

# Cancer Happens Teen Education

*Cancers that Impact  
Teens*

*Cancer Risk Factors*

*Healthy Living*

*Communication Tips*



Cancer Pathways  
1400 Broadway  
Seattle, WA 98122  
206-709-1400  
info@cancerpathways.org

## Did you know . . .

- In Washington State, an extraordinary **82%** of teens are touched by cancer - either their own diagnosis or that of a family member or friend.
- In 2017, in Washington State, for ages 13-17, there was only a **45.4%** series completion of the HPV vaccine, according to the Washington State Department of Health. The vaccine can prevent **13 HPV-** related cancers.
- In 2019, **13,700** Washington kids will try smoking tobacco for the first time. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. and 90% of smokers begin before the age of 18. Washington State currently ranks **43rd** in the nation for tobacco-prevention funding.
- Youth use of e-cigarettes has risen so dramatically that the FDA has declared it an **epidemic**. 1.7 million high school students said they had used e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days.
- One sunburn before age 18 doubles a person's chance of being diagnosed with melanoma. Washington State ranks in the **top 10 highest** in overall skin cancer rates. Tanning salons continue to be visited by more than 2.3 million teens annually.

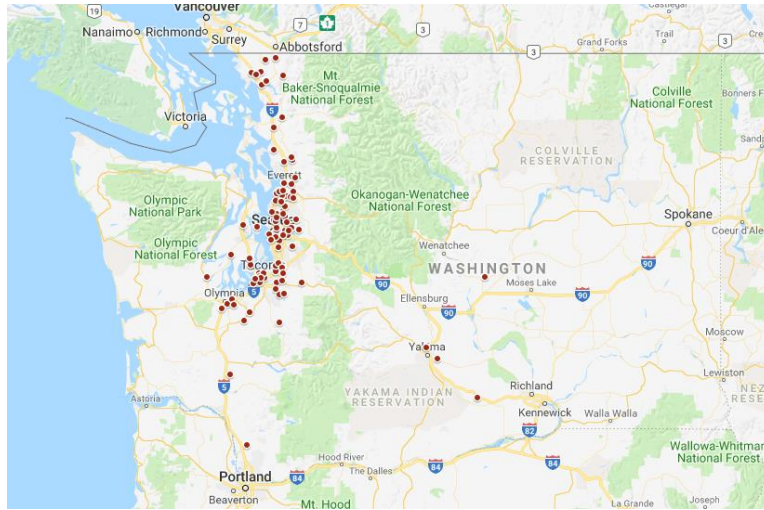
## Cancer Happens makes a difference . . .

- We help students learn more about tobacco products; e-cigarettes; vaping; marijuana; HPV; sun exposure; lung, skin, cervical and testicular cancers; exercise and nutrition.
- We inspire students to reduce their cancer risk by learning what the risks are and how to avoid them.

**We impact the health and well-being  
of entire generations.**

Cancer Pathways is the only organization that provides cancer education to high school students in Washington State. Through **Cancer Happens**, we have provided education about cancer risk reduction to more than **83,000** students in **102** high schools in Washington State since 2005.

**High schools  
we have  
visited so far:**



**HELP US  
REACH  
THE WHOLE  
STATE!**

**From students:**

“Thank you for all of the information you showed us. After learning everything you taught us, I will spread the word. Thank you so much for taking your time and teaching us things we didn't know. Now I feel informed. Thank you!”

“I like the interactive element - we weren't just listening but also asking questions. The presenter knew the information well. I liked the pictures and videos.”

“I really appreciate this presentation and the speaker did a great job. If I find a friend or an adult with cancer, I will definitely refer them to Cancer Pathways!”

“I feel more educated and now will take more precautions to prevent cancers and making healthier choices.”

“I did learn a lot today. I knew the basics of cancer but I learned way more today and I can make sure to follow the rules.”

“I feel really informed and learned that things that seem little - like wearing sunscreen, not smoking, and eating right - can make a difference!”

**From teachers:**

“I want to thank you so much for coming to speak to my classes. I had such positive feedback from all of my students about how much they had learned. You definitely made a huge impact on their lives.”

“The material presented was very relevant to the lives of our students & cancer is something teens don't think can happen to them.”

“Thank you for speaking to my Child Development classes regarding cancer. Your presentation was professional and informative. My students enjoyed it and I look forward to having you back in the future.”

“Thank you so very much for including our school in the Cancer Happens Presentations. The presenter was very patient and so positive with my students. Not only was the information presented astounding, but her approach with the kids was great.”

“This is such an appropriate time for my students since they have just started their Cancer Awareness Projects which includes interviewing a cancer survivor or a close relative of a cancer patient. The Teen Resource card of cancer information is also very helpful.”

“Many of these students have parents who are smokers so it was very good for them to hear especially about lung cancer. Hopefully, it will cause them to persuade their parents to stop smoking.”