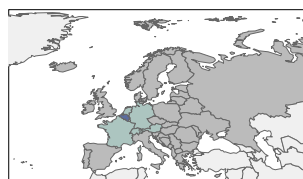


Belgium

Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2023 (2023-03-10)

I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Belgium has a population of 4.95 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 639 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 236 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 13th most frequent cancer among women in Belgium and the 4th most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 3.6% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 81.1% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	10.9
Anal cancer	1.36	2.63
Vulva cancer	-	5.41
Vaginal cancer	-	0.77
Penile cancer	2.09	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	6.67	2.21
Oral cavity cancer	11.1	6.02
Laryngeal cancer	9.00	1.71

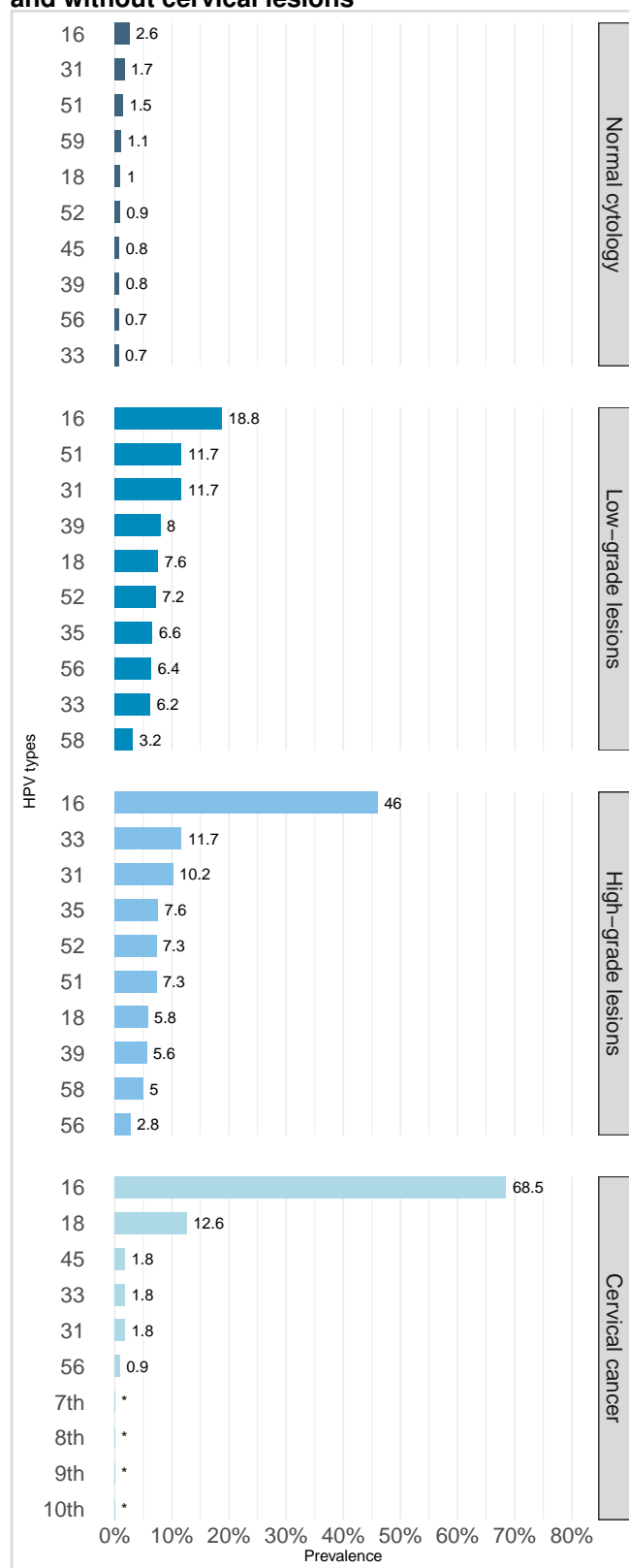
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	639	236
Crude rate	10.9	4.04
Age-standardized rate	7.67	1.98
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	0.75	0.21
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	13th	16th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	4th	4th

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Belgium

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	13414	3.6 (3.3-3.9)
Low-grade cervical lesions	1205	26.4 (24.0-29.0)
High-grade cervical lesions	463	51.8 (47.3-56.4)
Cervical cancer	111	81.1 (72.8-87.3)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Belgium among women with and without cervical lesions



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II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

Table 4. Factors contributing to cervical cancer (co-factors)

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women	22.7 [16.3-30]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.8
Hormonal contraception use (%)	28.0
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	- [—]

Table 5. Sexual behaviour

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	20.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	17.4 - 20.4
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	18.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	18.0 - 20.9

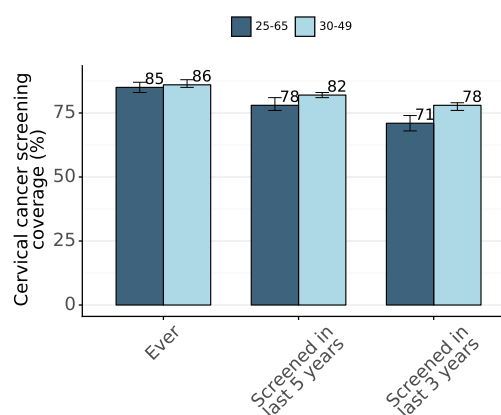
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2007
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	78
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	70
Males	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2019
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	71
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	64

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Existence of official national recommendations	Yes
Starting year of recommendations	2013
Active invitation to screening	Yes
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	Varies by region. Please see full country report for detail by region. For example, Flemish region: 25-64 (cytology, 3 years)

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Belgium*



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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