



Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health

# Chronicle of Indiana Cancer Control

August 2024

## National Immunizations Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month! This is a great time to check your vaccination status to make sure you and your loved ones, especially children, are up to date on necessary immunizations, and to learn about the importance of vaccines. The hepatitis B vaccine prevents hepatitis B infection, an illness that can lead to liver disease and cancer. The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine prevents HPV and six different cancers. HPV is a group of more than 150 viruses and can cause cancer due to cell abnormalities.<sup>1</sup>

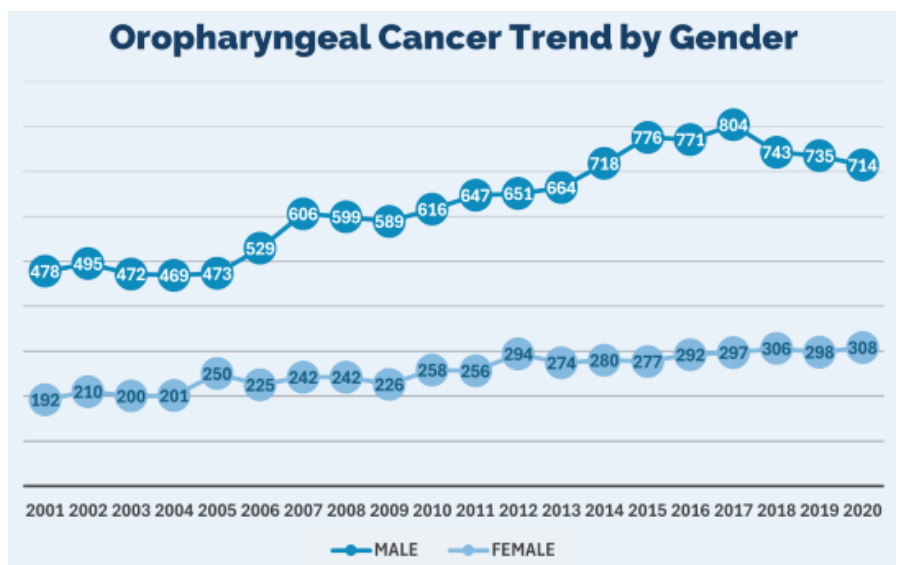
<sup>1</sup> [National Immunization Awareness Month](#)

## HPV and Cancer in Indiana

HPV is a family of viruses that can cause certain cancers and diseases in both males and females. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. HPV can infect the mouth and throat and cause cancers of the oropharynx (back of throat, including the tongue and tonsils). Other cancers that can be caused by HPV infection include cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, and anal. It usually takes years after being infected with HPV for cancer to develop. HPV cancers are not just found in women.

HPV causes:

- Oropharyngeal cancer—70%
- Anal cancer—91%
- Penile cancer—63%
- Vulvar cancer—69%
- Vaginal cancer—75%
- Cervical cancer—91%



Source: Indiana State Cancer Registry

## Immunization Information

- **Hepatitis B vaccine:** This vaccine is available for all age groups and is recommended for all infants, all children or adolescents younger than 19 years of age who have not yet been vaccinated, all adults age 19 through 59 years, and adults age 60 years or older with risk factors for hepatitis B infection. Adults who are 60 years or older without known risk factors for hepatitis B may also receive hepatitis B vaccine.<sup>2</sup>
- **HPV vaccine:** The HPV vaccination is recommended for 11-12-year-olds. The CDC also recommends HPV vaccination for everyone though age 26, if not vaccinated already. Adults ages 27 to 45 years who are not already vaccinated may decide to get the HPV vaccine after speaking with their healthcare provider regarding their risk for new HPV infections.<sup>2</sup>
- Visit IDOH's [immunization website](#) for information on adult immunizations, child and teen immunizations, and access to [MyVaxIndiana](#).
- Always consult with your healthcare provider about immunizations.

<sup>2</sup> [CDC](#)

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

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