



Leading health system improvement

The Washington Health Alliance brings together those who give, get and pay for healthcare to create a high quality, affordable system for the people of Washington state

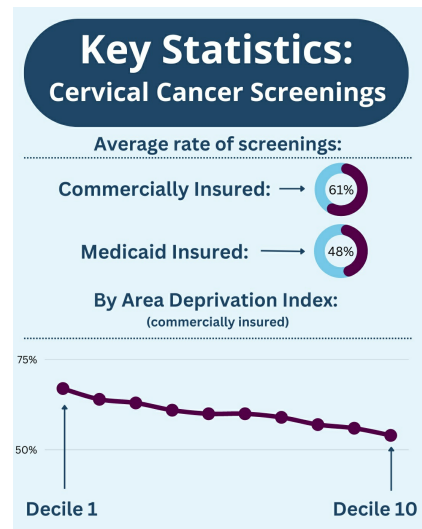
How HPV vaccine can help as 2 out of 5 in Washington miss cervical cancer screening

With many residents still not getting appropriate cervical cancer screening rates in Washington state, the Washington Health Alliance wants to raise awareness about the wide availability of the HPV vaccine, which prevents the leading cause of cervical cancer.

In the latest Community Checkup report, our data, drawn from the voluntary All-Payer Claims database which covers more than 4 million Washington lives, shows that 61% of commercially insured residents are receiving appropriate cervical cancer screenings. For those with Medicaid, the rate drops to 48%. Both fall well below the national 90th percentile, a longtime goal for the Alliance.

With at least four out of 10 commercially-insured, eligible Washington residents not receiving appropriate cervical cancer screenings, vaccination offers an opportunity to prevent Human papillomavirus, or HPV, a common sexually transmitted disease commonly called genital warts that is associated with the majority of cervical cancer cases.

[Read more about cervical cancer screenings and the HPV vaccine.](#)



Chlamydia screenings low across Washington, but the Alliance is working to address this

For National STI Awareness month this April, the Washington Health Alliance is drawing attention to the low rates of chlamydia screenings in primary care settings. Our latest data shows that on average about 6 in 10 commercially insured women age 16 to 24 are not getting screened.

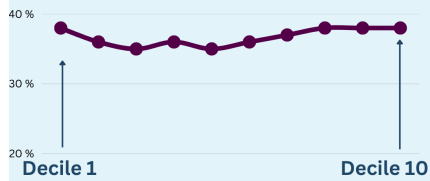
Key Statistics: Chlamydia Screenings

Average rate of screenings:

Commercially Insured: → 37%

Medicaid Insured: → 45%

By Area Deprivation Index:
(commercially insured)



So what is the Alliance doing? Aware of the declining screening rates, the Alliance's Quality Improvement Committee has taken up the issue and is working on how to increase the rates.

[Read more about chlamydia screenings.](#)

In case you missed it:

14 Washington State Hospitals receive top safety marks from Leapfrog Group



The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit representing hundreds of the nation's most influential employers and purchasers of health care, driven in Washington State by the **Washington Health Alliance**, announced the new **spring 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades**. Hospitals earn an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" Hospital Safety Grade reflecting how well they protect patients from medical errors, accidents, injuries, and infections. These preventable errors kill an estimated 250,000 Americans every year and harm millions more.

In Washington State, 46 hospitals were graded, and 14 earned an "A," eight earned a "B," 22 earned a "C," and two earned a "D." None of the hospitals assessed during this period received a failing grade.

[Read more about hospital safety grades.](#)

Upcoming Alliance Events

Examining Equity: Total Cost of Care with Neighborhood Atlas

May 16 from 9 to 10 a.m. PDT - Virtual

Building on our focus on health care equity, the Washington Health Alliance will release its Total Cost of Care analysis with Neighborhood Atlas, also known as the Area Deprivation Index, which is a tool validated by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. With this tool, we are able to report how the cost of care shifts based on a neighborhood's advantage or disadvantage.

This first-ever analysis continues the conversation started in March when the Alliance released its Community Checkup. The webinar is free and open to all.

[Register here.](#)

Promoting Cessation: How to Address Tobacco Use in Washington State

May 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. PDT - Virtual

According to the CDC, cigarette smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States; in Washington state 1 in 5 deaths are caused by cigarettes, including secondhand smoke, and 6 of the leading ten causes of death are related to tobacco use. What's even more worrisome is that the harm caused by tobacco use disproportionately affects marginalized populations.

Purchasers, health plans, providers, and consumers all play roles in the ongoing work to reduce tobacco/nicotine use and to help users quit. The Washington Health Alliance, under a contract with the Washington State Department of Health, is offering a webinar on the impact of tobacco use and the status of health plan coverage of cessation modalities on April 30. Plan to attend to learn about how you can improve health and health equity related to tobacco use in Washington State!

Guest speakers include Thomas DeCato, MD, Professor of Pulmonology, Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine Washington State University.

[Register here.](#)

Examining the Complexities of REL Data

June 1 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. PDT - Virtual

Join Foundation for Health Care Quality in collaboration with Washington Health Alliance and Comagine Health in the second webinar of a three-part series focused on health equity! In this webinar, speakers will discuss the ethical and pragmatic challenges to collecting data on Race, Equity, and Language (REL); data storage and prep for analysis; and how data may be used to inform actions to advance equity.

[Register here.](#)

Bolstering Mental Health in the Post-Pandemic Hybrid Workplace

June 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. PDT - Downtown Seattle and Virtual

"Of the 410,000 adults in Washington who did not receive needed mental health care, 36.9% did not because of cost." - National Alliance on Mental Illness (based on 2021 data.)

The focus of this educational program will be on the state of mental health in Washington and what benefits employers are providing to best meet the needs of their members.

Speakers include:

- Sandrine Pirard, MD, PhD, MPH, West Region Chief Medical Officer, Carelon Behavioral Health
- Nancy Board, Co-Founder/COO, Global Women 4 Wellbeing and Clinical Services Manager at the WA State Employee Assistance Program
- Sarai Childs, Executive Director, Business Health Trust

- Bill Dinger, Head of Caregiver Benefits and Wellbeing, Providence Healthcare
- Jeff Meyerhoff, MD, Senior Behavioral Health National Medical Director, Optum
- Michael Garrett, MS, CCM, Consultant

A light breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided to those that attend the event in person. Parking: 40 free parking garage spaces are available below the building on a first-come-first-serve basis. Street parking is also available at the standard rate for the City of Seattle.

Register to attend in-person.

Register to attend virtually.

Welcome back: Astellas

Astellas contributes toward improving the health of people around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products. They go beyond all others in exploring and tapping the potential of the life sciences. They continue tackling new challenges and creating innovative pharmaceutical products. They support healthy living for people around the world.




Learn more about Astellas.


The Alliance has moved.

After many years at 600 Stewart St., we moved our office a block away to the Tower Building. As of May 1, our new address will be 1809 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1609, Seattle, WA 98101.

Our members can be the best ambassadors for our work. If you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, contact Executive Director Drew Oliveira at doliveira@wahealthalliance.org.

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