

Collaborating to educate on HPV through Indiana's comprehensive cancer control coalition

Authors: Caleb Levell, BA; Dawn Swindle, BS; Kate Tewanger, MPA



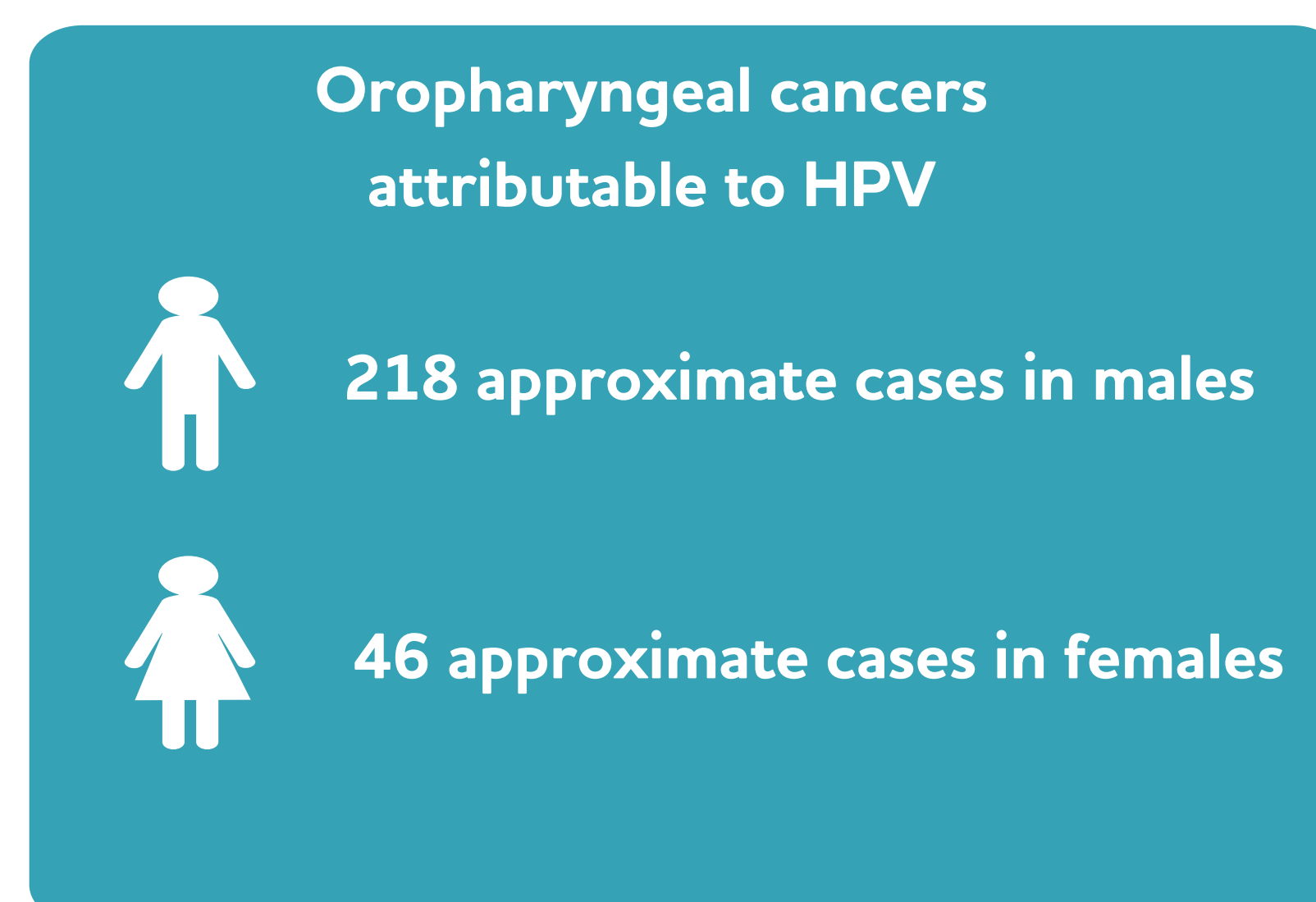
Background

The Indiana Cancer Consortium's (ICC) cancer control plan provides a roadmap for cancer control in Indiana. The primary prevention focus area includes a section on immunizations that serve as preventive measures against cancer, including an objective to increase the number of females and males in Indiana who receive the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination series.

Certain types of HPV can cause cancer in women and men. In most cases, the virus clears on its own and does not lead to any health problems; however, in some people, the virus can cause normal cells to change and become abnormal. HPV is a risk factor for cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers.

HPV-Related Cancer Burden in Indiana during 2012*

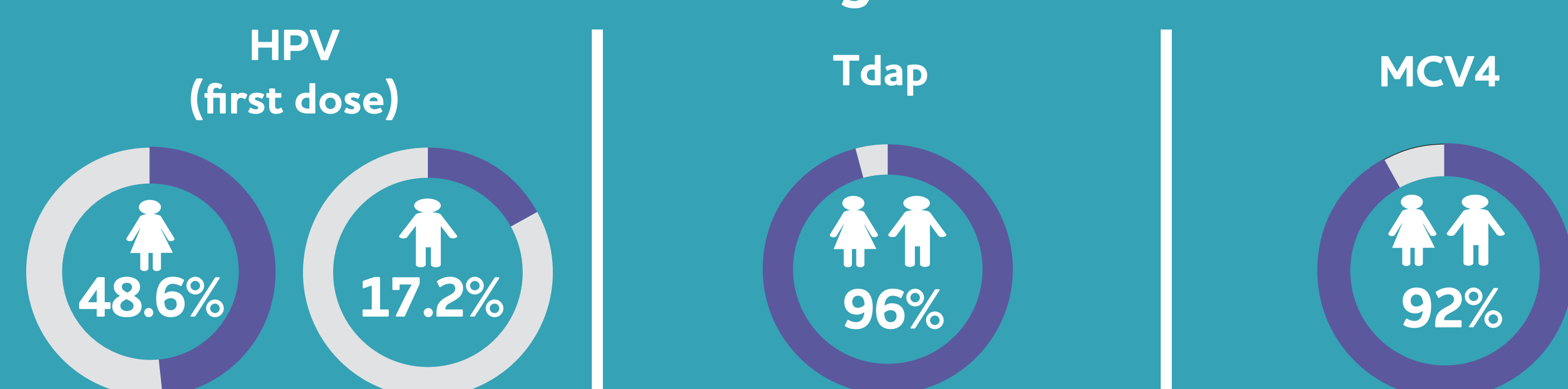
- 385** Approximate cancer cases occurring in sites where HPV is often found
- 240** Approximate new cases of cervical cancer
- 100** Cervical cancer deaths



* Indiana Cancer Registry

Vaccination offers the best protection against HPV infection. Vaccines are given as three-dose series over a period of six months, and ongoing reviews of vaccine safety by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Institutes of Medicine continue to demonstrate the safety of HPV vaccines. Vaccination is recommended for both 11 - 12 year old boys and girls, and older teens and young adults who have not been previously vaccinated or have not completed the recommended series. It's safe and recommended to administer the HPV vaccine at the same time as the other adolescent vaccines. However, according to the National Immunization Survey 2012, Indiana's rates for the HPV vaccination series in teens were low compared to other adolescent vaccines.

Indiana vaccination rates ages 13-17



* National Immunization Survey 2012

Methods

After an internal Indiana State Department of Health work group identified Indiana's current vaccination rates, the ICC Advocacy Committee convened key stakeholders to deliberate approaches addressing Indiana's low vaccination rates. The statewide cancer control coalition was used to minimize the duplication of efforts, promote shared resources, and unite as a stronger advocacy voice for HPV and cervical cancer awareness.

ICC HPV Vaccination Work Group Partners

- American Cancer Society
- Cervical Cancer-Free Indiana
- Indiana Cancer Consortium
- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana Family Health Council
- Indiana Immunizations Coalition
- Indiana Minority Health Coalition
- Indiana School Nurses Association
- Indiana State Department of Health Cancer Control Section
- Indiana State Department of Health Immunizations Division
- Indiana University Bloomington School of Public Health
- Kristen Forbes EVE Foundation
- Merck

Objectives

- 1 Host an educational rally at the Indiana statehouse during National Cervical Health Awareness Month.
- 2 Create three educational toolkits targeting providers, parents, and patients.
- 3 Track legislation involving vaccination policy and be accessible to legislators for questions.



(Attendees at Educational Rally)



(Representative Sue Errington)



(Educational Rally for Cervical Cancer Awareness)

Results

1 Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccination Education

Over 90 attendees from around the state convened at the statehouse to listen to researchers from the Indiana University School of Medicine, survivor stories, and legislators including Indiana State House Representatives Ed Clere, District 72, and Sue Errington, District 34.

2 Educational Toolkits

The work group completed three HPV toolkits - one specific to patients, one specific to providers, and one specific to parents of juvenile patients. Toolkits contain relevant data, information, and resources, and were made available during the rally event as well as through the ICC website.

3 Ongoing Collaboration with the Indiana Legislature and Key Stakeholders

Throughout summer 2014, advocacy and lobbying-oriented organizations from the work group have held ongoing conversations with Indiana legislators on how to increase the state's HPV vaccination rates. After participating in the educational event, Representatives Ed Clere and Sue Errington have started participating in their respective ICC Regional Cancer Control Coalitions.

Conclusions

The rally provided insight into the views and misconceptions many Indiana residents and state representatives have about the HPV vaccine. An ongoing conversation between Indiana policy-makers, public health professionals, state government, and providers is paramount for the improvement of state vaccination rates. The ICC holds a key role in convening stakeholders to guide evidence-based decision-making for Indiana health professionals and policy-makers.

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Contact

Caleb Levell
Indiana Cancer Consortium
Caleb@IndianaCancer.org