**NYS Dental Coalition Meeting**

**Oral Cancer Trend in New York State: The HPV Connection and Importance of Vaccination**

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**Abstract**

**Introduction**: Oral and oropharyngeal cancers are one of the more common cancer diagnoses in New York State (NYS). Human papillomavirus (HPV) is responsible for 70-90% of oropharyngeal cancer cases. Despite the availability of a highly effective HPV vaccine, vaccination rates among teenagers in NYS is limited. Our purpose is to review, report, and discuss the oral cancer rates and HPV vaccination trends between 2016-2021 in NYS.

**Methods:** We reviewed and discussed the literature on oral cancer, its association with HPV, and the importance of HPV vaccination from a public health perspective. Using the data from the NYS Department of Health we reported the percentage of complete HPV vaccination among 13-year-olds. In addition, we mapped the age-adjusted annual incidence rates of oropharyngeal cancer at the county level.

**Results**: The study found that the age-adjusted annual incidence rates of oropharyngeal cancer ranged from 5 to 20 cases per 100,000 people across the counties in NYS, with the lowest rate in Hamilton County and the highest rate in Kings County. The percentage of complete HPV vaccination among the 13-year-olds ranged from 11.9% to 69.2%, with the lowest rate in Lewis County and the highest rate in Bronx County.

**Conclusion**: HPV vaccination is an essential preventive measure against oral and oropharyngeal cancers. Public health officials and healthcare professionals need to work together to increase HPV vaccination rates in NYS by educating the community about the benefits of the vaccination.