

Bulgaria

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Bulgaria has a population of 3.06 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 1009 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 503 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 4th most frequent cancer among women in Bulgaria and the 2nd most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. Data is not yet available on the HPV burden in the general population of Bulgaria. However, in Eastern Europe, the region Bulgaria belongs to, about 9.7% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 84.7% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	28.2
Anal cancer	0.68	0.84
Vulva cancer	-	3.30
Vaginal cancer	-	0.92
Penile cancer	1.57	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	3.38	0.64
Oral cavity cancer	9.40	3.86
Laryngeal cancer	14.8	1.15

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	1009	503
Crude rate	28.2	14.1
Age-standardized rate	18.0	7.13
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.86	0.77
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	4th	6th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	2nd	2nd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Bulgaria

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	-	-
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	-	-
Cervical cancer	127	80.3 (72.6-86.3)

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

No data available

Bulgaria

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

II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

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

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women	23.8 [16.8-31.2]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.6
Hormonal contraception use (%)	6.23
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]

Table 5. Sexual behaviour

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	40.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	21.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-

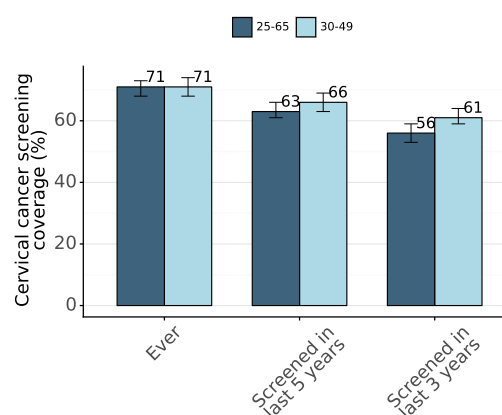
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2012
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	8
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	3
Males	
HPV vaccination programme	Not Available/Not Introduced
Year of introduction	-
Year of estimation	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	-

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Existence of official national recommendations	Yes
Starting year of recommendations	Unk
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	30-40 (cytology, 3 years)

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



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

Contact information:

ICO/IARC HPV Information Centre
 Institut Català d'Oncologia
 Avda. Gran Via de l'Hospitalet, 199-203
 08908 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona, Spain)
info@hpvcentre.net
www.hpvcentre.net