

WVDP  
CE

***cervical  
cancer***

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**ALABAMA**

Alabama is the **FIRST** and **ONLY** state in the United States to have launched a plan for elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem.

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR CERVICAL CANCER  
ELIMINATION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN THE  
STATE OF ALABAMA  
2023-2033



EVERYONE CAN PLAY A ROLE IN THIS MISSION!



# ROADMAP - What will we be talking about today?

What is cervical cancer and who is at risk?

1

What causes cervical cancer and How can we PREVENT cervical cancer and other HPV-associated cancers?

3

Who should get screened for cervical cancer? Why should we follow up and follow through?

5

Cervical cancer is closer to home than we think.

2

Who should get the HPV vaccine?

4

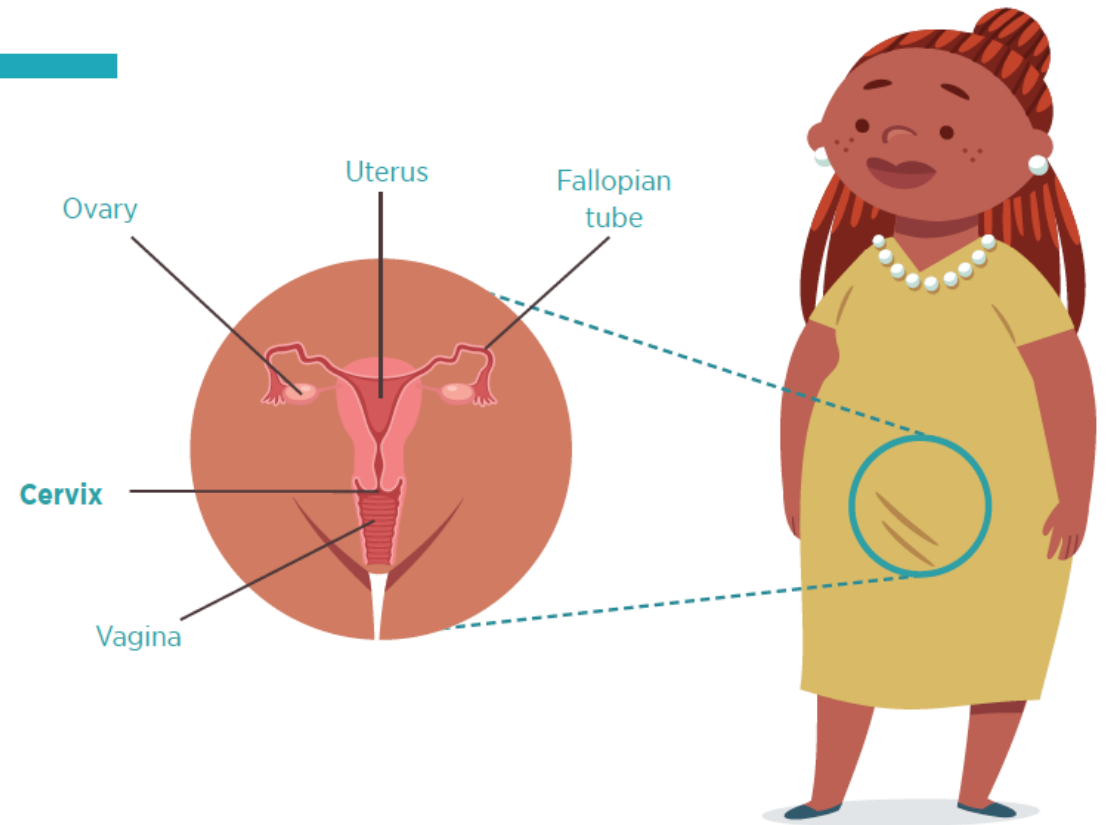
How can you play a part on the elimination of cervical cancer in Alabama?

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# What is cervical cancer?

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- Cervical cancer happens when abnormal cells begin to grow in the cervix.
- It is a very slow cancer that takes years to develop.
- Most of the time, women with cervical cancer do not have any symptoms.



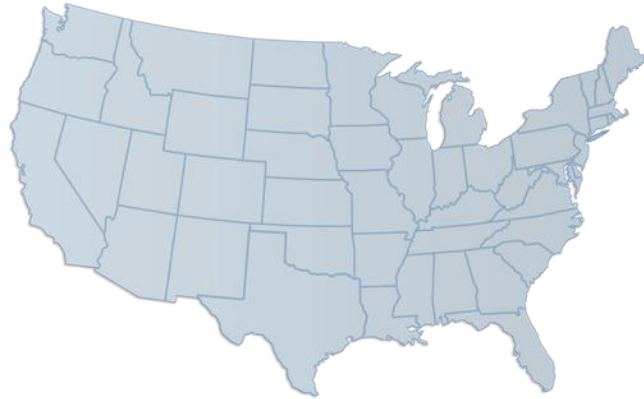
# Who is at risk for cervical cancer?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS A CERVIX



Women who have had a hysterectomy need to check with their health care provider if the cervix was removed as part of the procedure (total hysterectomy).

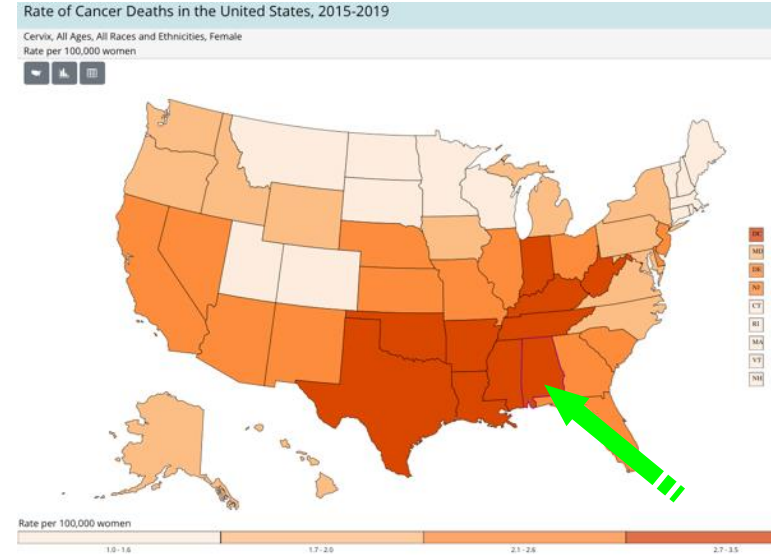
# Let's Get Real...



This year about **13,969** new cases will be diagnosed & about **4,310** women will die from cervical cancer in the United States.

Cervical cancer is a disease that strikes **VERY CLOSE** to home.

# THE FACTS



Alabama has **one of the highest death rates** from cervical cancer in the United States.

# What's the good news?

90%

of cervical cancers are associated with **HPV** human papilloma virus, a sexually transmitted infection



**HPV** is extremely common, nearly all sexually active individuals will get the virus at some point in their lives

90%

of HPV infection will clear up on its own. The infection will persist only in a small number of women, putting them at risk for HPV-related cancers. Thus, the importance of screening!

# Cervical cancer is **PREVENTABLE!**

We have three powerful tools.



**VACCINATE** your children against HPV infection. The HPV vaccine is for boys and girls.



Get **SCREENED** for cervical cancer.



**FOLLOW-UP AND FOLLOW THROUGH**

Follow-up with your health care provider if your cervical cancer screening is abnormal and/or you are asked to come back to the clinic for additional tests.



# HPV Vaccination



# HPV VACCINATION

## PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN - The earlier, the better ...



### 9-12 YEARS OF AGE

The American Cancer Society recommends that boys and girls between the ages of 9-12 years get the HPV vaccine.

**TWO DOSES**

6-12 months apart



### 13-14 YEARS OF AGE

You can catch up ...

**TWO DOSES**

6-12 months apart

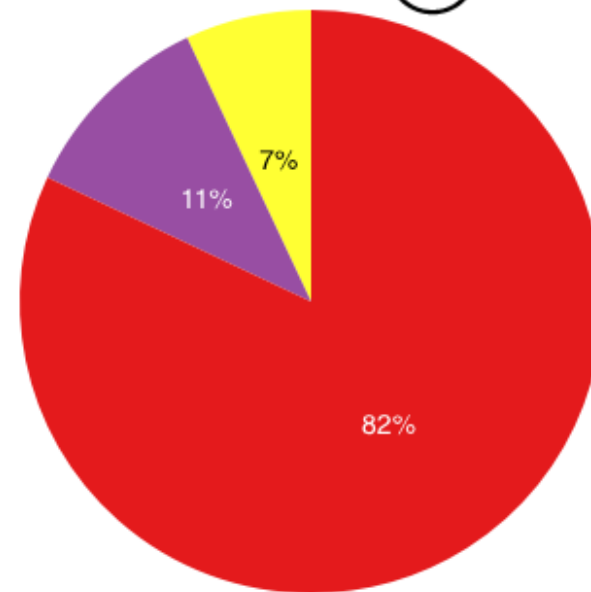
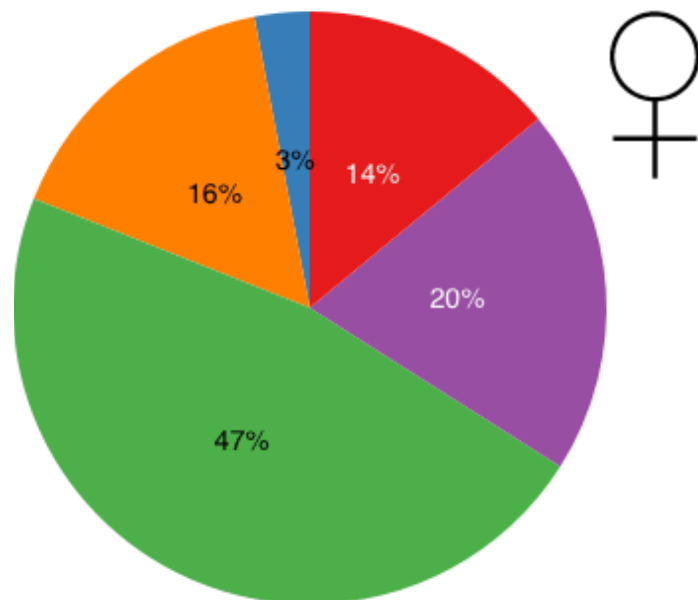
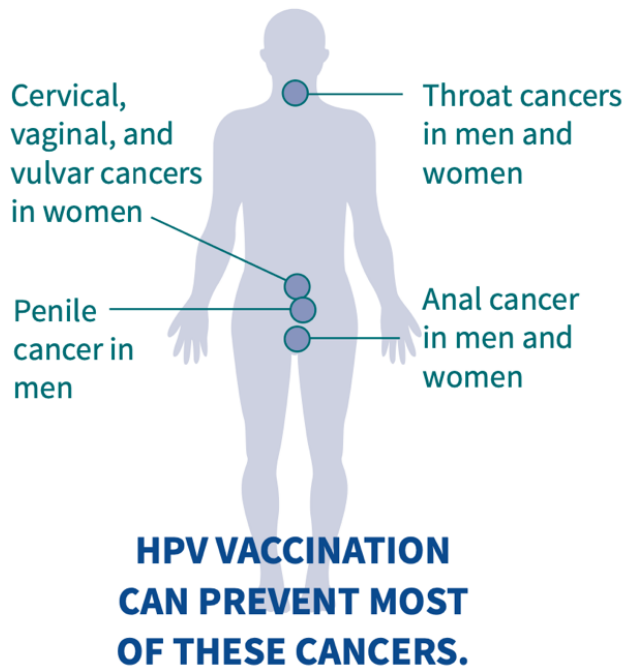


### 15-26 YEARS OF AGE

Because this is a little later, teenagers will need **THREE DOSES** 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose 1 to 2 months later, and 3<sup>rd</sup> dose 6 months after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.

HPV vaccination is approved by the FDA for adults up to age 45 based on health care provider recommendation.

# HPV-Associated Cancers



## Cancer Types

- Vagina
- Vulva
- Cervix
- Anus\*
- Oropharynx
- Penis

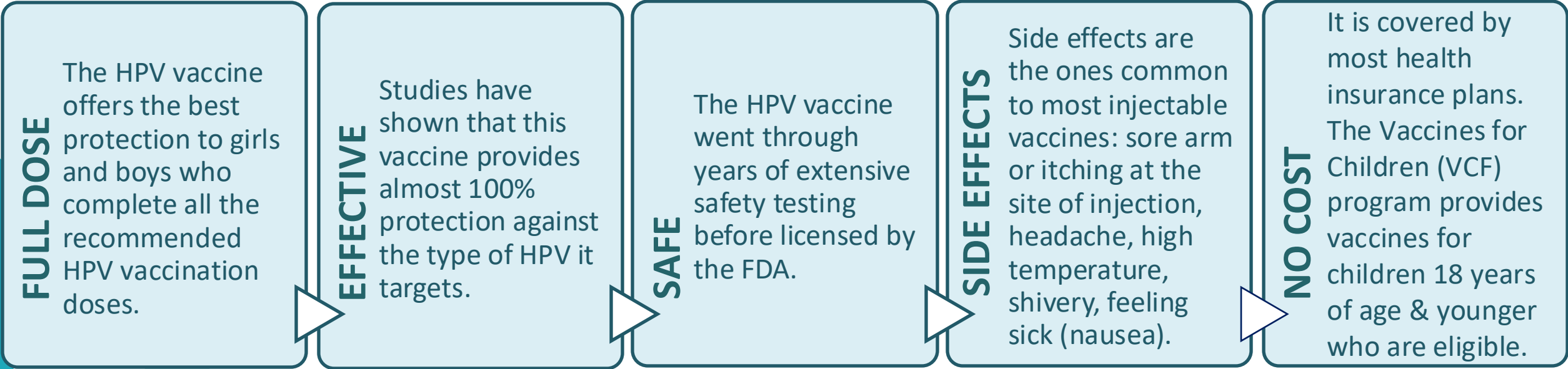
\* Includes anal & rectal squamous cell carcinomas

Between 2015 and 2019 an estimated 47,199 new cases of HPV-associated cancers in the U.S. 26,177 among women and 21,022 among men

<https://www.cdc.gov/united-states-cancer-statistics/publications/hpv-associated-cancers.html>

# HPV VACCINATION – SAFE, EFFECTIVE, & NO COST

Frequent questions asked by parents about the HPV vaccine



# Cervical Cancer Screening



# CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

The purpose of cervical cancer screening is to detect changes **BEFORE** it turns into cancer, and thus **PREVENTING** the disease.

## Ages 21 to 65

Cervical cancer screening is recommended for women between **21 and 65 years of age**.

## Every 3 Years

Women should be screened **every three years**. For women who want to extend their screening interval, HPV co-testing every 5 years is an option.



Women should follow their health care provider's recommendations.

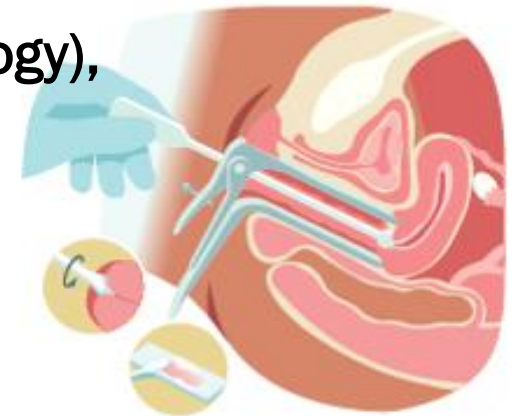
# What Does the Health Care Provider Do When Screening for Cervical Cancer?

**HPV Screening/Testing** - If precancerous changes are detected early and treated, cervical cancer can be prevented. Screening can also detect cervical cancer in women before they show any symptoms.

**How is HPV testing done?** A tiny brush is introduced through the vagina to get a sample. This sample is then examined in the laboratory to assess the presence or absence of the HPV virus and the type of virus. If a high-risk virus is detected, the health care provider may recommend further follow-up.

## What is the Difference Between HPV testing, Pap Test (Cervical Cytology), and Co-testing?

- **HPV testing** looks for the presence of high-risk HPV virus (hrHPV).
- **Cervical cytology** determines whether there are changes in the cells.
- **Co-testing** does both.



# Understanding the Cervical Cancer Screening Results

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- Positive results do not mean the woman has cancer. Remember that screening can detect changes BEFORE it turns into cancer!
- It is very important that women follow up and follow the provider's recommendations, which can be something as simple just watching the changes over time.





# More Good News!

Most health insurance plans cover cervical cancer screening



## Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Breast and Cervical Cancer (ABCCEDP)

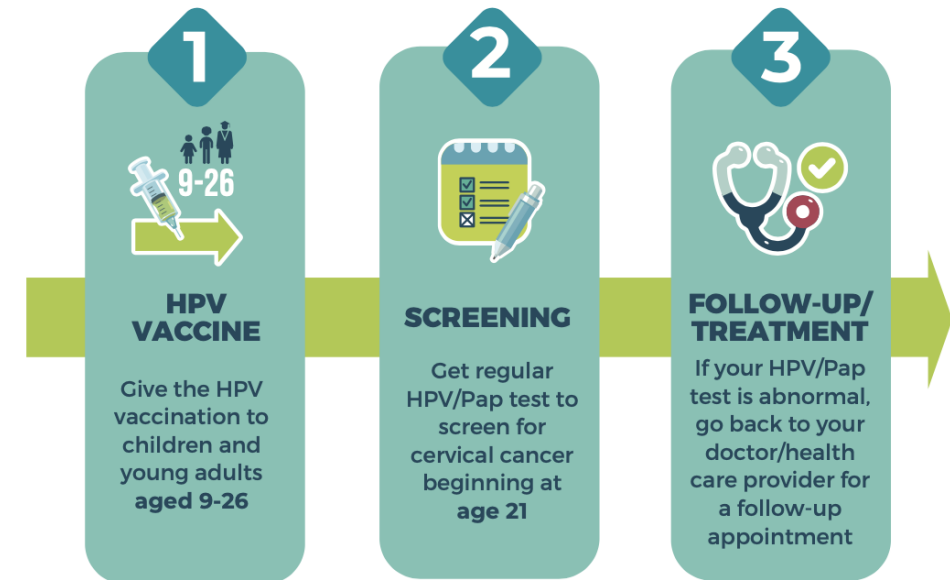
The Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (ABCCEDP) provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings for women who meet eligibility guidelines. Free services include a pelvic exam, pap test, clinical breast exam, mammogram, and diagnostic services such as an ultrasound, colposcopy, or biopsy if needed.

For more information about free screenings, contact ABCCEDP toll-free at 1-877-22-3324 or contact your local county health department.

# Cervical cancer elimination is in our hands!

- Children and teenagers must be protected from HPV infection through vaccination
- Adult women must be up to date with their cervical cancer screening regardless if they were vaccinated against HPV
- If the results of cervical cancer screening are abnormal, it is important to schedule further testing and/or treatment
- The entire community can spread the word
- Let's make the dream of eliminating cervical cancer a reality!

It takes 3 steps:



# EVERYONE CAN PLAY A ROLE ...

## I am a Parent

### What Can I Do To Wipe Out Cervical Cancer In Alabama?



Watch the 35-minute video "Conquering Cancer in Alabama"

Gather the facts about the HPV vaccination and don't rely on social media



Discuss HPV vaccination with your child's doctor/health care provider



Talk to parents whose children have received the vaccine

Consider HPV vaccination to prevent cervical and other HPV - associated cancers for your child (ages 9 - 18 especially)

- Make an appointment with your child's health care provider or County Health Department to receive the HPV vaccine. If you do not have health insurance, Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides free HPV vaccine to children and adolescents (boys and girls aged 9 - 18)
- Make sure your child receives both doses (6 - 12 months apart) if they are between the ages of 9 and 14. If age 15 or older make sure your child receives all three doses (1 - 2 months, then 6 months after first dose)



<https://operationwipeout.org/>

Don't forget to make an appointment for your routine cervical cancer screening

- Ask your doctor if it is time for your cervical cancer screening
- If you do not have health insurance call 1-877-252-3324 or your County Health Department to schedule a free cervical cancer screening

If your cervical cancer screening results were not normal, make sure to go to your follow-up appointment with your doctor/health care provider. If you have missed your follow-up appointment, be sure to schedule an appointment. It may save your life

Share this information with your family, friends, school, church, etc.; spread the word

Join OPERATION WIPE OUT and become an advocate



## I am a Teacher/Principal/School Nurse

### What Can I Do To Wipe Out Cervical Cancer In Alabama?



Watch the 35-minute video: "Conquering Cancer in Alabama" with school employees

Consider hosting a HPV vaccination day at your middle or high school (Materials and examples can be found at <https://operationwipeout.org/chamberscountysd/>)

- Provide educational workshops for parents
- Provide educational workshops for teachers
- Engage students in creating a school/community campaign to promote HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening



Consider joining the OPERATION WIPE OUT School Nurses Speaker's Bureau



Encourage moms, dads, and legal guardians to talk to their doctor about their children (boys and girls aged 9 - 18) getting the HPV vaccination. If they do not have health insurance, Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides free HPV vaccine for children and adolescents 9 - 18 years of age



Join OPERATION WIPE OUT and become an advocate

<https://operationwipeout.org/>  
\*<https://operationwipeout.org/chamberscountysd/>

Go to [www.operationwipeout.org](http://www.operationwipeout.org) for additional ideas on what you can do if you are a business owner, firefighter, health care provider, faith-based leader, cancer survivor, retired, Rotarian, dentist, public health leader, political leader, federally qualified clinic

# For More Information

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**OPERATION WIPE OUT** is a partnership of several organizations to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem in Alabama. It will take everyone's effort, but it is totally within our reach. For more information go to

[www.operationwipeout.org](http://www.operationwipeout.org)



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