

## ONGOING RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS FROM

Krystle Kuhs, PhD, MPH

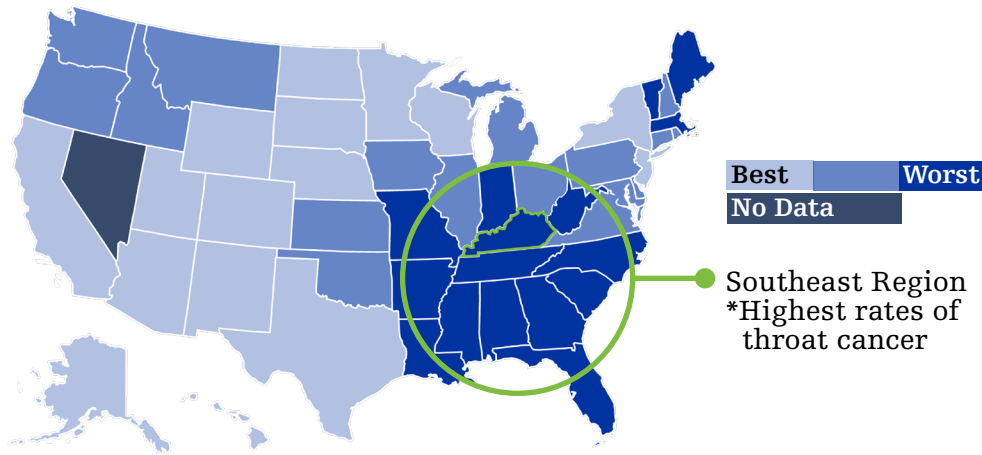
Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health,  
College of Public Health  
Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program



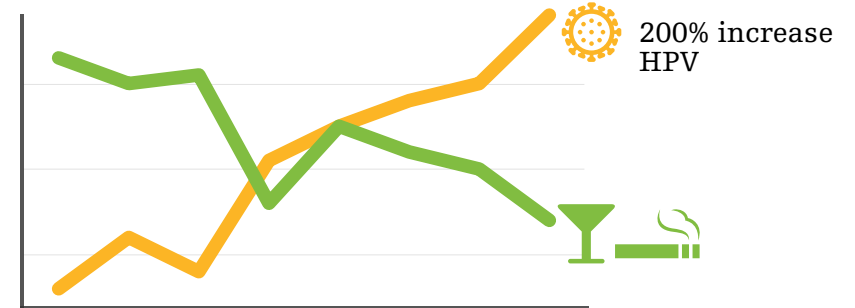
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### Focus of the Study

The occurrence of Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-driven oropharyngeal (throat) cancer in the U.S. has tripled over the last several decades. **The southeast region of the US has the highest rate, including Kentucky with the second highest occurrence of throat cancer.** There is no screening test to detect throat cancer early.



### Increasing Rates of HPV-driven Throat Cancer



Throat cancer linked to HPV is on the rise, while throat cancer linked to alcohol and tobacco is going down.

### What we are doing:

We discovered a marker that shows up in the blood more than a decade before the diagnosis of HPV-related throat cancer. In this study, we will screen healthy, middle-aged people for this marker to see if it helps to diagnose this type of throat cancer earlier.

We hope our findings will have an impact, lowering deaths from throat cancer. Treatment for throat cancer often causes severe and permanent side effects. Early diagnosis requires less treatment which reduces side effects and improves quality of life.

### Future Direction

First, we are doing a small study in several clinics in Kentucky. If successful, we will do a larger study across the entire state.

### Protect yourself from HPV infection with the HPV vaccine

45,300

Over 45,300 cases of cancers each year could be prevented with HPV vaccination.



Same as the average attendance for a baseball game.