

## **Human Papillomavirus Virus Vaccination Series Initiation Rates\***

Each year, 33,500 women and men in the US are diagnosed with cancer caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). An effective vaccine is available that can reduce the risk of certain HPV-related cancers by up to 99 percent.

The New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene works closely with NYC medical providers and with parents of school-aged children to increase HPV vaccine coverage, and tracks HPV vaccine series initiation and completion rates among 13-to-17 year-olds. As of June 2018, HPV vaccine series initiation was 80.5 percent for females and 78.4 percent for males, and series completion was 65.4 percent for females and 61.5 percent for males. In 2019, the NYC Health Department began tracking HPV coverage among 13-year-olds by the 13<sup>th</sup> birthday to stress the importance of on time vaccination prior to exposure to HPV.

NYC has among the highest rates of HPV vaccine coverage in the US and is strongly committed to meeting the Healthy People 2020 national goal of 80 percent vaccine coverage.

\*HPV series initiation and completion rates in this report were calculated using 2010 census denominators to be consistent with HPV coverage data reported in other reports. In the 2018 report, HPV coverage was calculated using 2017 intercensal population estimates. Going forward, census denominators will be used. The apparent drop in coverage in the 2019 report is due to the different denominator sources, and completion rates have actually improved.