

Serbia

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Serbia has a population of 3.28 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 1205 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 634 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 5th most frequent cancer among women in Serbia 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 Serbia. However, in Southern Europe, the region Serbia belongs to, about 3.8% 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.

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Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	27.0
Anal cancer	1.05	0.92
Vulva cancer	-	4.22
Vaginal cancer	-	0.85
Penile cancer	1.94	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	4.25	0.74
Oral cavity cancer	15.0	4.96
Laryngeal cancer	15.4	1.97

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	1205	634
Crude rate	27.0	14.2
Age-standardized rate	18.7	7.94
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.86	0.88
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	5th	5th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	2nd	3rd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Serbia

	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 Serbia 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	33.7 [25.7-41.3]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.6
Hormonal contraception use (%)	3.30
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	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	15.5
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	16.3

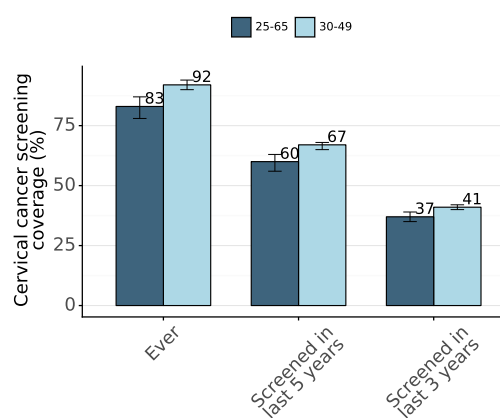
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Not Available/Not Introduced
Year of introduction	-
Year of estimation	-
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	2013
Active invitation to screening	Yes
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	25-64 (cytology, 3 years)

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



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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