

Iceland

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

I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Iceland has a population of 147,653 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 16 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 5 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 12th most frequent cancer among women in Iceland 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 Iceland. However, in Northern Europe, the region Iceland belongs to, about 4.2% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 77.0% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

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Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

| | Male | Female |
|----------------------|------|--------|
| Cervical cancer | - | 9.42 |
| Anal cancer | 0 | 0.59 |
| Vulva cancer | - | 2.36 |
| Vaginal cancer | - | 1.18 |
| Penile cancer | 2.92 | - |
| Oropharyngeal cancer | 4.67 | 0 |
| Oral cavity cancer | 4.67 | 2.94 |
| Laryngeal cancer | 4.67 | 0.59 |

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

| | Incidence | Mortality |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Annual number of new cases/deaths | 16 | 5 |
| Crude rate | 9.42 | 2.94 |
| Age-standardized rate | 8.26 | 1.94 |
| Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%) | 0.74 | 0.20 |
| Ranking of cervical cancer (all years) | 12th | 13th |
| Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years) | 2nd | 4th |

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Iceland

| | No. Tested | % (95% CI) |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------|
| HPV 16/18 prevalence: | | |
| Normal cytology | - | - |
| Low-grade cervical lesions | - | - |
| High-grade cervical lesions | 441 | 59.0 (54.3-63.5) |
| Cervical cancer | 140 | 72.1 (64.2-78.9) |

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Iceland 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 | 14 [9.9-18.2] |
| Total fertility rate (live births per women) | 1.9 |
| Hormonal contraception use (%) | - |
| 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 | 24.0 |
| Range of median age at first sexual intercourse | 15.4 - 17.8 |
| WOMEN | |
| Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse | 23.0 |
| Range of median age at first sexual intercourse | 15.4 - 18.7 |

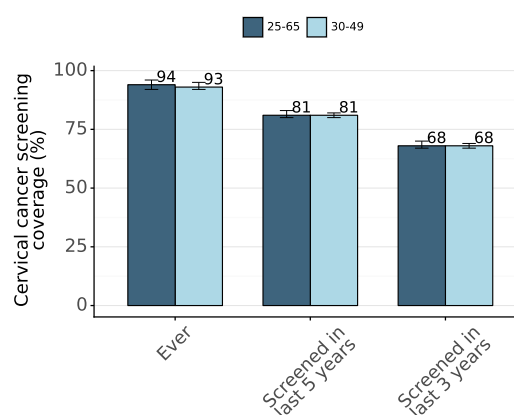
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

| Females | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| HPV vaccination programme | Introduced |
| Year of introduction | 2011 |
| Year of estimation | 2021 |
| HPV coverage – first dose (%) | 86 |
| HPV coverage – last dose (%) | 90 |
| 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 | 2015 |
| Active invitation to screening | Yes |
| Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings | 23-65 (cytology, 3 years) |

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



* 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