining the cervix, the lower part of the uterus (womb).¹ It is almost 100 percent preventable through regular routine screening, avoiding certain risk factors, and getting vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is the single greatest risk factor for cervical cancer.^{1,3}

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), an estimated 13,360 cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 2025. An estimated 4,320 people died from the disease that year.²

From 2018-2022, 1,472 women in Indiana were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer. About 4 in 10 were diagnosed early, when the cancer was still limited to the cervix. More than half were diagnosed after the cancer had already begun to spread, and a small percentage had an unknown stage at diagnosis.

During this period, White women in Indiana had a slightly higher rate of cervical cancer than Black women. However, Black women experienced a higher death rate from the disease than Black women.

Up-to-Date HPV Vaccinations among Adolescents Age 13-17, Years 2016-2024



Source: National Immunization Survey

Indiana Cervical Cancer Diagnoses and Deaths, 2018-2022

	Cervical Cancer Incidence		Cervical Cancer Mortality	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
White Non-Hispanic	1,200	8.72	419	2.91
Black Non-Hispanic	134	7.99	61	3.60
Hispanic	102	11.00	27	2.90
Other	36	7.45	8	1.57U

Data Source: Indiana State Cancer Registry

Early Detection & Screening

In the United States, the cervical cancer death rate has dropped by almost 50 percent in the last 30 years, largely because of the effectiveness of Pap smear screening.⁵ There are two screening tests that can help prevent cervical cancer or find it early. The Pap test (or Pap smear) looks for precancers, which are cell changes on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately. The HPV test looks for the virus that can cause these cell changes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that HPV vaccination begin at age 11-12 for both boys and girls, although the series can begin as early as age 9 and can be given through age 26. As of December 31st, 2024 in Indiana, around 5.5 % of adolescents ages 9-12 and 50.2% of adolescents ages 13-18 were considered up to date on their HPV vaccine.⁴

Prevention

- Get vaccinated! Protecting yourself against HPV lowers your risk for cervical cancer and other cancers.
- Practice safe sex.
- Limit your number of sexual partners.
- Be smoke free. Visit <https://www.quitnowindiana.com> for free smoking cessation assistance.
- See your doctor regularly for a Pap test, which can detect cervical pre-cancers.
- Follow up with your provider if your Pap test results are not normal.
- If you are age 30 or older, ask your provider about getting an HPV test along with your Pap test.

References

1. American Cancer Society. What is Cervical Cancer? Accessed at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer/about/what-is-cervical-cancer.html> on January 14, 2026
2. American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts and Figures 2026*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2026. <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/all-cancer-facts-figures/2026-cancer-facts-figures.html>
3. American Cancer Society. Cervical Cancer: Prevention and Early Detection. Accessed at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer/prevention-and-early-detection/cervicalcancer-risk-factors.html> on January 14, 2026
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Supplementary Table 2. National Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13–17 Years — National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2021. Accessed at <https://blogs.cdc.gov/nchs-data-visualization>. on August 26, 2024.
5. American Cancer Society. Key Statistics for Cervical Cancer. Accessed at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer/about/key-statistics.html> on January 14, 2026

For additional information on cervical cancer:

<https://www.in.gov/health/cdpc/cancer/>

