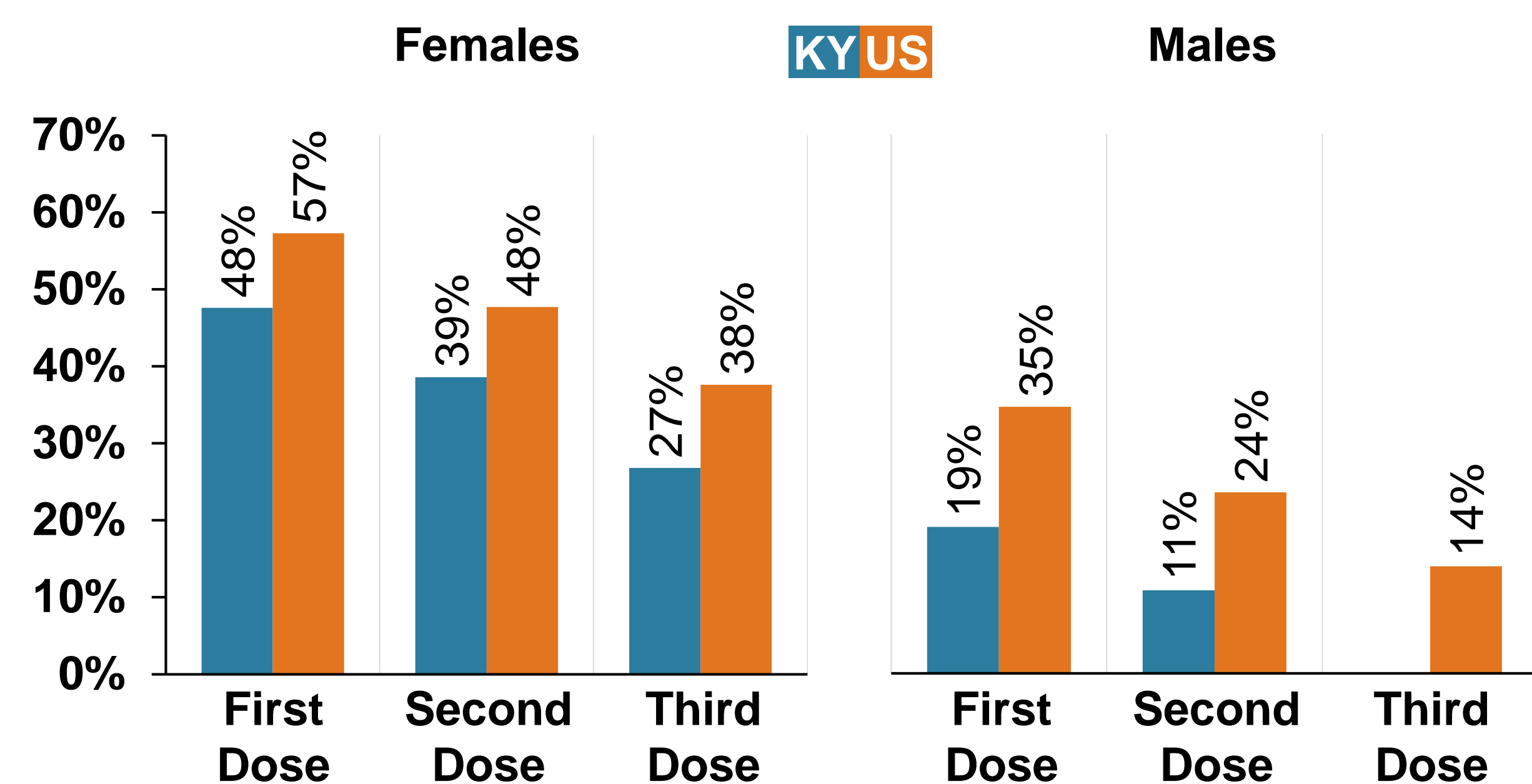


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CONTEXT

- Appalachian Kentucky faces disproportionately high incidence and mortality rates of HPV-related cancers. Correspondingly, Kentucky's HPV vaccine initiation and completion rates are below national estimates for both male and female adolescents.

HPV Vaccination Among Adolescents Age 13-17, 2013

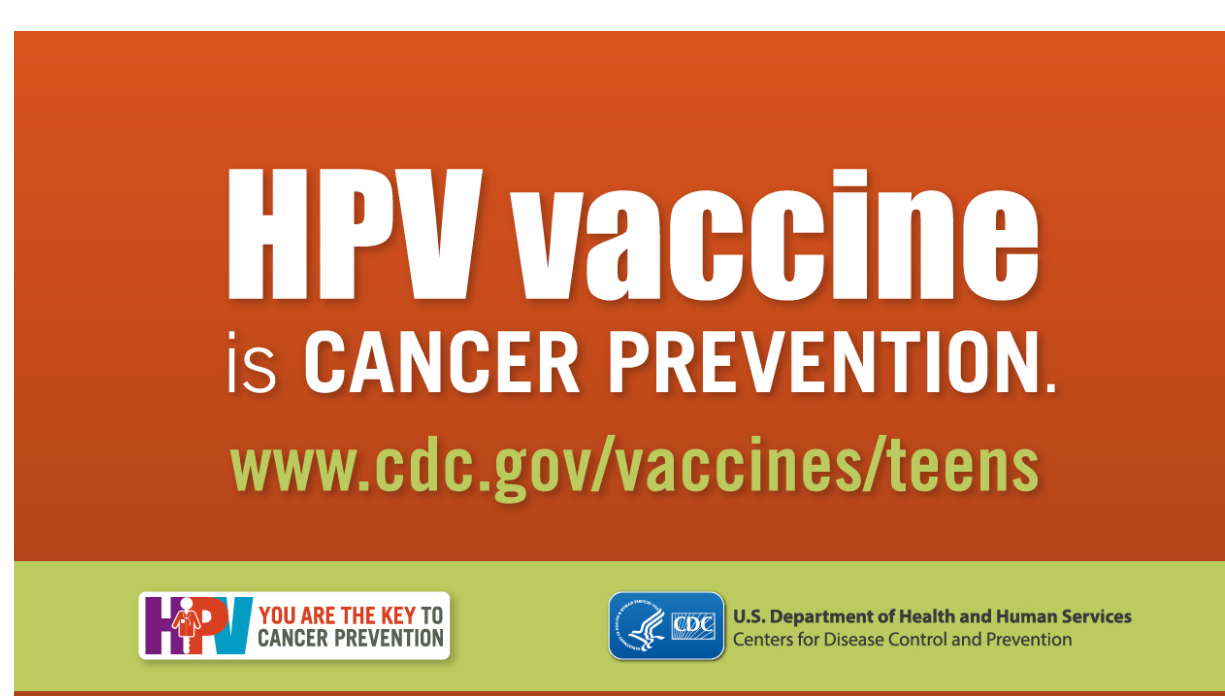


- Kentucky's goal is to have 80% of adolescents fully immunized against HPV infection by 2020, and this aligns with the national goals of *Healthy People 2020*.
- The purpose of the Environmental Scan is to gather information about HPV vaccination in Kentucky and identify opportunities to increase coverage and series completion statewide.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Our environmental scan process included the following steps:

- Collecting and organizing available HPV-related disease and vaccination data;
- Reviewing and updating Kentucky's Cancer Action Plan;
- Learning from other state efforts;
- Completing a literature review;
- Performing key informant interviews with existing coalitions, health systems, healthcare providers, public health programs, and related organizations;
- Executing a policy scan (including the impact of the Affordable Care Act on HPV vaccination);
- Examining the current public health practice and research environments;
- Conducting a media scan (particularly tracking media attention surrounding FDA approval and Merck's roll-out of the new 9-valent HPV vaccine); and
- Development of future research priorities.



DATA COLLECTION PROJECTS

- Provider Survey** – A survey tool was created based on instruments from other NCI supplement grantees. It is currently in its pilot phase and, once finalized, will be distributed statewide to physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers. It will assess (A) providers' perceptions about HPV vaccine culture in their practices and across Kentucky, (B) barriers and facilitators to uptake and series completion among their patients, and (C) plans for Gardasil 9.
- Identification of Providers in Appalachian Kentucky with High HPV Vaccine Uptake Rates** – Using Comprehensive Clinical Assessment Software Application (CoCASA) data, 3 practices in Pike County, Kentucky were identified as high HPV vaccine coverage areas. Additional funding from the UK Appalachian Center is being used to interview 6 providers from these clinics to identify best practices and develop peer recommendations.
- Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services (DMS)** – HPV vaccination data is not routinely collected in the Kentucky Immunization Registry. Alternative data sets are being explored to inform the environmental scan, including data from DMS (2006–present). These data are available by county, age, provider type, and race.
- Media Scan** – The UK Department of Communication is assisting in a media scan through their CommTV system: a searchable, streamable, television archive with a processed transcript of 20 channels in half-hour segments. A query of HPV vaccine-related terms, including coverage of Gardasil 9, will be assessed.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

- Key informant interviews with partners across the state have provided invaluable information on the climate of HPV vaccination in Kentucky. The following organizations have been interviewed and many demonstrate opportunities for further partnership and research collaboration.

Organization	Partnership and Research Opportunities
KDPH Immunization Branch	CDC PPHF 2013: Immunization-Increasing HPV Vaccination Coverage Rates Among Adolescents
KDPH Division of Women's Health	Vaccine offered through clinical programs
KDPH Office of Health Equity	Interest in identifying racial disparities in vaccination
KDPH Office of Oral Health	Established relationship to receive future updates from the oral health/dentistry community
KDPH Commissioner's Office	Established open dialogue about policy and department efforts
Northern Kentucky Immunization Coalition	Active and effective media campaigns
Kentucky College Health Association	Interest in collaborative research project focused on "catch-up" population (young adults)
UK Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice	Ongoing research with pharmacies providing immunization services, including HPV vaccination; interest in collaboration on research project
UK Department of Pediatrics	HPV vaccination champion identified
UK Department of Communication	Media scan of 20 Kentucky cable TV channels for HPV and HPV vaccine-related stories
UK Kentucky Ambulatory Network	HPV vaccination K-A-P survey with healthcare providers
Kentucky HPV Initiatives Team	Strategic Plan
Local Health Departments	Overview of typical LHD efforts around HPV vaccination
Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice	Overview of immunization practices in facilities statewide

FINDINGS TO DATE

- Nearly 700 providers in Kentucky participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, including all Local Health Departments. The VFC will only provide Gardasil, not Cervarix.
- Currently, no legislative mandate requires providers to report HPV vaccine to the Kentucky Immunization Registry. Additionally, due to changes in statewide EMR/EHR systems, the registry is in transition and cannot be queried at this time.
- Kentucky has one local immunization coalition. It is in Northern Kentucky and serves Boone, Campbell, Grant, and Kenton Counties.
- In 2013, Kentucky's HPV vaccine completion rate for females age 13-17 (26.8%) was lower than the US rate (37.6%). Data on males completing the series are incomplete for Kentucky. The initiation rate for Kentucky males ages 13-17 (19%) was lower than US males (35%).
- In Kentucky, pharmacists have statutory authority to administer HPV vaccine. They typically do not participate in the VFC program and require a third party payer. CAPNET, their Practice Based Research Network (PBRN), is interested in immunization-related research projects.

DISCUSSION

- At the end of the 1-year funding period, all gathered information will be synthesized into a useful format and subsequently shared with NCI as well as national, state, and local partners, including those who participated in the project.
- Further, promising research opportunities will be identified and additional funding will be sought for projects aimed at increasing HPV vaccination coverage in Kentucky.

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