



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2016

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Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Key to Cervical Cancer Survival Planned Parenthood Urges Texas Women to Consider Cervical Health in January

Texans face sobering statistics when it comes to cervical health. Texas has the 6th highest rate of cervical cancer and the 9th highest death rate due to cervical cancer, which makes cervical health awareness timely and important this month.

January is **Cervical Health Awareness Month**, and Planned Parenthood is reaching out to Texans to ensure they take **two simple steps** to prevent and treat cervical cancer: consider the HPV vaccine, and schedule regular cervical cancer screenings (Pap tests) with their healthcare providers.

Cervical cancer is caused by certain types of HPV, or Human Papillomavirus, a very common sexually transmitted infection. Most HPV infections are harmless, do not require treatment, and go away by themselves. But, if left untreated, high-risk HPV may lead to cervical cancer in some women.

In 2014, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas provided thousands of well-woman exams and consultations—including 9,670 Pap tests—to detect gynecologic cancer and other health issues. Hundreds of those patients then received advanced testing and treatment such as colposcopy, cryotherapy, and LEEP to find and remove “abnormal” or pre-cancerous cervical cells. Many Planned Parenthood health centers also offer the HPV vaccine to prevent the spread of HPV and related cancers.

The 2015 Texas Legislature pursued a political goal to eliminate Planned Parenthood health centers from the federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening (BCCS) program despite a 20-year partnership with the federal and state program. Planned Parenthood health centers served more than 2,200 women statewide through BCCS in 2014. The Legislature’s ban on Planned Parenthood health center participation in this important program took effect September 1, 2015. Despite the Texas Legislature’s continued targeting of funding for women’s health programs, Planned Parenthood health centers provide the cervical health services described above for insured patients and uninsured patients through grant funding and patient assistance funds.

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Follow [@PPGreaterTX](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to get regular updates on events, reports, and other important information on birth control options and other health issues throughout the year as part of our [Planned Parenthood 2016: Your Partner for a Healthy Community](#) campaign.

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