

# HPV-Associated Cancer: Facts & Figures

## INCIDENCE IN MINNESOTA

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common sexually transmitted infection. More than 90 percent of sexually active men and 80 percent of sexually active women will be infected with HPV in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

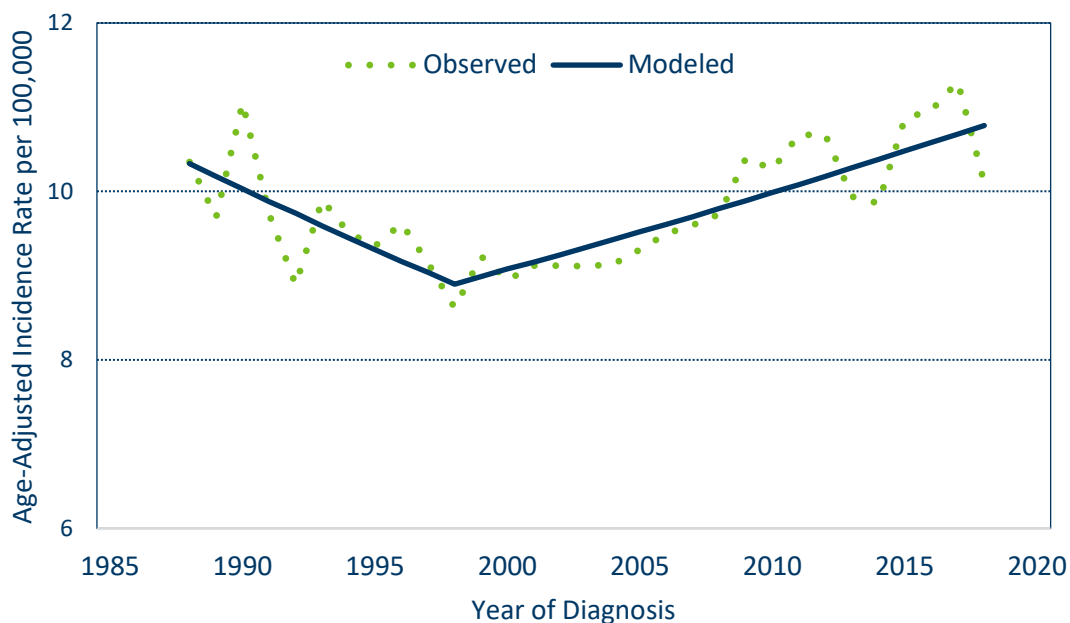
Around 50 percent of HPV infections involve certain high-risk types of HPV, which can cause cancer. Most of the time, the body clears these infections and they do not lead to cancer. However, persistent infections can cause changes that lead to cancer.<sup>1</sup>

These cancers are called HPV-associated cancers and include cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, rectal, and oropharyngeal (mouth and pharynx) cancers.

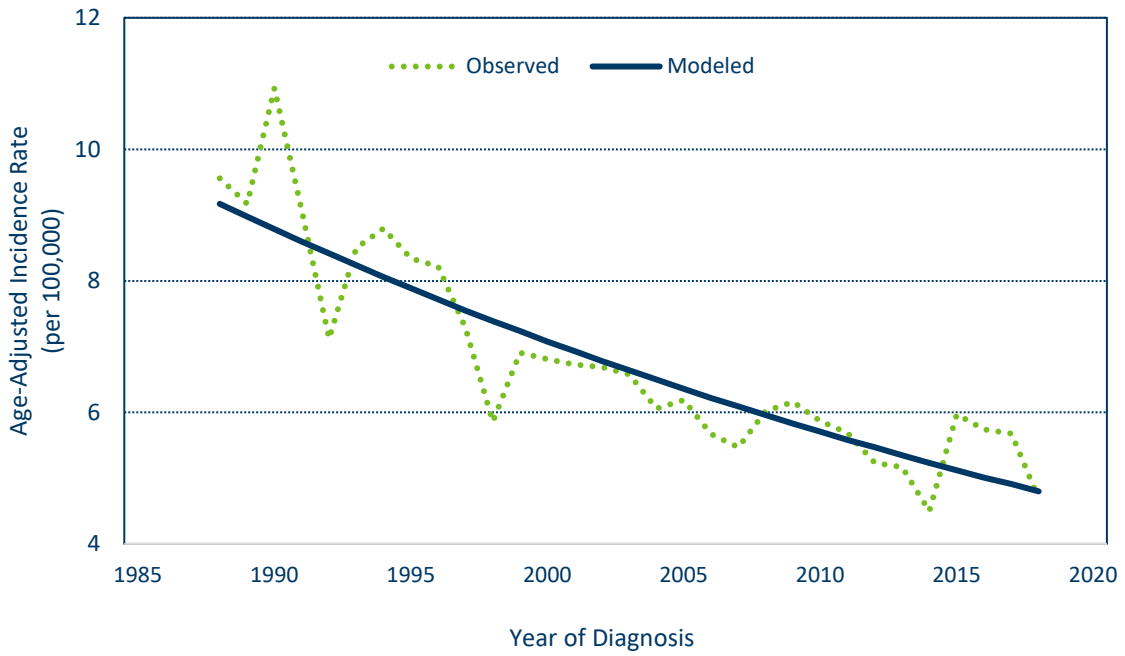
## HPV-associated cancer rates are rising

Up until the late 1990s, HPV-associated cancer had been declining, due to the success of cervical cancer screening programs. Though cervical cancer rates continue to decline, increases in oropharyngeal cancer, especially in men, and anal cancer have driven an overall increase since 1999.

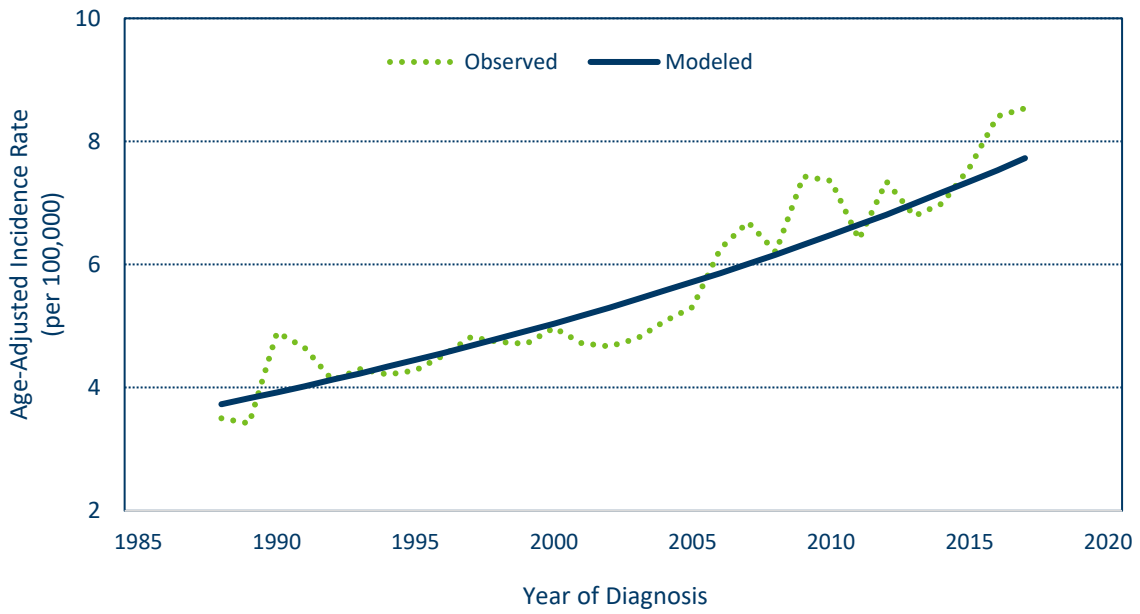
### HPV-Associated Cancer Rates in Minnesota Have Risen Since 1999



### Incidence of Cervical Cancer in Minnesota Has Decreased

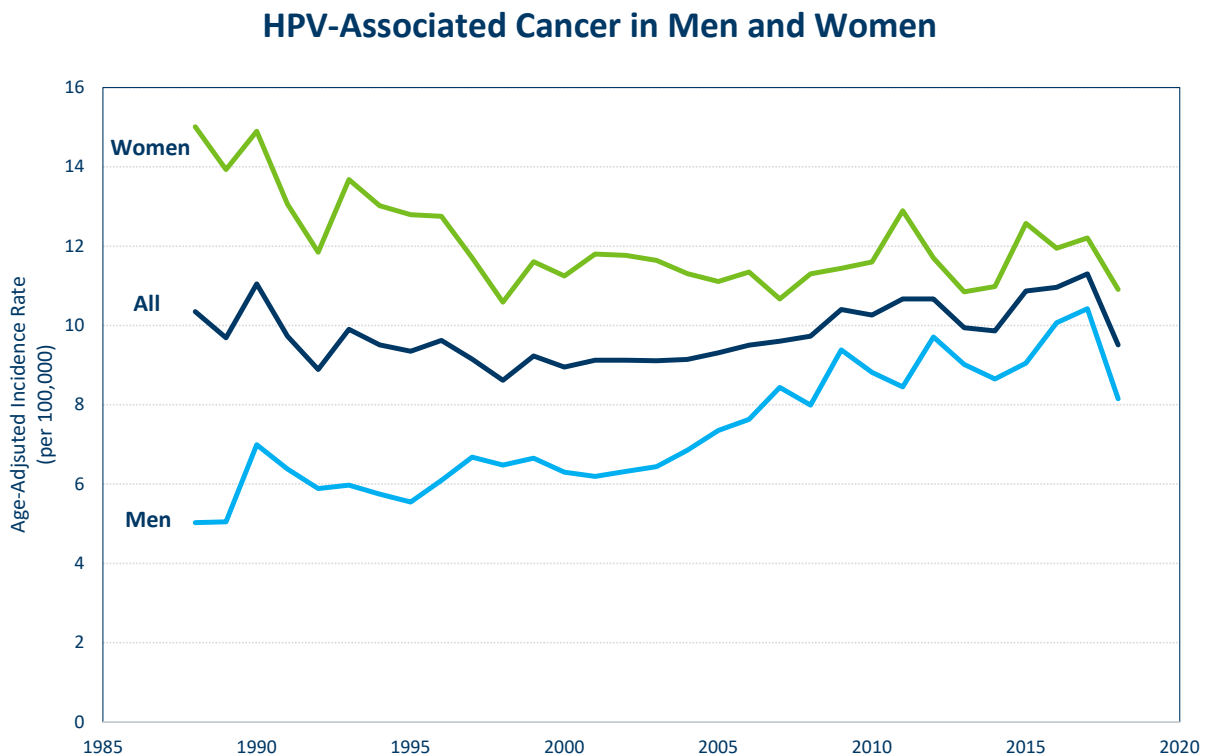


### Incidence of Oropharyngeal (mouth and pharynx) Cancer among Men in Minnesota has Increased



## HPV-associated cancer rates in men and women

In the past, HPV-associated cancer has been thought of as a primarily female disease. However, with cervical cancer rates declining, and oropharyngeal (mouth and pharynx) cancer rates rising in men, the gap has narrowed. Rates are still higher in women than men, but not by nearly as much as they used to be. From 1988 to 1992, the average incidence rate of HPV-associated cancer among women was 13.7 per 100,000, compared to 5.9 per 100,000 in men. From 2014 to 2018, the incidence rate among women was 11.7 per 100,000, compared to 9.3 per 100,000 in men.



## HPV-associated cancer risk factors

- High-risk sexual behaviors, such as early onset of sexual activity and having multiple partners, increase the risk of HPV infection, and thus of developing HPV-associated cancers.<sup>2</sup>
- Those with suppressed immune systems (like people with HIV) also have an increased risk of developing HPV-associated cancer.<sup>2</sup> These people have an increased risk of having a persistent HPV infection.
- Tobacco has also been associated with increased risk of many HPV-associated cancers.<sup>2</sup>

## HPV-associated cancer are preventable

- For cervical cancer, pap smears have proven to be an effective screening method, and can help catch precancerous lesions before they become cancer. Screening programs have driven the decreases in cervical cancer that's been seen in recent decades.
- For screening information and recommendations, visit:

[What should I know about screening?](#)

- For eligible women who meet age, insurance and income criteria, the MDH [Sage Screening Program](#) offers free cervical cancer screening.
- A vaccine is available that can prevent HPV infection by the most common high-risk types. The [HPV vaccine](#) could prevent over 70 percent of HPV related cancers.<sup>3</sup>

## References

1. HPV and Cancer. (n.d.). Retrieved June 23, 2017, from [National Cancer Institute HPV and Cancer fact sheet](#)
2. Wakeham, K., & Kavanagh, K. (2014). The Burden of HPV-Associated Anogenital Cancers. *Current Oncology Reports*, 16(9). doi:10.1007/s11912-014-0402-4
3. HPV and Cancer. (2017, March 03). Retrieved April, 2021, from [CDC HPV and Cancer](#)

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