



*Kathleen Sebelius, Governor  
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

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### **January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month**

Cervical cancer was once the number one cancer killer of women. Now however, because of early screening methods most cervical cancers are detected and treated at early, curable stages. January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and women are reminded to schedule their yearly screening.

“Cervical cancer is certainly one cancer that has been reduced in women the last 50 years due to a reliable screening test that allows for treatment when the cancer is at an early, treatable stage,” said Roderick Bremby, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. “The agency is proactive in promoting this message and urging women to schedule a Pap test.”

Cervical cancer accounts for approximately two (2) percent of all cancer in Kansas women. From 2000 to 2004, 553 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were reported. About 35 percent of those cases occurred in women age 55 and older. These low rates of cervical cancer are attributable to periodic screening using a Pap test. Cervical cancer is normally a very slow growing cancer and a Pap test can often detect pre-cancerous cells, which can be removed before the cancer has developed or spread.

The other good news about cervical cancer is that there is now a vaccine that can help prevent the disease. This vaccine targets the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is present in more than 99 percent of cervical cancer cases. The vaccine is recommended for 11 to 12 year

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old girls who have not been exposed to the virus. “This recent advancement in cervical cancer prevention is good news for young girls in Kansas, “ said Secretary Bremby. “A simple series of shots could prevent cancer later in life.”

KDHE promotes cervical cancer screening for all women and provides services for age appropriate, low income, uninsured women through its Early Detection Works program. This program served about 6,000 women last year providing Pap tests through a network of providers across the state. For more information about the program visit the web site at

[www.preventionworkskansas.com](http://www.preventionworkskansas.com) or call toll free 1-877-277-1368.

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