



1 in 5 New York Adults Don't Know Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Raises Cancer Risk

Information for Action #2026-15

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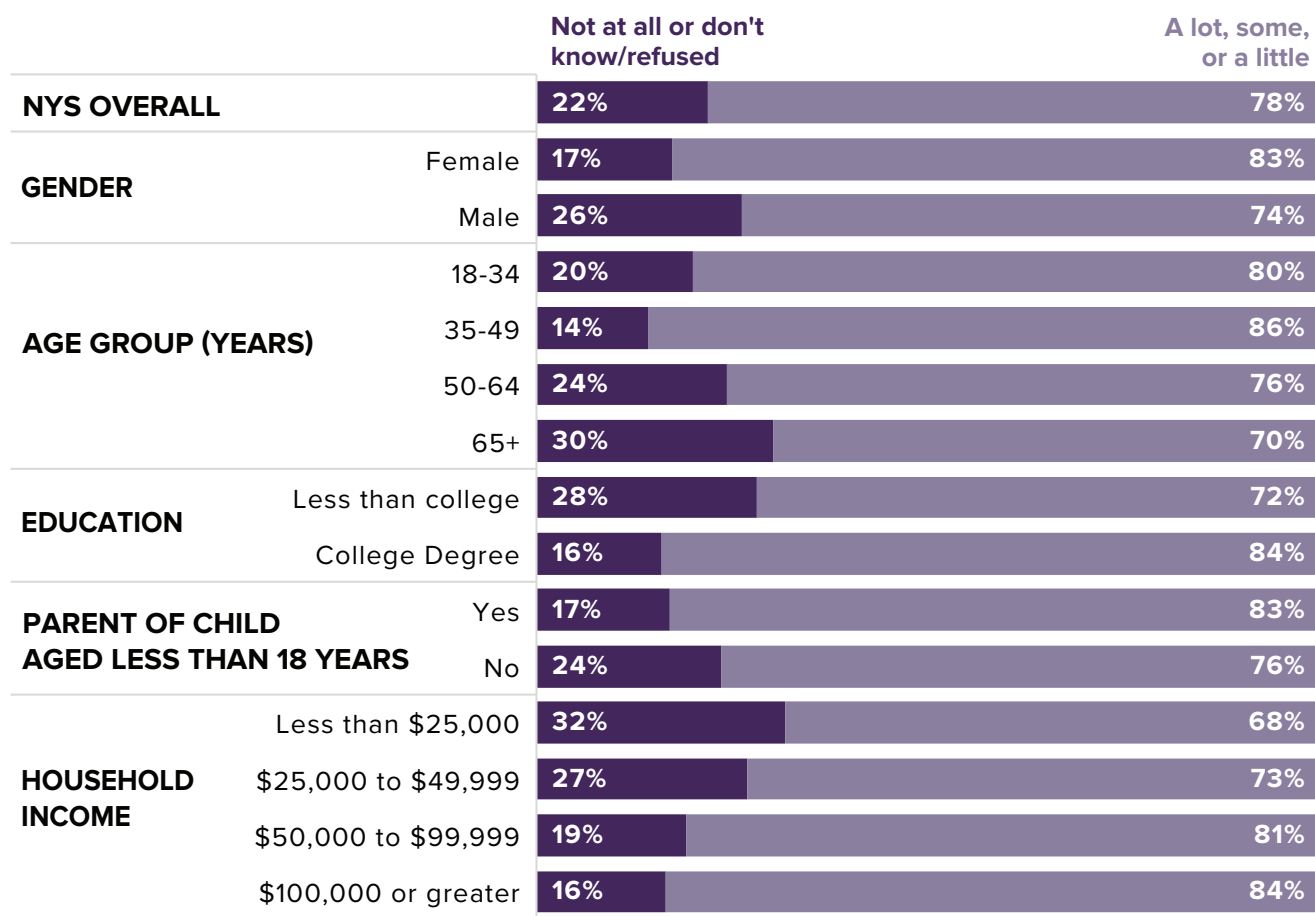
The New York State Department of Health conducts an annual survey, the Chronic Disease Public Opinion Poll, to understand public beliefs about health topics and assess support for public health policies to address chronic disease and promote health.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can lead to the development of 6 types of cancer including cervical, vulvar, and vaginal cancers in females, penile cancer in males, and anal and head and neck (oropharyngeal) cancers in all adults.¹ HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. From 2017 to 2021, an average of 2,829 New York State (NYS) residents were diagnosed yearly with an HPV-related cancer.² Knowing that HPV infection can lead to cancer can improve individual behaviors to prevent infection and increase public support for HPV-related cancer prevention policies.

Poll Findings

In 2025, one out of five (22%) NYS adults didn't know or didn't believe HPV infection increases cancer risk.³

FIGURE 1. Percent Reporting How Much They Think HPV Infection Increases Risk of Getting Cancer, by Demographics, New York State Adults, New York State Chronic Disease Public Opinion Poll, 2025.



PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS

Public Health Opportunity

To increase New Yorker's knowledge of the connection between HPV infection and cancer risk **public health professionals** and **health care providers** can:

- Become an active member of the [NYS Cancer Consortium HPV Coalition](#)
- Educate and inform community members, patients, and decision makers about the connection between HPV infection and cancer and the safety and effectiveness of the HPV vaccine

Wording of Survey Question, New York State Chronic Disease Public Opinion Poll, 2025

Question: I'm going to read you some things that may affect a person's chances of getting cancer. Do you think that each of the following increases a person's chances of getting cancer a lot, some, a little, or not at all? Infection with HPV, the Human Papillomavirus. Response options: A lot, some, a little, not at all, don't know/refused

For more information about this report or other cancer-related data and resources in NYS, visit the NYS Department of Health Cancer Data and Reports website <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/> or contact BCDER@health.ny.gov with IFA #2026-15 in the Subject Line

References

1. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Basic Information and HPV and Cancer. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/basic-information.html>. Published September 2024. Accessed January 2026.
2. New York State Department of Health. HPV-Related Cancer Incidence and HPV Vaccination Rates in New York State, 2017-2021. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/docs/hpv_related_cancer_17-21.pdf. Published June 2025. Accessed January 2026.
3. New York State Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention. 2025 Chronic Disease Public Opinion Poll Summary Report. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/docs/2025_pop_survey_summary_report.pdf. Published January 2026. Accessed January 2026.



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