

## Michigan HPV Cancer Summit: The Road to Prevention

**Collaborating Partners:** American Cancer Society, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Immunization, Rogel Cancer Center Michigan Medicine, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage.

**Full Description of Collaborative Project:** Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a recognized cause of cancer. Although most HPV infections are asymptomatic and clear spontaneously, persistent infections can progress to precancer or cancer. HPV causes most cervical cancers, as well as some cancers of the vagina, vulva, penis, anus, and oropharynx (cancers of the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils). Cancer registries do not routinely collect information about HPV status, so in this report, HPV-associated cancers are defined as those that occur in parts of the body where HPV is often found. In the United States, 31,500 men and women get HPV related cancers each year. The HPV vaccine has a 97% effectiveness at preventing infection, yet the series completion rate of Michiganders getting the vaccine is below 50%.

To change this, the collaborating partners planned and developed a summit to increase rates. Learning objectives included: Current ACIP HPV vaccine recommendations, HPV coverage rates for Michigan and the U.S., HPV Cancer occurrence for Michigan and the U.S., reasons to vaccinate 11 & 12-year-olds with HPV vaccine, communication approaches for making a strong HPV vaccine recommendation, and evidence-based preventative strategies to reduce HPV cancers. Aimed primarily at providers, the summit featured presentations from national, state, and local champions. These include: Dr. Belinda Wharton, Director, Immunization Services Division, Center for Disease Control and Prevention; Dr. Basel Khatib, Pediatrician in Dearborn; Dr. Shelly Seward, Gynecologic Oncology at Karmanos Cancer Institute; Dr. Marcus DeGraw, St. John Hospital and Medical Center; Dr. Melissa Gilkey, Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina; Bob Swanson, Director of Immunization, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; as well as a cervical cancer survivor.

There were 81 attendees at the summit including doctors, nurses, social workers, health plan staff, researchers, and others. While it is too early to determine empirical results, i.e., HPV vaccination rates improved, the interest generated by the presenters was overwhelming. Attendees heard firsthand the methods physicians in the state of Michigan used to raise their HPV vaccination completion rates; that it could be done in their practice demonstrated that like results could be achieved elsewhere. The feedback from the attendees was excellent; the participant evaluations showed quite favorable impressions and interest in future summits.