

Greece

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Greece has a population of 4.60 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 697 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 282 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 10th most frequent cancer among women in Greece and the 3rd most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 2.8% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 52.3% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	13.1
Anal cancer	1.21	1.58
Vulva cancer	-	3.20
Vaginal cancer	-	0.28
Penile cancer	1.90	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	1.11	0.40
Oral cavity cancer	7.84	3.81
Laryngeal cancer	14.4	1.41

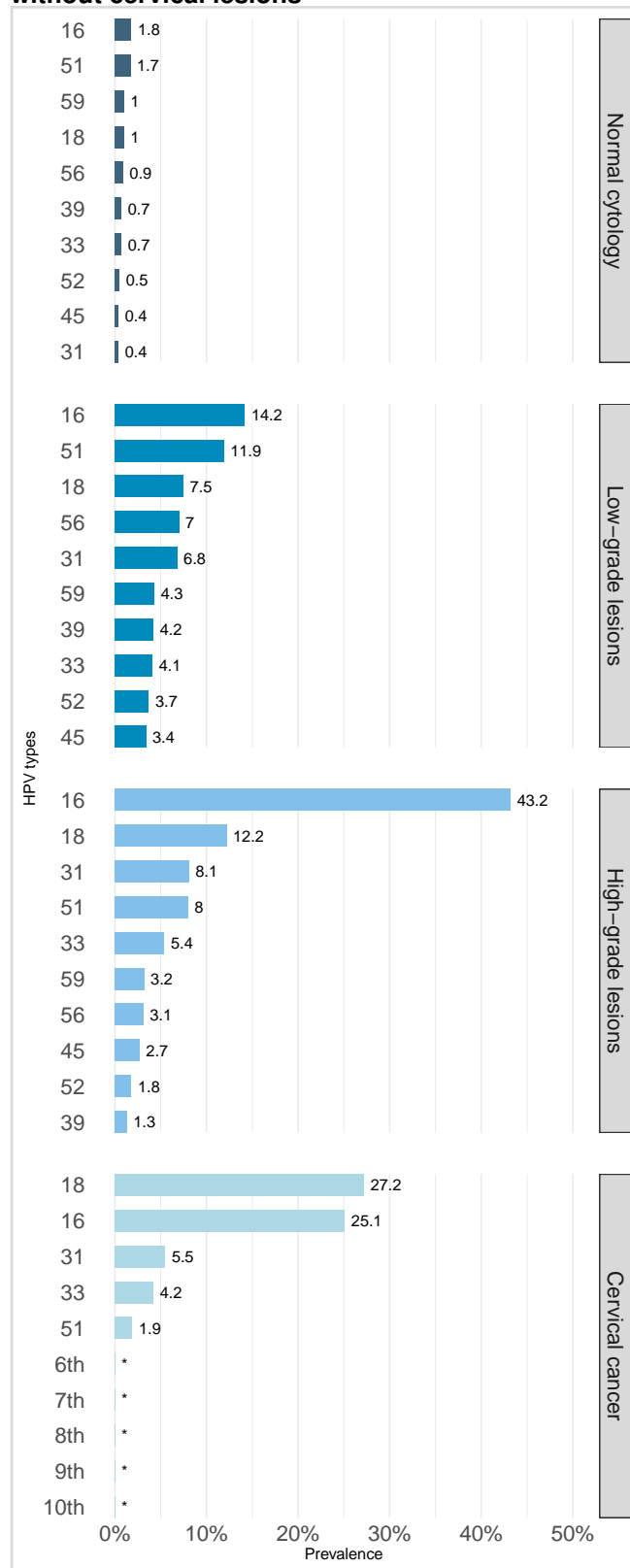
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	697	282
Crude rate	13.1	5.31
Age-standardized rate	8.05	2.23
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	0.77	0.23
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	10th	12th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	3rd	3rd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Greece

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	6506	2.8 (2.4-3.2)
Low-grade cervical lesions	1983	21.7 (19.9-23.6)
High-grade cervical lesions	368	55.4 (50.3-60.4)
Cervical cancer	331	52.3 (46.9-57.6)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Greece 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	32 [21.8-43.7]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.3
Hormonal contraception use (%)	4.80
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	- [—]

Table 5. Sexual behaviour

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	35.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	13.0 - 17.6
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	17.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	14.5 - 22.8

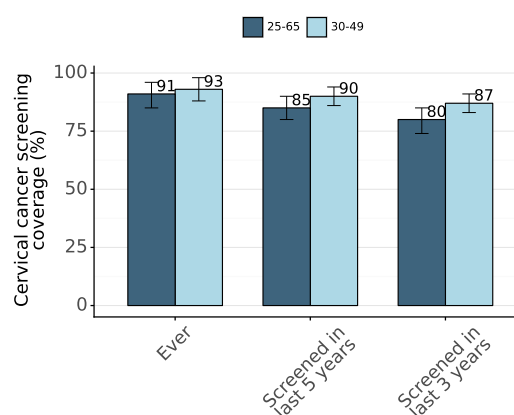
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2008
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	-
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	2018
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	>=18 (cytology, 1 year); 21-60 (HPV test, 5 years)

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



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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