

Cervical cancer, sometimes called “cancer of the uterine cervix,” starts in the cells of the cervix. The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. The cervix connects the vagina to the upper part of the uterus. The uterus is where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant.

Cervical cancer is highly preventable in most Western countries because screening tests and a vaccine to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV) infections are available. When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated with long survival and good quality of life.

Incidence

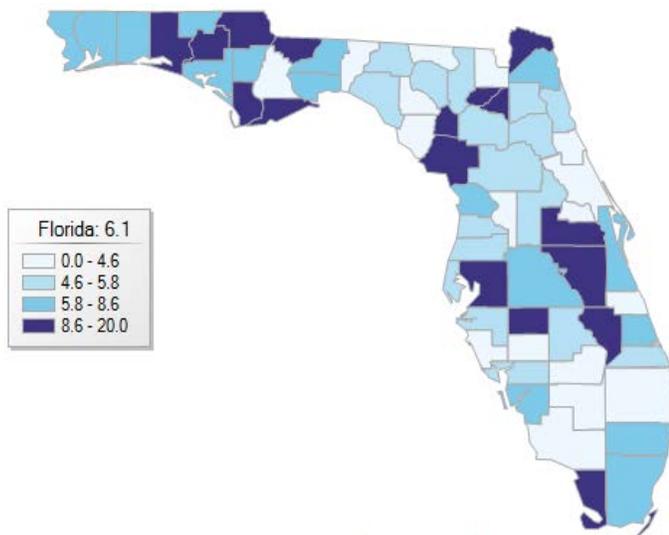
- In Leon County, 26 new cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed from 2012-2014.
- The age-adjusted incident rate was 5.9 per 100,000 population, which was lower than the statewide rate (6.1 per 100,000).

Mortality

- From 2012-2014, 8 women died from cervical cancer.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate was 1.9 per 100,000 population, which was lower than the statewide age-adjusted rate* (2.9 per 100,000).

*summary measure adjusted for differences in age distribution

**Age-adjusted Cervical Cancer Incidence (Rate per 100,000)
2010-12**



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Florida CHARTS; and Florida SHOTS

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- HPV is a very common virus; nearly 80 million people—about one in four—are currently infected in the United States. About 14 million people, including teens, become infected with HPV each year.

HPV Vaccine:

- **HPV Vaccine is important because it protects against HPV infection.**
- The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls at age 11 or 12 so they are protected before ever being exposed to the virus. HPV vaccine also produces a more robust immune response during the preteen years.
- The HPV vaccine is given in a series of three shots.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend receiving the full HPV vaccine series.

Leon County HPV Vaccine Rates:

- According to Florida State Health Online Tracking System (SHOTS), as of October 2015, there were 51,680 children and young adults between the ages 9 to 26 years that were eligible for the HPV vaccine in Leon County.
- Of this group, only 12% completed the HPV vaccine series.
- An estimated 77% (39,776) have not started the vaccine series; 6.3% (3,271) had one dose; and 4.8% (2,477) had two doses.
- Of females between the ages 9 to 26, only 15.4% (3,933) completed the three-dose series.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) makes it easy to get the breast and cervical cancer screenings doctors recommend. The program serves women 50 to 64 years of age who are uninsured Florida residents of Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties. These women are at 200% of the poverty level.

- To find out if you qualify, call the Florida Department of Health in Leon County at (850) 606-8112.