

August 2015

# CERVICAL CANCER: What You Need to Know



## Where Do I Find Help?

- American Cancer Society  
[Cervical Cancer Information](#)
- National Cancer Institute  
[Cervical Cancer Information](#)
- Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services  
[www.michigan.gov/cancer](http://www.michigan.gov/cancer)
- Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services  
[www.michigan.gov/hpv](http://www.michigan.gov/hpv)

## Additional Facts

Estimated 2015 Uterine-Cervix Cancer Cases and Deaths in Michigan:

New cases: 350

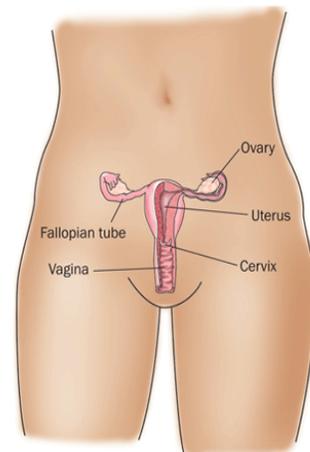
Deaths: 120

Source: [American Cancer Society Cancer Facts and Figures 2015](#)

## What Is Cervical Cancer?

**Cervical cancer** affects women and begins in the cervix. The cervix is the lower end of a woman's uterus (or womb). The cervix connects the vagina (birth canal) to the upper part of the uterus.

Cervical cancer can be prevented and it can also be detected early. This is why the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccine (used to prevent cervical cancer) AND the "Pap test" (used to detect cervical cancer) are so important.



## What Causes Cervical Cancer?

- ✓ It occurs most often in women over age 30
- ✓ The most important risk for cervical cancer is infection by the human papilloma virus (HPV)
- ✓ Smoking cigarettes increases your risk for developing cervical cancer
- ✓ If someone in your family had cervical cancer

## What Can I Do To Lower My Chances Of Getting Cervical Cancer?

- ✓ The HPV vaccine can prevent cervical and other cancers – girls can begin getting the vaccine at ages 11-12; women age 26 and younger should ask about getting the vaccine; boys should also receive the HPV vaccine. Talk with your health care provider.
- ✓ Safe sex
- ✓ Routine Pap tests
- ✓ Follow up of Pap tests that are not normal

## How Do I Find Cervical Cancer Early?

Cervical cancer can be found early by regular Pap tests. The "Pap test" is a test for cervical cancer and is not the same as a pelvic exam.

- ✓ All women age 21-29 should have a Pap test every 3 years.
- ✓ After age 30, women should have a Pap test every 3 years or a Pap test with HPV test every 5 years.

## Call Your Doctor If You Have any Signs or Symptoms

Some signs and symptoms of late cervical cancer are:

- Bleeding or discharge from the vagina that is not normal for you, such as bleeding after sex.