# Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccination Disparities in South Carolina

## Project Overview

To identify existing initiatives targeting cervical cancer prevention and control in rural South Carolina (SC)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR HPV-VACCINATION IN RURAL SC

- Nationally, rural areas have disproportionately lower HPV vaccination rates and higher cervical cancer incidence & death rates than their urban counterparts.
- Provider shortages in rural areas can be a barrier to accessing prevention, diagnosis & treatment services. It is unknown, however, whether rural South Carolinians have lower access to HPV vaccination.

## SC Vaccination Statistics

- The HPV vaccination rate among 13-17 year olds in SC was 43% (U.S. average, 48.6% in 2017).
- 38% of boys completed their HPV vaccination series in 2017 versus 47% of girls.
- HPV vaccination initiation and completion (all doses) is lower in non-metropolitan versus metropolitan areas of the state (Figure A).

![Figure A. HPV vaccination initiation and completion among SC residents aged 13-17 years, by metropolitan status](image)

## Contact

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Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccination Disparities

VACCINE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMMING IN RURAL SC

- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally-funded program through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention providing free vaccinations, including HPV, for children and adolescents 18 years of age or under who are low-income or uninsured, enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or American Indian/Alaska Native.

- Utilization of the VFC program is an important approach to improve HPV vaccination in rural communities.

In 2019, rural counties had better access to VFC programs per capita than urban counties.

Rural counties had 81 VFC locations per 100,000 persons on average, while urban counties had only 54 per 100,000.

- 114 VFC providers (23% of all providers) are located in rural counties.
- 46.5% of rural VFC providers are federally designated, community-based clinics (e.g., rural health clinics, federally qualified health clinics).
- 18.5% of rural VFC providers are local health departments.
- The availability of VFC programs at community-based clinics, such as community health centers and local health departments, are important to continue providing access to vaccines in rural communities.

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