



# minnesota cancer alliance summit

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**2026** | *the power of collaboration*

February 26, 2026

McNamara Alumni Center

Minneapolis, MN



# Breakout Session #1

Thomas Swain

February 25, 2026

McNamara Alumni Center



# Vaccine Advocacy for Cancer Prevention

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# The Future is Cancer-Free if You Give HPV (Vaccine)

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2026 Cancer Summit: The Power of Collaboration

Minnesota Cancer Alliance

February 26, 2026

# Authors & Disclosures

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# Learning Objectives

- 1. Review current data on HPV vaccination rates.**
- 2. Discuss effective programs, both locally and globally, to identify approaches that successfully increase vaccination rates.**
- 3. Create and practice a strong vaccine recommendation that can be applied within their professional or community role.**

# Recent Trends in HPV- Related Cancers

- Oropharyngeal cancers linked to HPV are rising
- Prevention remains possible with timely vaccination
- Post-pandemic stalls/declines include adolescent HPV vaccine uptake
- Disparities persist (sex, age, and access to care)
- Cross-sector engagement is needed to reverse trends
- Burden on Oral Health

# States with Highest Incidence of OOPC

## South

Kentucky	3.9%
West Virginia	3.8%
Tennessee	3.8%

## Midwest

<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Kansas	4.7%
Iowa	4.0%
Ohio	3.7%
Indiana	3.6%
Minnesota	3.5%
Missouri	3.4%
Nebraska	3.4%

# Data

- In 2024, [67.7%](#) of Minnesota adolescents had completed the HPV vaccine series **National Immunization Survey - Teen (NIS-Teen) 2024**
- Nationally, HPV series completion lagged behind other adolescent vaccines—about 62% in 2021 [CIDRAP+1](#).
- The [HealthyPeople2030](#) goal is to reach [80%](#), so Minnesota (at 67.7%) is approaching that benchmark but still has some ground to cover



# Global Wins in HPV Vaccination

Australia: sustained school-based programs show path to elimination

Scotland (area the size of Minnesota) and population is on track for 0 cases among those vaccinated in adolescence

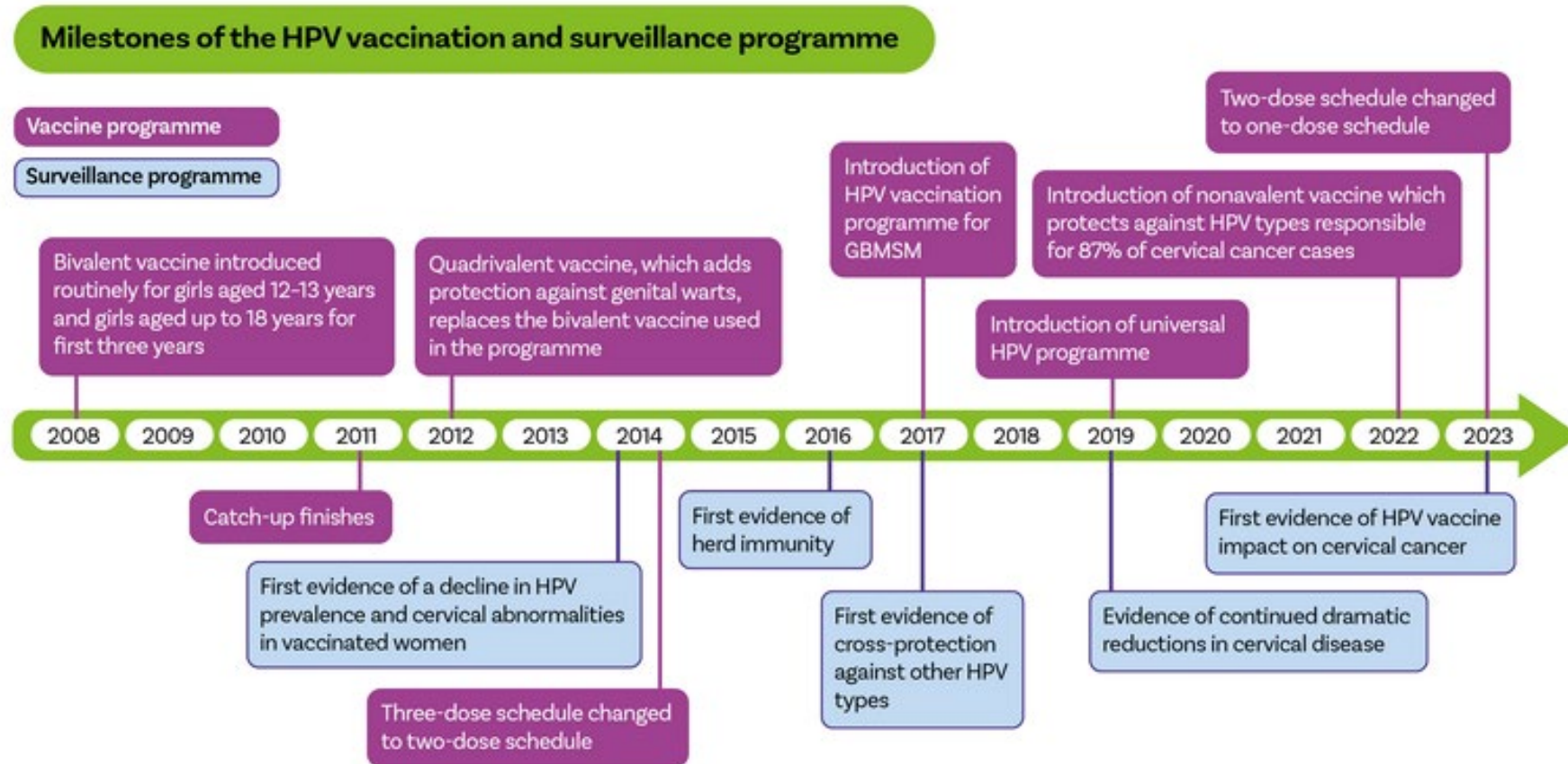
Rwanda: national rollout achieved high coverage through strong partnerships

United States: standing orders, reminder/recall, and school collaborations improved uptake

Lessons learned: policy alignment, equity focus, and community trust

# Focus on Scotland

## Infographic: Milestones of the HPV vaccination and surveillance programme



# ZERO

## RESULTS:

No cases of invasive cancer were recorded in women immunized at 12 or 13 years of age irrespective of the number of doses.



# Education & Advocacy That Work



Steve's Story

Peer-led education in schools and communities

EHR Vaccination Prompts

Story-based messaging that addresses hesitancy respectfully

Videos: Story-based messaging

Public health + schools + oral health team collaboration

Impact of vaccination status on recommendations

# What We Can Do

## Professional Organizations and Social Influence

- ACS, CDC, AAP, AAFP, ACOG
- ADA, AAPD
- Social media
- Celebrity Stories (Val Kilmer, Michael Douglas)
- Influencers (Mommy Blogs)

## During health encounters (quick wins)

- Use a brief, strong, and presumptive recommendation
- Offer one-page takeaways and credible resource links (CDC/state)????
- Flag charts for vaccine-age patients; add prompts to recall systems

## Partnerships & referrals

- Create warm handoffs to clinics/pharmacies for vaccination
- FQHC is good example where warm hand-off can take place

## Systems & equity

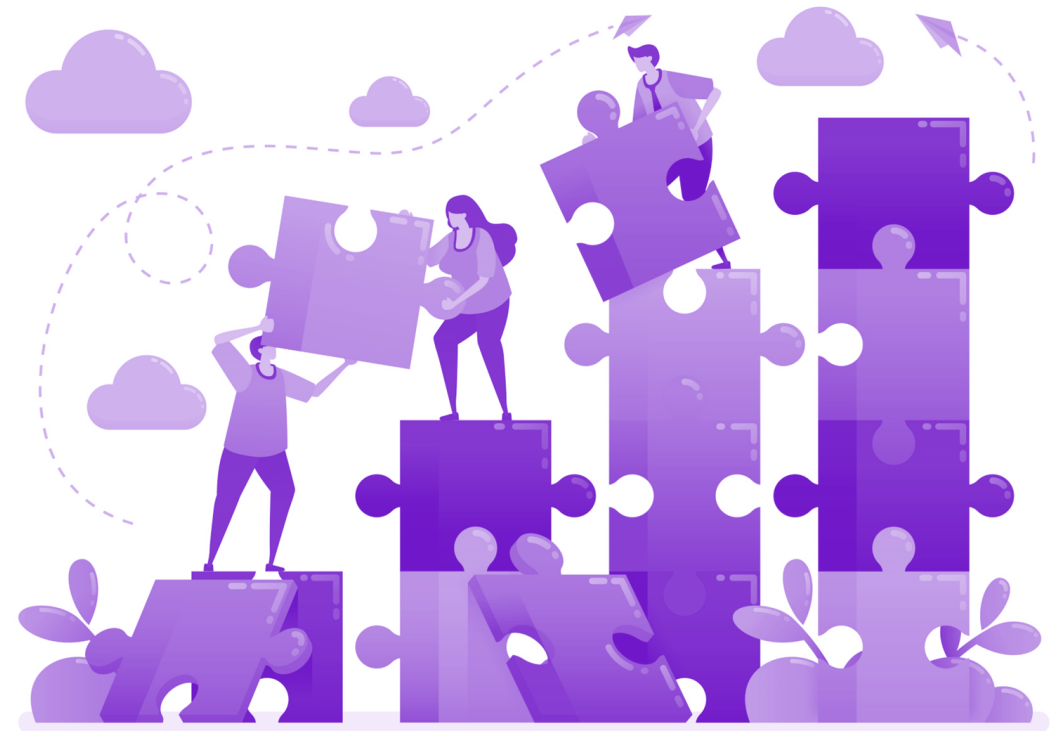
- Use culturally responsive materials and language access
- ACS handouts
- Community Events

# 30-Second Trusted-Messenger Script

- “Has Paula been vaccinated for HPV? I strongly recommend the HPV vaccine. It prevents cancers, including in the mouth and throat.”
- It’s safe, effective, and most protective when given now (9-12) at this age. Would you like me to connect you to nearby options or help you schedule?”
- Tips:
  - Keep it brief and confident; normalize vaccination
  - Offer scheduling help and printed resources
  - Invite questions; avoid debate framing

# Call to Action

- Commitment 1: Integrate HPV messaging into every eligible patient/parent interaction
- Commitment 2: Build partnerships across health agencies, community organizations, schools, and public health
- Commitment 3: Advocate for equitable access to HPV vaccines in all communities
- Together we can make the future cancer-free



# Videos



# Summary: All Hands-on- Deck for HPV Prevention

## Key Points:

### Trusted Messengers:

- Nurses, physicians, oral health providers, community and religious leaders, and caregivers willing to recommend vaccination with the right education.

### The Opportunity:

- Countries like Scotland show it's possible to achieve high uptake.
- With “all-hands-on-deck,” we can increase vaccinations
- Together, we can beat HPV-related cancers.

### Closing Message:

- Oral health professionals are a powerful, untapped ally.
- Community leaders, religious leaders, school personnel and parent leaders and youth themselves all can play a part
- Taking action today means your future self—and our youth—will thank you.

Do Something Today  
That Your Future Self  
Will Thank You For