

Namibia

Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2021 (2021-10-22)



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Namibia has a population of 825,287 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 375 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 214 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 2nd most frequent cancer among women in Namibia 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 Namibia. However, in Southern Africa, the region Namibia belongs to, about 3.2% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 62.5% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	28.6
Anal cancer	0.65	0.38
Vulva cancer	-	1.68
Vaginal cancer	-	1.22
Penile cancer	1.54	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	0.97	0.46
Oral cavity cancer	5.20	2.90
Laryngeal cancer	2.60	0.23

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	375	214
Crude rate	28.6	16.3
Age-standardized rate	37.4	22.5
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	3.84	2.40
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	2nd	2nd
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	2nd	2nd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Namibia

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

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Namibia 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	8.7 [5.8-11.7]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	3.3
Hormonal contraception use (%)	7
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	14.1 [12.8-15.3]

Table 5. Sexual behaviour

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	13.4
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	18.0 - 18.3
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	6.8
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	18.9 - 19

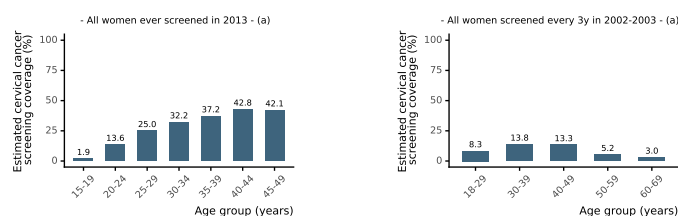
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction in females

HPV vaccination programme	Not Available, Not Introduced/No Plans
Year of introduction	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%) (estimation year 2019)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%) (estimation year 2019)	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%) (estimation year 2020)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%) (estimation year 2020)	-

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Cervical cancer screening coverage, % (age and screening interval, reference)	23.6% (All women aged 15-64 ever screened, DHS Namibia 2013)
Screening ages (years)	21-64 (cytology)
Screening interval (years) or frequency of screens	1 year

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Namibia, by age and study



^a Proportion of women in the total sample of the mentioned age range in the country or region that reported having a Pap smear during a given time period (e.g., last year, last 2, 3, 5 years or ever).

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