

facts about cervical cancer

In the United States, there are about 14,100 cases of cervical cancer diagnosed each year. Cervical cancer occurs most often in women over age 30. However, all women are at risk! In Illinois, Black and Hispanic women are at a higher risk of getting cervical cancer and dying from it. When found early, **cervical cancer is highly treatable** with a high survival rate and a good quality of life.

What Is Known About Cervical Cancer?

Certain types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can cause cervical cancer. One way HPV spreads is through sexual contact. Some women have a greater chance of getting cervical cancer if they:

- Have a strain of HPV that doesn't go away
- Have HIV or AIDS
- Smoke cigarettes

What You Can Do:

Get Screened

Regular cervical screenings (Pap tests) are the best way to find abnormal cells early. Pap tests can improve outcomes. Early detection gives you a greater chance for successful treatment.

Stop Smoking

Smokers have a higher chance of developing cervical cancer. Smoking lowers the ability to fight HPV infection. HPV can develop into cancer.

Play it Safe

Many cases of cervical cancer are linked to HPV. Using a condom can help stop the spread of HPV.



Take Control of Your Health!

All women ages 21–64 should have a Pap test at least every three years. This is the best way to find cervical cancer early.

Sources: mayoclinic.org; cancer.org; nccc-online.org; cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/pdf/cervical_facts.pdf



Members DO NOT need a referral to make an appointment. Call Meridian Member Services at **866-606-3700** (TTY: 711) if you need help setting up a visit. We can also connect you to the Nurse Advice Line for any non-emergency medical questions.



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Español (Spanish): ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **866-606-3700** (TTY: **711**).

Polski (Polish): UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer **866-606-3700** (TTY: **711**).