

## History

Over the past two years, researchers from the University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio Regional Campus (UTSPH-SARC) have worked with the South Coastal Area partners to build the **Community Collaborative to Prevent Cancer in the South Coastal Area**.

Partners include:

- UTSPH-SARC
- South Coastal Area Health Education Center (SC-AHEC)
- Amistad Community Health Center
- Local school districts
- Rural Economic Assistance League, Inc. (REAL)
- Transportation Coordination Network of the Coastal Bend
- Multiple area churches

**The Collaborative identified addressing HPV and HPV vaccination in the 4-county area of Kleberg, Nueces, Jim Wells and San Patricio Counties as a priority.**

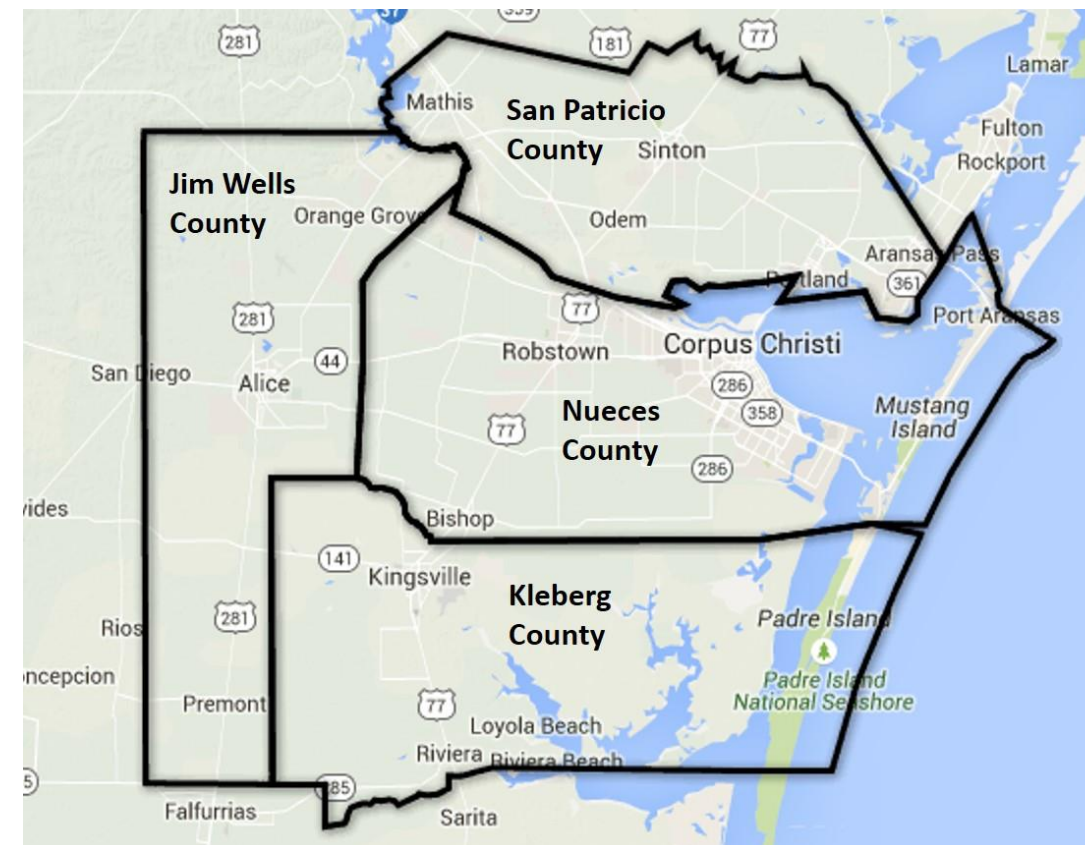
## Significance

- Across the US, HPV vaccination rates continue to be far below the Healthy People 2020 target of 80%
- Vaccine rates are even lower in the 4-county area
- Completion of all 3 doses is needed for full effectiveness
- Completion rates are low in rural Texas areas

### 2014 Rates of Initiation (1-dose) and Completion (3-doses) of the HPV Vaccine

	Females 1-dose	Females 3-doses	Males 1-dose	Males 3-doses
U.S.	60%	40%	42%	22%
Texas)	51%	34%	37%	18%
Kleberg Co.	49%	23%	38%	16%
Nueces Co.	44%	19%	37%	13%
Jim Wells Co.	53%	22%	47%	18%
San Patricio Co.	42%	15%	29%	9%

Sources: National and statewide data from 2014 National Immunization Survey (NIS) – Teen. County data is from the Texas Department of State Health Services from ImmTrac, the Texas Immunization Registry

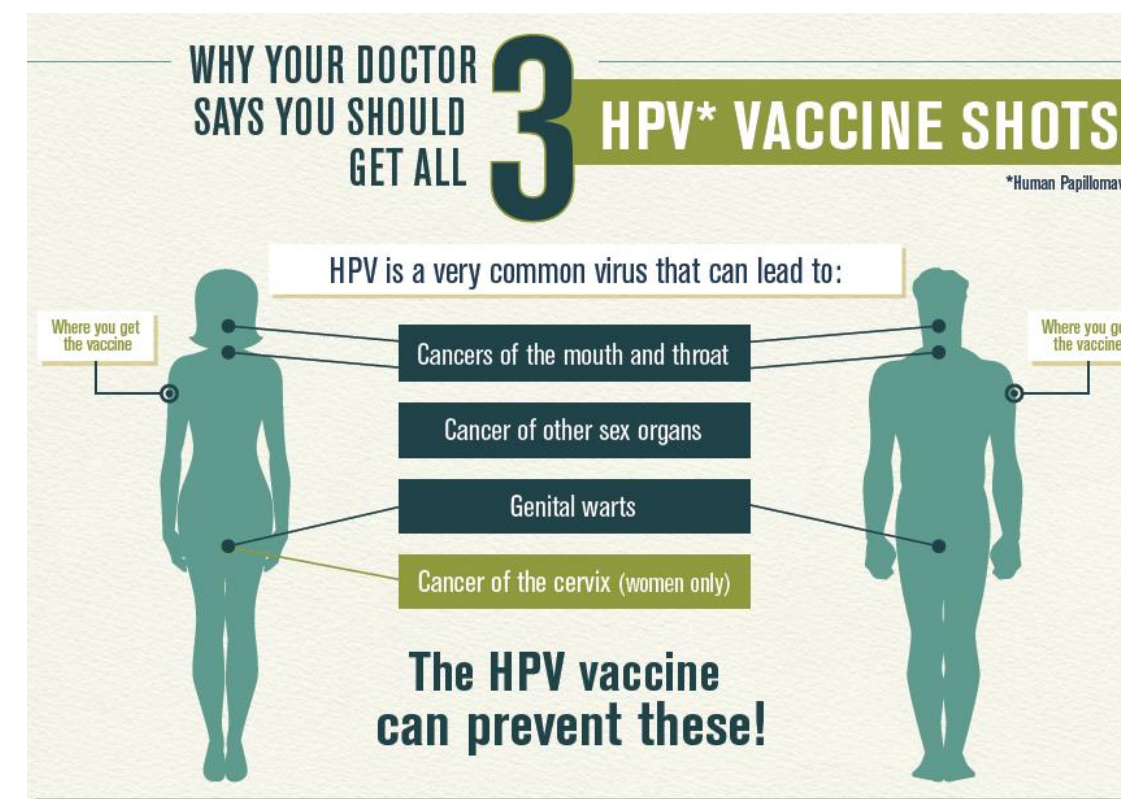


## Methods

Given the rural area and the related transportation obstacles to follow-up for completion of the HPV 3-dose series, the Collaborative worked with local schools to identify a school-based approach for maximizing reach and completion of the 3-dose vaccine series.

In May 2015, we conducted a pilot survey of parents from West Oso ISD in Corpus Christi, Nueces County to gather information about:

- Parents' understanding and knowledge about HPV and HPV vaccine,
- Potential barriers to immunization
- Acceptability of a school-based HPV vaccine program



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics

## Findings

Among the 40 parents surveyed, we found that:

- HPV awareness was low
  - Only about half had heard of HPV or the HPV vaccine
- Of those with an age eligible child
  - 70% reported that their **daughter** had not received or that they did not know whether she received the HPV vaccine
  - 80% reported that their **son** had not received or that they did not know whether he received the HPV vaccine
- The most common reasons given for their child not having received the HPV vaccine were
  - Parent had never heard of the vaccine
  - Not receiving a doctor's recommendation
  - Being worried about side effects

## Conclusions

- We found parents to be eager to learn more about the vaccine and had many questions about where they could get it for their child.
- Parents were open to discussing HPV vaccine in a school setting.
- As a partnership, the Community Collaborative to Prevent Cancer in the South Coastal Area has applied for Cancer Prevention Research in Texas (CPRIT) funding to evaluate a school-based program in the 4-county area.
- We will continue to work as a collaborative partnership to improve awareness and uptake of HPV vaccine in the area.

## Acknowledgements

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