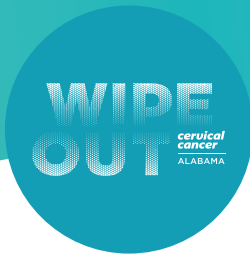


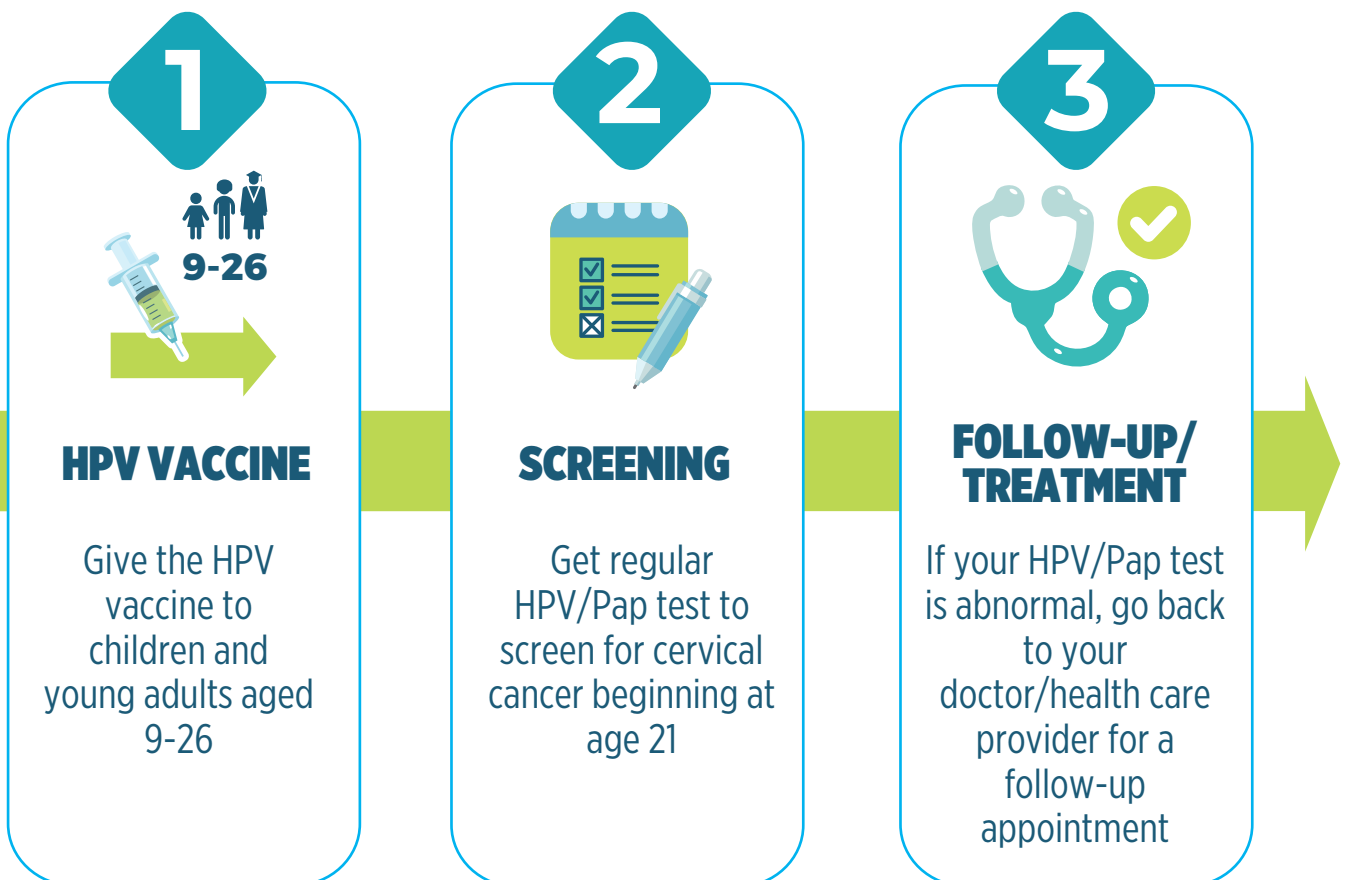
Churches/Faith-Based Organizations
**Toolkit for Eliminating
Cervical Cancer**
as a Public Health Problem

WIPE
OUT



CONTEXT

OPERATION WIPE OUT aims to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem in Alabama through a comprehensive strategy that combines awareness and education, HPV (human papillomavirus), cervical cancer screening, and timely follow-up and treatment. Achieving this goal requires collaboration, strategic planning, and effective use of resources including strong support and engagement from churches and faith-based organizations.



GOAL

This toolkit is designed to equip churches with practical tools and guidance to help eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem through awareness, prevention, and advocacy.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Across Alabama, organizations and individuals can contribute in ways that align with their strengths and capacity. Churches and faith-based organizations have a unique opportunity to make a significant impact. With their trusted voices, deep community roots, and commitment to service, churches can lead the way in promoting health education, encouraging preventive care, and supporting women and families affected by cervical cancer.



1 **Build Your Church Health Ministry Team**

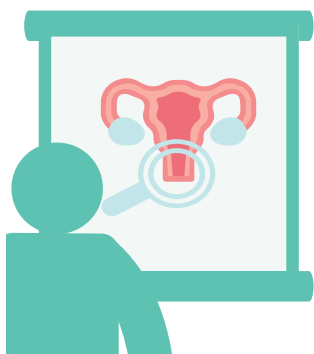
Why It Matters: A dedicated team ensures that your church has trusted leaders guiding health education and prevention efforts. When health messages come from respected members of the congregation, people are more likely to listen, learn, and act. Refer to **Exhibit A** for an example of a Pastor Commitment Form and **Exhibit B** for an example of a Congregational Health Leader Application Form.

Suggested Actions:

- Recruit 2–5 trusted members to serve as Congregational Health Leaders.
- Include youth leaders, women’s ministry, and men’s fellowship representatives to ensure broad engagement across the congregation.



2 **Train the Trainers**



Why It Matters: Equipping Congregational Health Leaders with evidence-based, easy-to-share information ensures consistent messaging about HPV, cervical cancer, and prevention strategies throughout the church and community. Having trained trainers ensures sustainability of the program as they can train new volunteers. Refer to **Exhibit C** for the OPERATION WIPE OUT Speaker Kit Presentation. Additional resources can be found at <https://operationwipeout.org/about/resources>.

Suggested Actions:

- Use OPERATION WIPE OUT's speaker kit and presentation materials for Training Sessions with Congregational Health Leaders, Youth & Parent Information Nights, Community Health Forums, or Health Sunday presentations. Customize presentations to include the church logo and/or partners.
- Hold 2–3 training sessions (1.5 hours each)
 - >**Session 1:** Understanding cervical cancer & HPV, HPV vaccination, screening and follow-up/treatment, and becoming comfortable sharing the information with others.
 - >**Session 2:** How to motivate others to vaccinate their children/teens/young adults, get screened for cervical cancer, and follow up in the event of abnormal cervical cancer results.
 - >**Session 3:** How to engage partners and develop a plan of action. Additional resources can be found at <https://operationwipeout.org/about/resources>.



3 Engage the Pastor and Church Leadership

Why It Matters: Pastors and church leaders have powerful voices that shape knowledge and beliefs, and inspire action. Their support helps normalize conversations about cervical cancer prevention and reinforces the importance of health stewardship. Refer to **Exhibit D** for Sample Messaging for the church bulletin and Social Media. Develop graphics that align to your messages.

Suggested Actions:

- Encourage pastors to integrate cervical cancer prevention messages into sermons (e.g., 3 John 1:2) and reinforce the messages given by Congregational Health Leaders.
- Share information in the church bulletins and audiovisual screens on a monthly basis.
- Provide feedback to pastors and church leadership on successes and lessons learned.

4 Deliver the Message

Why It Matters: Health messages become more memorable when they are woven into worship and other events. Repetition and creativity help turn awareness into action. Refer to **Exhibit E** for a Health Sunday Service Program example.

Suggested Actions:

- Host one “Health Sunday” per quarter focusing on cervical cancer prevention.
- Include brief testimonies, skits, and/or guest speakers.
- Encourage youth ministry to hold interactive educational activities.



5

Promote HPV Vaccination, Screening, and Adherence to Follow-Up/Treatment

Why It Matters: Awareness and access go hand-in-hand. By connecting congregants to health care services, your church can save lives and remove barriers to care.

Refer to **Exhibit F** for the “I am a Faith Based Organization/Church Leader” handout.

Suggested Actions:

- Partner with the local health department and the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program [ABCCEDP] (1-877-252-3324) for on-site or referral services (e.g., blocking appointment days for uninsured congregants to get screened for cervical cancer).
- Distribute flyers about free services available through ABCCEDP.
- Consider partnering with the church to provide transportation to clinical services.
- Hold vaccine information sessions for parents and caregivers. Refer to <https://operationwipeout.org/about/resources> for additional materials.



6

Monitor & Celebrate Progress

Why It Matters: Tracking progress shows that your efforts are making a difference. Celebrating success keeps the congregation motivated and committed to the mission. Refer to **Exhibit G** for a Quarterly Action Plan Template to track, plan, and evaluate progress.

Suggested Actions:

- Track how many people were educated, vaccinated, and/or screened.
- Recognize Congregational Health Leaders and involved ministries during annual church celebrations.

Messaging Tips

- Faith framing: Emphasize the body as a temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- Community empowerment: Position the church as a protector of families.
- Youth focus: Reinforce that HPV prevention = cancer prevention.

OPERATION WIPE OUT coordinating partners are ready to support and guide you along the way.
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