

# Bhutan

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



### I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Bhutan has a population of 282,253 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 47 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 27 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 1st

most frequent cancer among women in Bhutan and the 1st 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 Bhutan. However, in Southern Asia, the region Bhutan belongs to, about 4.4% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 80.3% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

**Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers**

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	13.0
Anal cancer	0	0
Vulva cancer	-	0
Vaginal cancer	-	0.28
Penile cancer	0.98	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	0.49	0.55
Oral cavity cancer	3.66	1.66
Laryngeal cancer	2.44	0.28

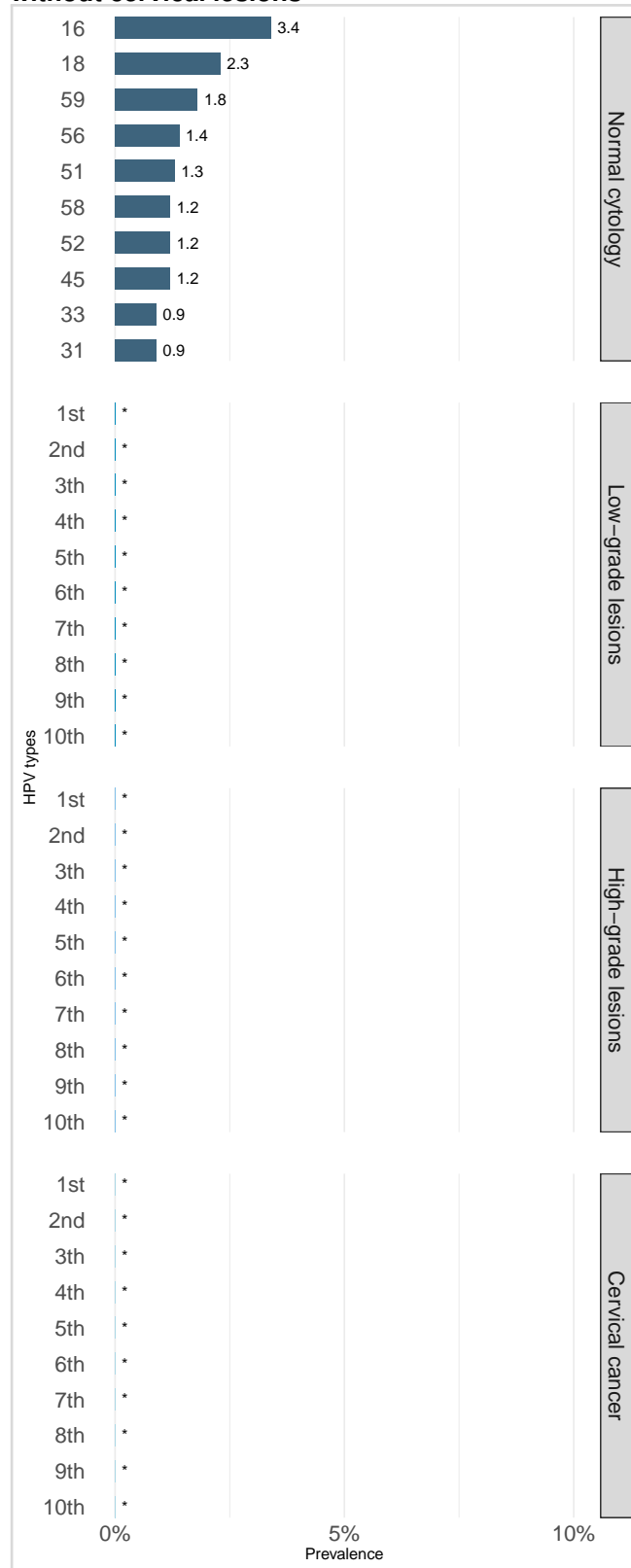
**Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer**

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	47	27
Crude rate	13.0	7.47
Age-standardized rate	14.2	8.43
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.50	0.94
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	1st	2nd
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	1st	1st

**Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Bhutan**

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	2272	5.7 (4.8-6.8)
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	-	-
Cervical cancer	-	-

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



For data sources and further data on HPV infection in cancer sites other than the cervix, please refer to the specific country full report.

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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	- [—]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	2.0
Hormonal contraception use (%)	7.50
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	0.2 [<0.1 -0.3]

**Table 5. Sexual behaviour**

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

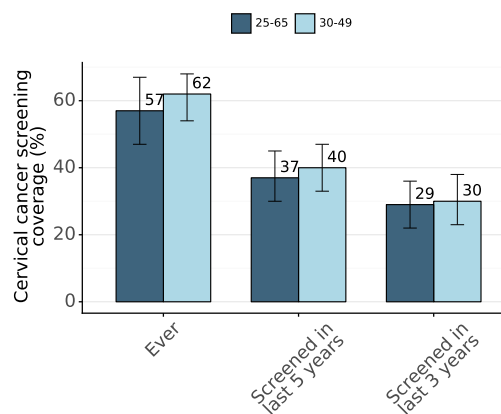
**Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction**

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2010
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	89
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	88
Males	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2021
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	90
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	89

**Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations**

Existence of official national recommendations	Yes
Starting year of recommendations	2006
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	25-30 (cytology, 3 years); 46-65 (cytology, 3 years); 30-45 (cytology OR VIA, 3 years)

**Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Bhutan\***



\* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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