

Republic of Korea

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Republic of Korea has a population of 23.0 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 3218 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 1014 die from the disease. Cervical cancer

ranks as the 9th most frequent cancer among women in Republic of Korea and the 3rd most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 6.3% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 68.0% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	12.6
Anal cancer	0.42	0.87
Vulva cancer	-	0.87
Vaginal cancer	-	0.32
Penile cancer	0.38	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	2.20	0.32
Oral cavity cancer	4.36	2.90
Laryngeal cancer	4.35	0.25

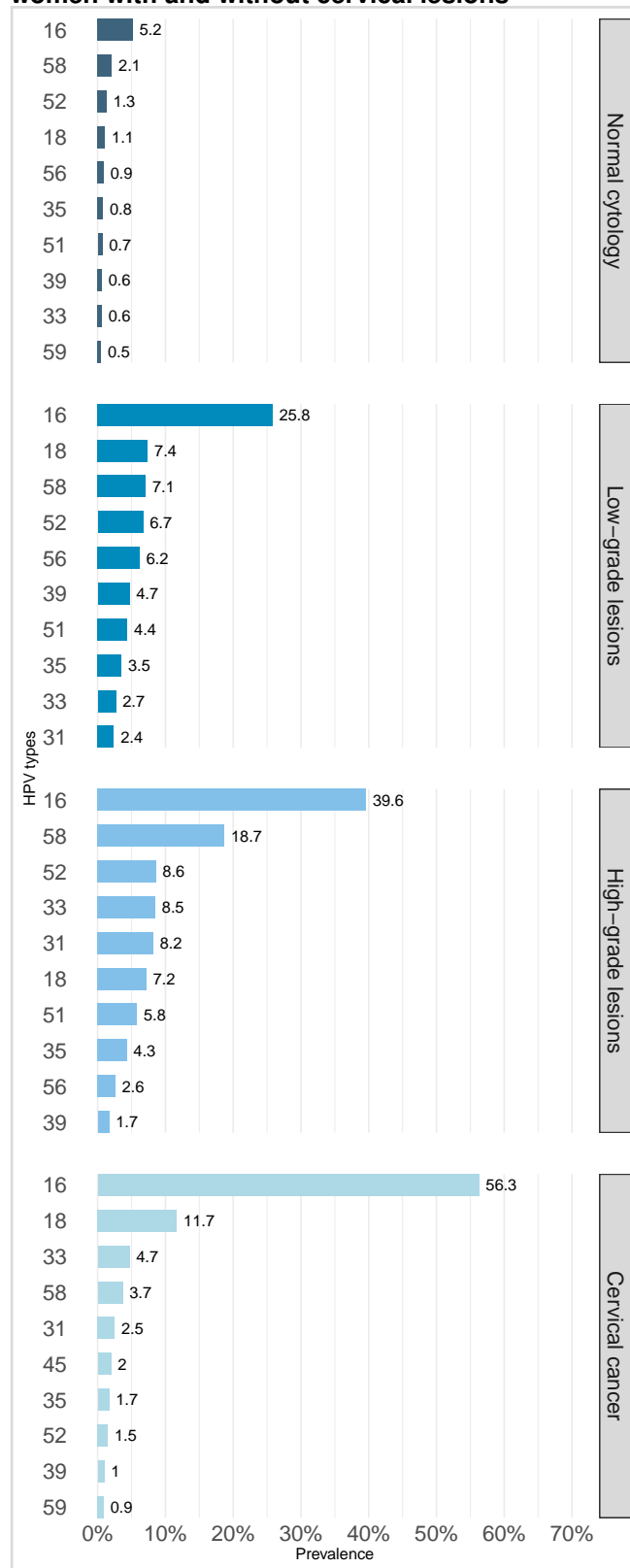
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	3218	1014
Crude rate	12.6	3.96
Age-standardized rate	8.12	1.84
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	0.78	0.17
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	9th	10th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	3rd	4th

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Republic of Korea

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	13772	6.3 (5.9-6.7)
Low-grade cervical lesions	659	33.2 (29.7-36.9)
High-grade cervical lesions	704	46.7 (43.1-50.4)
Cervical cancer	1651	68.0 (65.7-70.2)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in the Republic of Korea 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	5.9 [4.6-7.2]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.3
Hormonal contraception use (%)	2
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	- [—]

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	-

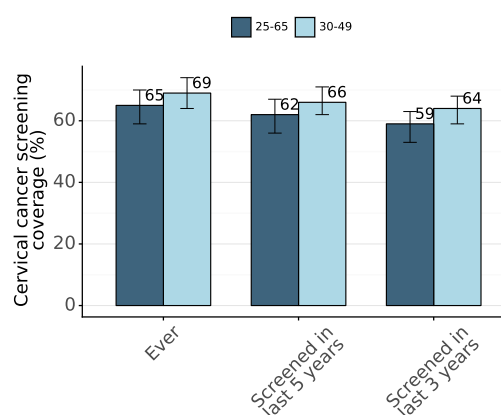
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2016
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	2016
Active invitation to screening	Yes
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	20-100 (cytology, 2 years)

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Republic of Korea*



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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