

Kansas Ranks Low Among States for HPV and Meningitis Vaccinations

By IAC

Just 21 percent of Kansas females age 13-17 completed the full course of HPV vaccinations in 2013. HPV, or human papillomavirus, is common and causes almost all cases of cervical cancer, and can cause other cancers in both men and women. A series of three vaccinations, usually administered to preteen boys and girls, can prevent the virus and the cancer it causes. That same year, only 55.9 percent of Kansas teenagers of the same age received at least one dose of the vaccine that can prevent meningococcal meningitis. A serious illness often associated with college students, meningitis can cause complications such as brain damage, hearing loss, neurological problems or even death. The vaccination rates in Kansas for both illnesses have remained among the lowest in the nation over the past several years, and in fact, the three-dose HPV vaccination rate for Kansas adolescent girls was tied for the lowest in the country in 2013. A coalition of Kansas doctors, health department officials, researchers and educators are working to improve the rates through a group called the Immunize Kansas Coalition. - See more at:

<http://www.khi.org/policy/article/press-release-kansas-ranks-low-among-states-for-hpv-and-meningitis-vaccinat>

The Topeka Capitol Journal quotes KAFP member and Immunize Kansas Coalition Board Chair, John Eplee, MD (Atchison): <http://cjonline.com/news/business/2015-08-02/kansas-tied-lowest-rate-teen-hpv-vaccination>