HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) & OROPHARYNGEAL CANCER

What every policymaker should know

FDI World Dental Federation

KEY FACTS

A LEADING HPV-ASSOCIATED CANCER

HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer is rising globally and has overtaken cervical cancer as the leading HPV-associated cancer in several countries

AN UNTAPPED WORKFORCE

Oral health professionals (OHPs) have **regular contact** with vaccine-eligible populations

TRUSTED VOICES

Healthcare provider recommendation strongly influences vaccine uptake

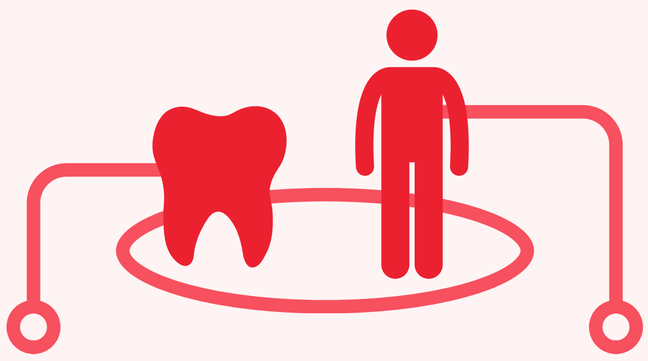
KEY STATISTICS

+22% HPV-associated non-cervical cancers have **increased by 22% since 2018**

Men are at greater risk than women to develop HPV-associated throat cancer

Up to 90% of HPV-associated cancers are preventable through vaccination

THE POLICY GAP



ORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

Oral health remains **largely absent** from national HPV strategies

HPV-ASSOCIATED CANCER IN MEN

Many vaccination programmes do not adequately address **HPV-associated cancers in men**

HOW OHPs CAN HELP

REACH children, adolescents, and young adults through regular contact

PREVENT HPV through promoting evidence-based prevention and vaccination messages

RECOMMEND vaccination at age 9-12 years and before exposure to HPV

DETECT suspicious signs during routine oral and neck examinations

REFER patients to vaccination services or specialist care, when appropriate

WHAT POLICYMAKERS CAN DO

POLICY ACTIONS

INTEGRATE oral health into HPV prevention plans

EDUCATE oral health workforce in HPV prevention and early detection

ENABLE referral and vaccination pathways

STRENGTHEN cross-sector collaboration

INVEST in implementation and pilots

MEASURE outcomes and track oral health integration

EXPECTED IMPACT

- ↑ Vaccine uptake
- ↑ Early detection
- ↑ Health system efficiency
- ↑ Health outcomes
- ↓ Cancer burden

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY IN CANCER PREVENTION

Integrating oral health into HPV prevention strengthens cancer prevention, improves equity, and supports universal health coverage

Read the White Paper
For references and further details