



KNOW THE RISKS FOR HPV AND CERVICAL CANCER

Risks

Early sexual intercourse

People who engage in early sexual activity are more likely to be infected with HPV. Younger women are more vulnerable to being infected with a single sexual act.

Early childbearing

The hormones of pregnancy may increase the risk of developing cervical cancer.

Having more than 5 children.

Women who have had 5 or more children have a higher chance of developing cervical cancer.

High number of sexual partners.

The more partners a person has, the greater the chance of becoming infected with an STI, including HPV and HIV, both of which increase the risk of cervical cancer.

Having a partner who has multiple partners.

Women whose partners have or have had multiple partners have a higher rate of cervical cancer.

Not using condoms.

Condoms have been shown to protect against STIs and to reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

Smoking tobacco.

Women who smoke have a higher risk of almost all cancers, including cervical cancer.

Having a sexually transmitted infection, like HIV or gonorrhea.

Some STIs increase the risk of cervical cancer in women who also have HPV.

Why This is a Risk

Things You Can Do to Reduce Your Risk of HPV and Cervical Cancer

- Delay first sexual intercourse.
- Delay first childbearing.
- Limit the number of pregnancies.
- Avoid partners who have multiple sexual partners.
- Do not smoke tobacco.
- Get a cervical cancer screening.
- Always use condoms.
- Reduce the number of sexual partners.
- Seek treatment immediately if you have symptoms of an STI.
- Follow-up on cervical cancer screening results.

For more information visit: www.Ghanacca.org

