

LET'S START WITH THE BASICS: Gardasil is a vaccine that was invented by the Pharmaceutical Company MERCK.

The vaccine is built to help you avoid getting CERVICAL CANCER. Cervical Cancer can develop from a virus called HPV (Human Papillomavirus)

This vaccine treats the four strands that our the two low and high risk which are the 4 types of HPV that are most likely to cause Cervical Cancer. There are **MANY** other types of HPV—this vaccine **WILL NOT** protect you from getting all possible HPV strains.

If you decide to get the Gardasil vaccine, then it would work to make sure that your body did not catch the kinds of HPV that cause Cervical Cancer. **BUT** you **CAN** still get other HPV strains.

What are the long term effects? Is it safe? The real answer is that there are no known dangerous side effects to this drug. **HOWEVER**, there is no information about the long term effects just yet. No one knows what all the potential effects from this vaccine might be because it is brand new to the market.

Does this vaccine work? MERCK says its extremely effective in girls who have not yet had sex. But MERCK also says that they don't know how long the vaccine lasts, so you might have to get it more than once.

Young Women's Empowerment Project and Committee on Women Population and the Environment

want YOU to ask some questions about **Gardasil...**

...before its mandated in your school or state....

The purpose of this pamphlet is to raise critical questions and offer some insight that will help girls and women decide about whether or not Gardasil is the right CHOICE for your body.

We talked to girls, young women and adult allies for nearly three months about their feelings about Gardasil and School Mandates.

We asked questions like.....

Why is this vaccine mandated? How did the mandates happen so quickly? Is this drug really safe? Is this drug really the best way to help keep girls safe from Cervical Cancer? What if you don't want this vaccine— can you still prevent cervical cancer? What do you do if you want this vaccine and cant get it in your state? What do you do if you don't want this vaccine to be mandated in your state? What is the connection between money, marketing and health?



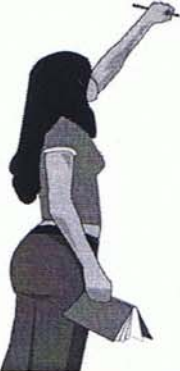
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SELF CARE AND VAGINAL HEALTH TIPS IF YOU CANT OR DONT WANT TO GO TO THE DOCTOR— FLIP THIS PAGE OVER

Why do I need a Pap test? A Pap test can save your life. It can find the earliest signs of cervical cancer - a common cancer in women. If caught early, the chance of curing cervical cancer is very high. Pap tests also can find infections and abnormal cervical cells that can turn into cancer cells. Treatment can prevent most cases of cervical cancer developing.

Getting regular Pap tests is the only long term tested way that we **know** prevents cervical cancer. About 13,000 women in America will find out they have cervical cancer this year by getting a **PAP SMEAR**.

What is a Pap test? The Pap test, also called a Pap smear, checks for changes in the cells of your cervix. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that opens into the vagina. The Pap test can tell if you have an infection, abnormal (unhealthy) cervical cells, or cervical cancer.

So what else can I do to keep myself safer? ...YWEP and CWPE believe in the **POWER OF THE PAP**



Here are some reasons why Gardasil might be a CHOICE for you

- If you are involved in the sex trade or sexually active and you don't want your parents to find out, you could get this vaccine from your doctor without Parental permission.
- If you are between ages 12-26 and are NOT sexually active, this vaccine might be right for you because it works best for those who have not yet had sex

YWEP and CWPE respect all girls and women who do what they have to do to SURVIVE.

PLEASE OPEN THIS BOOKLET FOR MORE THOUGHTS ABOUT GARDASIL AND HOLISTIC SELF CARE OPTIONS!! CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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THE YOUNG WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT WWW.YOUAREPRICELESS.ORG