

# Women In Government

## *Partnering for Progress 2007: The 'State' of Cervical Cancer Prevention in America*



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# About Women In Government

- Women In Government Mission/Vision
- Focus on a broad variety of public policy issues in health and other sectors
- Key policy areas
  - Education
  - Health
- Our members: women state legislators
  - Over 1700 women in state legislatures (23.5%)<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] Center for American Women in Politics, 2007.

# About Women In Government

- Women In Government Activities
  - 25 educational conferences each year
  - Resource Centers
    - HPV & Cervical Cancer Policy Resource Center
    - Access to Higher Education Policy Research Center
    - Kidney Health Policy Resource Center
    - Medicare Preventive Services Policy Resource Center
  - Building Partnerships
    - UICC, Women Work, C-Change, Mental Health America, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Excelencia in Education, Education Commission of the States, Women's Legislative Network of National Conference of State Legislatures

Women In Government  
*Challenge to Eliminate Cervical  
Cancer Campaign*

# Development & Launch of the *Campaign*

- Held educational conferences about HPV and cervical cancer in 2003
- Created Women In Government's HPV & Cervical Cancer State Legislative Task Force
- Messages
  - Ensure that all women are educated about cervical cancer and the virus that causes it, HPV.
  - Ensure access to advanced and appropriate screening & vaccination technologies and public health programs.
  - Assist policymakers in evaluating current practices and policy throughout the states.

# Campaign Policy Statement

Women In Government believes policymakers have a tremendous opportunity to address cervical cancer prevention by raising awareness and education in their states – with the goal of providing all constituents with access to the most advanced and appropriate preventive technologies, including HPV testing and vaccination, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or other factors.

# Educational Tools

- HPV & Cervical Cancer Policy Resource Center
  - Legislative toolkit
  - Educational materials (brochures, fact sheets, etc.)
  - Medical guidelines and background materials
  - Toll-free hotline for policymakers
  - Annual State-by-state comparison report on progress made in prevention
- Conferences
  - Annual HPV & Cervical Cancer Summit
  - Annual HPV & Cervical Cancer State Legislative Task Force
  - Educational segments at additional conference

Women In Government Presents

## Partnering For Progress 2007

The "State" of  
Cervical Cancer  
Prevention in  
America





# Report Methodology

- Nine factors were analyzed:
  - Incidence
  - Mortality
  - Pap screening rates
  - Screening rates for uninsured women
  - Medicaid coverage of HPV testing
  - Rate of uninsured women
  - Legislation mandating cervical cancer screening coverage
  - Legislation creating cervical cancer task forces/commissions
  - Miscellaneous legislation

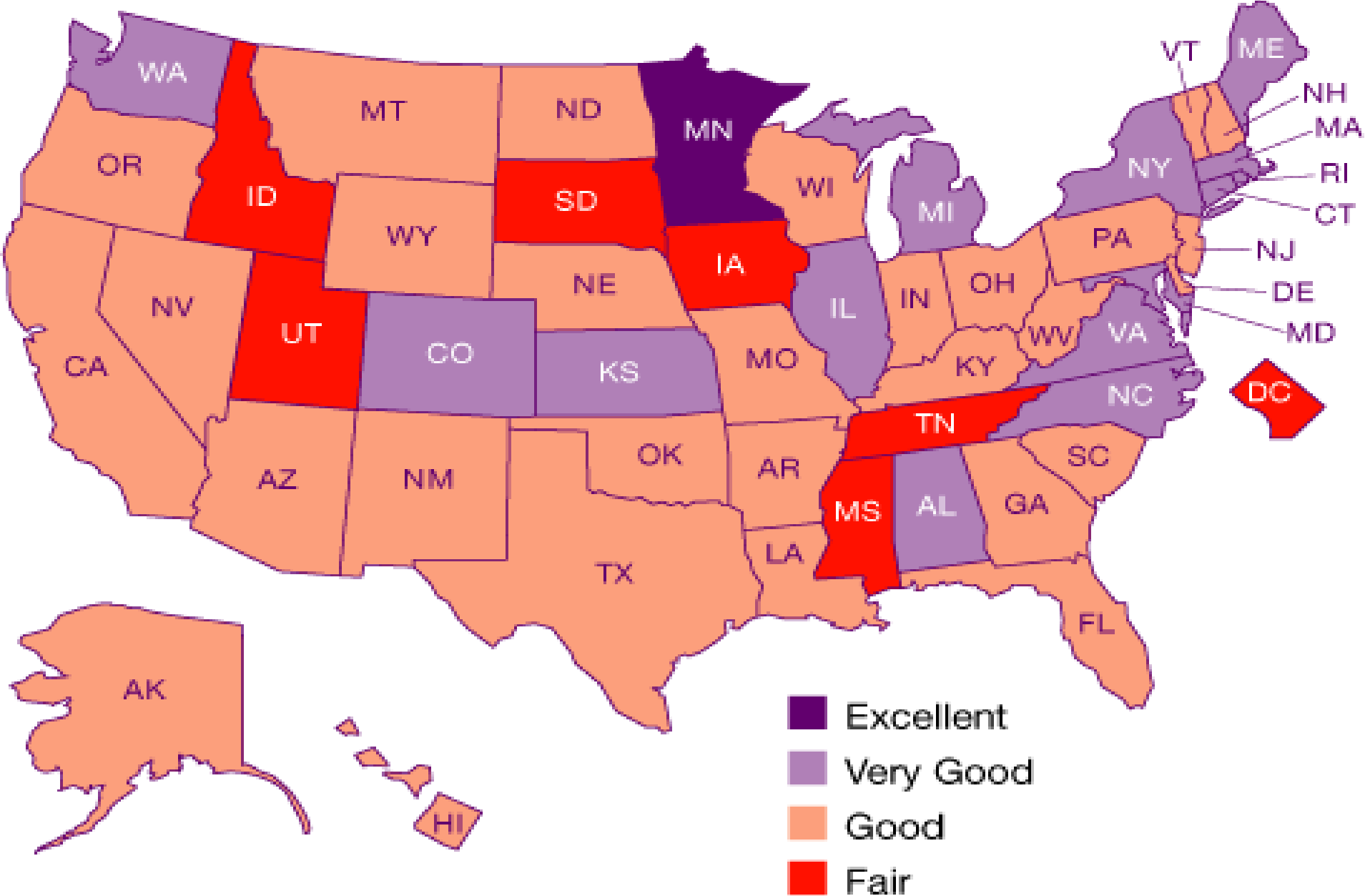
# Report Methodology

- Each factor was scored from 0 to 2 points, for a total of 18 possible points (100%)
  - Excellent
    - Grades of 84% to 100%, 15 to 18 points
  - Very Good
    - Grades of 67% to 83%, 12 to 14 points
  - Good
    - Grades of 50% to 66%, 9 to 11 points
  - Fair
    - Grades below 50%, less than 9 points

# Key Report Findings

- For the first time, one state- **Minnesota**-received a grade of excellent
- A majority of states and the District of Columbia saw a decrease in both cervical cancer incidence and mortality
- Just under half of the states (49%) experienced an increase in the rate of uninsured women
- State legislators continue to advance policies to address cervical cancer prevention
- Disparities continue to exist in terms of incidence, mortality, and screening at the national level

# 2007 State Report Grades



# Women In Government Policy Recommendations

- States should form ensure that statewide cervical cancer task forces or other proactive accountable entities are informed about and address new information and data about cervical cancer/HPV, including opportunities to establish an adolescent “well visit.” States should consider legislative action that may be required to update and extend the parameters of task force timeline, members, etc.
- States should maximize resources and direct dedicated funding streams to support program infrastructure and provide education to policymakers about VFC and 317 funding. State departments of health should develop and implement plans to ensure all girls and women aged 9 through 26 have access to and receive FDA-approved cervical cancer/HPV vaccines, with an emphasis on the routine vaccination of 11 and 12-year-old girls.

# Women In Government Policy Recommendations Continued

- Recognizing that requiring vaccines for school entry has helped to provide equal access to critical immunizations throughout history, regardless of one's socioeconomic status, or other factors, states should consider including HPV vaccines for the prevention of cervical cancer, for girls entering middle school, in conjunction with other vaccines required at this time, with the same parental opt out in accordance with states' existing exemption allowances (e.g., medical, religious and/or philosophical).
- States should strongly encourage insurance providers to adequately cover FDA-approved cervical cancer/HPV vaccines, Pap tests and HPV tests. States should also authorize health departments and other health centers to establish a process to bill private insurance providers for services rendered. States should encourage employers to buy plans with HPV screening and vaccine inclusion.

# Women In Government Policy Recommendations Continued

- States should require Medicaid to cover FDA-approved cervical cancer/HPV vaccines for eligible 19-26 year-old women. States should ensure that public health programs (screening and vaccination) are adequately funded and utilized to ensure that all other uninsured or underinsured females have access to cervical cancer/HPV vaccination and screening, with a goal of eliminating healthcare disparities (based on income, geographic location, country of origin, race/culture or other factors) and reaching these underinsured and uninsured populations.
- States should develop awareness campaigns to educate the public about cervical cancer/HPV. Existing statewide entities focused on cancer prevention and/or health should take the lead on developing, partnering with other like-minded organizations and executing programs to educate and involve stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, providers, parents, men, women, school administrators, advocacy groups, etc.) about cervical cancer, HPV, and the role of available preventive technologies. States should help women ages 19-64 identify the questions they should ask regarding their cervical health and inform women who are eligible for Medicare about available screening benefits. Legislators need to be educated to assure already budgeted monies are not supplanted by additional appropriations or donations.

# Women In Government Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign State Activity

Activity as of October 17, 2007



\* Only covers HPV testing for ASC-US Pap tests

	HPV Vaccine School Requirement (Introduced)		Compulsory HPV Testing Insurance Reimbursement (Introduced)
	HPV Vaccine School Requirement (Enacted)		Compulsory HPV Testing Insurance Reimbursement (Enacted)
	Unrestricted Medicaid Coverage of HPV Testing		Cervical Cancer Prevention- Miscellaneous (Introduced)
	Statewide Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force/ Accountable Entity (Introduced)		Cervical Cancer Prevention- Miscellaneous (Enacted)
	Statewide Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force/ Accountable Entity (Enacted)		Compulsory HPV Vaccine Insurance Reimbursement (Introduced)
			Compulsory HPV Vaccine Insurance Reimbursement (Enacted)
			HPV Vaccine Information Program Introduced
			HPV Vaccine Information Program Enacted

[www.womeningovernment.org/prevention](http://www.womeningovernment.org/prevention)



# Getting Involved

- Educate policymakers, women, girls, parents, healthcare providers, etc
  - HPV, cervical cancer, the role of vaccines and the importance of continued screening
  - Develop policies to create public education programs
  - Work with existing programs
- Building Political Will
  - Commitment to support a comprehensive approach to cervical cancer prevention
  - Work with the areas that are not implementing programs
  - Start over again – back to the areas that have implemented prevention and screening strategies in order to implement vaccines

# Collaboration is Key

- Women In Government has established important partnerships with national organizations including:
  - The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation
  - National Association of City and County Health Officials
  - American Medical Women's Association
  - Popsmeat.Org & Survivor Christine Baze
  - National Council of Women's Organizations
  - Tamika & Friends
  - Coalition of Labor Union Women
  - Nueva Vida
  - The Balm in Gilead



# Thank You

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