



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

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## Partner Highlight:

### Know Your Status: Empowering Students at the University of Alabama

Universities Against Cancer, a student organization at the University of Alabama, is dedicated to supporting individuals affected by cancer through financial assistance and education. They recently led a campus-wide initiative to promote HPV awareness and prevention in West Alabama. In partnership with the University of Alabama Student Health and Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa, they recently hosted the first-ever *Know Your Status Campaign* from February 9-13<sup>th</sup> at the University of Alabama Student Center. The campaign focused on increasing HPV education and HPV vaccination rates among students while amplifying the OPERATION WIPE OUT message. Over the course of the week, more than 650 students were engaged through interactive outreach, including access to a newly developed link that allowed students to check their HPV vaccination status in all 50 states and learn more about HPV.



Students who were not yet vaccinated were encouraged to take action by receiving the HPV vaccine through a partnership with the University of Alabama Medical Center Mobile Outreach Unit. This impactful effort marks an important step toward empowering students to take control of their health and advancing the mission to eliminate HPV-related cancers.

Visit the link to the UAC website to Know Your Status:  
[UAC State Vaccine Information](#)



## Cancer Awareness Network Hosts Educational Forum on Prevention and Care



The Cancer Awareness Network, a nonprofit community organization dedicated to empowering cancer patients, survivors, and their caregivers, hosted a *Cancer Awareness Forum and Breakfast* aimed at education, support, and community connection. During the event, founder Loretta Herring delivered an engaging and informative presentation highlighting OPERATION WIPE OUT's core pillars. She spoke on the importance of early detection and prevention. She led a thoughtful discussion on cervical cancer, raising awareness about its impact, risk factors, and the importance of routine screenings. The forum created a welcoming space for open dialogue, allowing participants to ask questions, share experiences, and gain a deeper understanding of the topic.

## Promoting Prevention: HPV Vaccine Drive Engages International Students at UAB

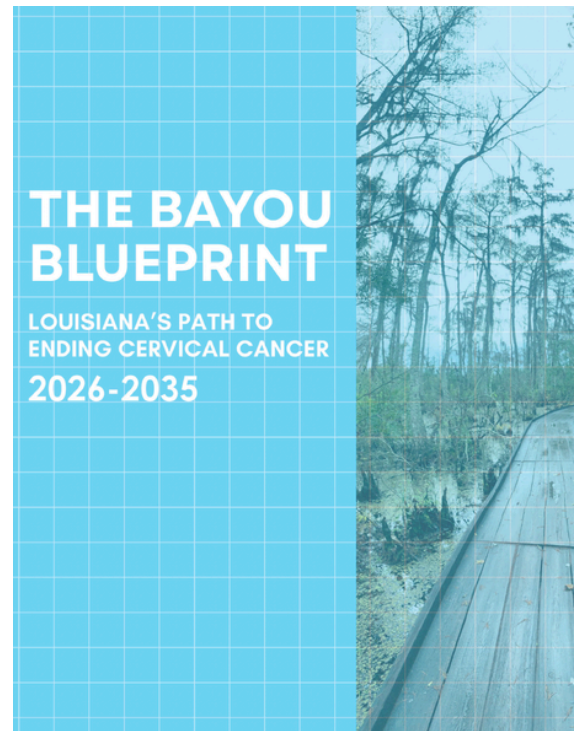


OPERATION WIPE OUT at UAB kicked off the new year with momentum through its *INTO UAB Spring HPV Vaccine Drive* held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. In partnership with the UAB Student Health & Wellness Center and INTO UAB, the initiative focused on reaching and supporting international students by increasing awareness of HPV and the importance of vaccination. During the event, students hosted an informational table that served to engage students and bridge the gap. On-site vaccination opportunities were available and convenient for students to take immediate action.

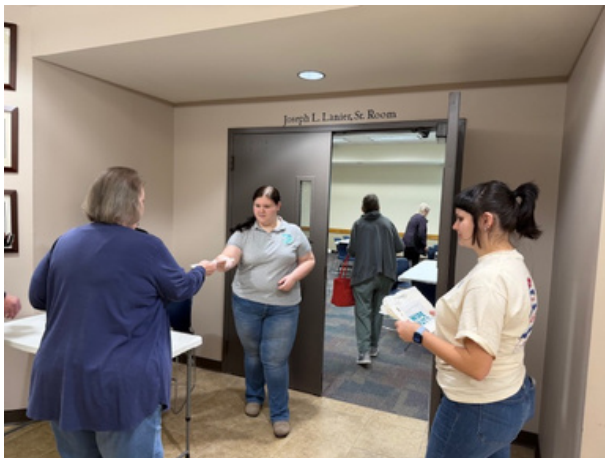


## Louisiana Launches a Statewide Cervical Cancer Elimination Plan

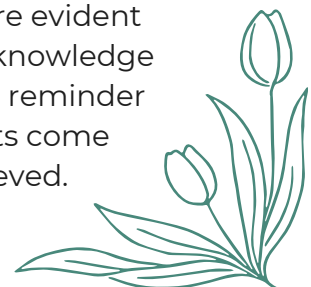
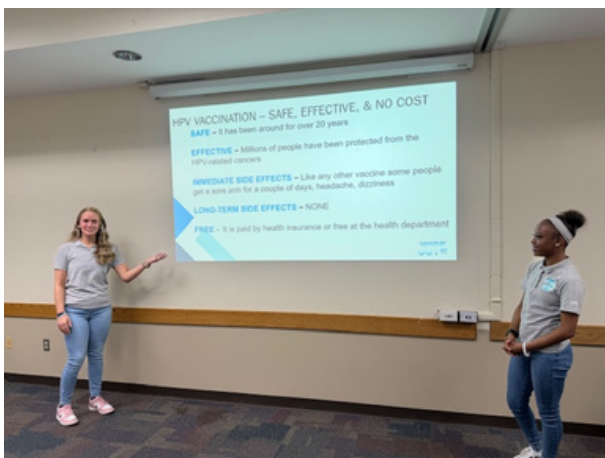
Louisiana becomes the second state in the nation to launch a statewide cervical cancer elimination plan: the Bayou Blueprint. “This plan was inspired by and is aligned with the work of OPERATION WIPE OUT in Alabama and the HPV Vaccination Roundtable of the Southeast. Their work in cervical cancer elimination provided guidance and helped pave the way for the development of this plan.” The plan prioritizes increasing HPV vaccination rates, expanding access to screening, and strengthening follow-up care for abnormal results. OPERATION WIPE OUT is honored to have walked alongside leaders in Louisiana, sharing insights and lessons learned along the way, and to support the growing, collaborative commitment across states to make cervical cancer prevention and elimination an achievable reality.



## Empowering Communities Through Student-Led Education



The Health Science students of Chambers County recently participated in the Bradshaw Library's *In the Know Program*, engaging community members in a meaningful educational session. During the event, students shared information about OPERATION WIPE OUT and highlighted their ongoing efforts to help eliminate cervical cancer through education, awareness, and prevention. The students' leadership and passion were evident as they empowered attendees with knowledge and resources. This event served as a reminder that when communities and students come together, lasting impact can be achieved.

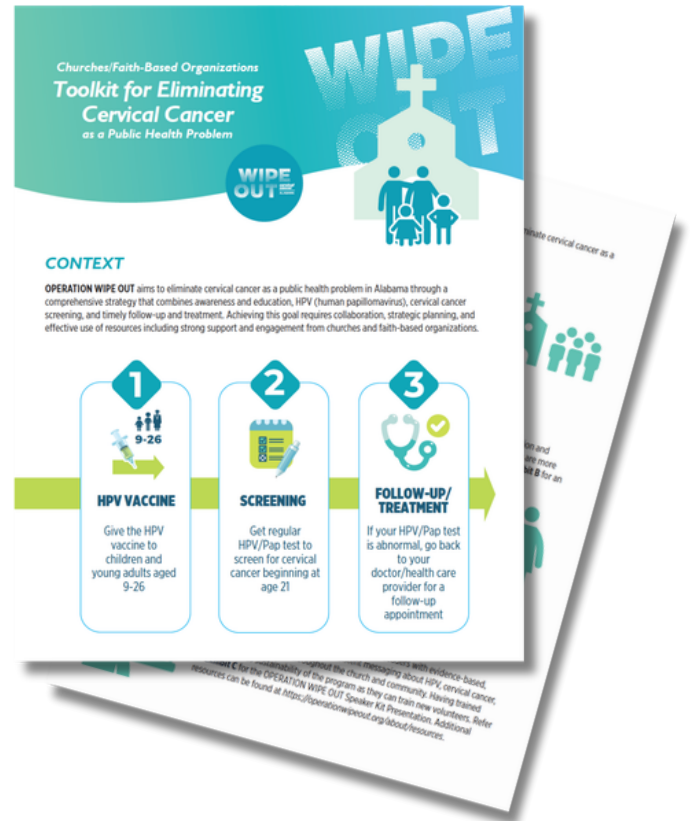


## Faith in Action: Launching the Church Toolkit to Eliminate Cervical Cancer

OPERATION WIPE OUT is proud to introduce its new Church and Faith-Based Organizations Toolkit, a powerful new resource designed to help eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem across Alabama. Modeled after the success of the School Toolkit, this new resource equips churches with practical tools, guidance, and messaging to promote awareness, prevention, and advocacy within their congregations and communities.

Developed by Patricia Cade, OPERATION WIPE OUT Champion and Health Ministry Director at St. Paul AME Church in Thomaston, AL, the toolkit reflects the vital role faith leaders play in advancing community health. It is designed for use by churches, faith-based organizations, and individuals who are committed to making a difference in the fight against cervical cancer.

As this toolkit is implemented across the state, OPERATION WIPE OUT looks forward to partnering with faith communities to expand outreach, strengthen education efforts, and move closer to a future where cervical cancer is no longer a public health concern.



### Welcome New Partners

**Cancer Awareness Network**

**City of LaFayette Fire & EMS**

**The Evening Clinics**

**Sister's Keepers/Love Center**

**Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance**

**Alabama Regional Medical Services**

**Macon M.E.A.N.S. For Cancer Support**

**Quality of Life Health Services, Inc.**

