

# CERVICAL CANCER FACT SHEET

Cervical cancer forms in tissues of the cervix (the organ connecting the uterus and vagina). It is a slow-growing cancer that may show no symptoms, but can be found with regular Pap tests and/or HPV tests. Cervical cancer is almost always caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

If cervical cancer is  
found early  
it is highly treatable.

Cervical cancer is most frequently  
diagnosed among women aged

35–44

## Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections among both males and females. Most HPV infections do not cause any disease and go away without treatment. For some females, HPV can cause abnormal tissue growth and other changes to the cells of the cervix. Without proper care, infection over a long period of time may cause cervical cancer. Other types of cancers such as anal, vaginal, vulvar, penile and oropharyngeal cancer can also be caused by HPV.

## Prevention and Risk Factors

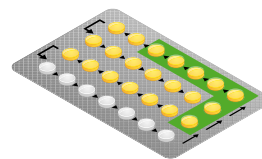


Beginning at age 21,  
get screened with  
regular Pap tests  
and/or HPV tests.

If infected with HPV,  
cigarette smoking can  
increase risk.

Get the HPV vaccine at  
ages 11–12 (can be  
given starting at age  
9) and up to age 26.

Limit the number of  
sexual partners and use  
condoms during sex.



Giving birth to  
many children.

Being exposed to  
diethylstilbestrol (DES)  
while in the mother's womb.

Long time use of oral  
contraceptives.

Weakened immune  
system.

## In Hawai'i

- About 52 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year.
- Annually, about 15 women die from cervical cancer.
- From 2012–2016, there were 1,060 cervical cancer survivors.
- **Get vaccinated!**

HPV vaccination and other vaccines are required for school attendance in Hawai'i.

