



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

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Catawba County Public Health Stresses the Importance of Cervical Cancer Screening

Each year thousands of women in America are diagnosed with or die from cervical cancer. In 2008, an estimated 394 women in North Carolina were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and 124 died from the disease.

If detected early, cervical cancer is one of the most treatable forms of cancers. Since the disease is typically slow growing and occurs without any symptoms, a Pap test offers the best opportunity to detect cervical cancer at an early stage, when successful treatment is likely. A Pap test is a quick and generally painless test that identifies abnormal cell changes in and around the cervix that can develop into cancer.

Despite the success of Pap tests in detecting and preventing cervical cancer, not all women get Pap tests regularly. It has been estimated that as many as 80% of deaths from cervical cancer could have been prevented by regular screening and follow-up after an abnormal Pap test.

“At Public Health, we have seen a 44% increase from 2008 to 2009 in women who need treatment for cervical cancer.” explained Sarah Lawson, Clinical Health Services Nursing Supervisor at Catawba County Public Health.

“Public Health offers two easy ways to help prevent cervical cancer in women: routine Pap tests and the HPV vaccine. The HPV vaccine, also known as Gardasil, can prevent women from getting the virus that can cause cervical cancer.”

Catawba County Public Health provides state supplied Gardasil vaccine at no charge to women under age 18 who are uninsured, underinsured or have Medicaid. To find out if you are eligible to receive state supplied Gardasil please call 695-4445. Women who have insurance can also purchase the Gardasil vaccine at Catawba County Public Health.

N.C. BCCCP offers breast and cervical cancer screening services and follow-up care to eligible women in the state of North Carolina. For more information, call 1-800-662-7030 or 919-707-5300.



“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”
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