

Syria

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Syria has a population of 7.37 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 215 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 137 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 11th

most frequent cancer among women in Syria and the 10th 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 Syria. However, in Western Asia, the region Syria belongs to, about 2.5% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 72.4% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	2.46
Anal cancer	0.16	0.17
Vulva cancer	-	0.46
Vaginal cancer	-	0.19
Penile cancer	0.06	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	0.09	0.08
Oral cavity cancer	1.05	0.78
Laryngeal cancer	2.76	0.73

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	215	137
Crude rate	2.46	1.57
Age-standardized rate	2.84	1.87
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	0.31	0.22
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	11th	12th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	10th	9th

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Syria

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	-	-
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	-	-
Cervical cancer	44	88.6 (76.0-95.0)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Syria 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	- [—]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	2.8
Hormonal contraception use (%)	8.90
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	-
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-

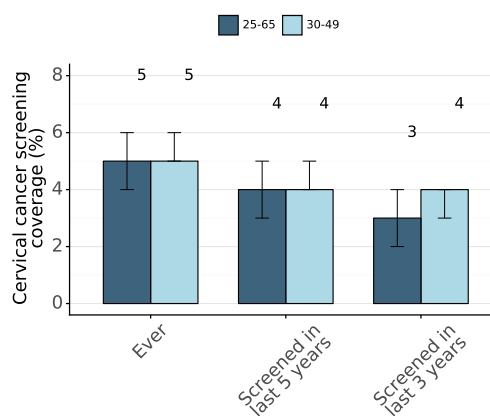
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	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	2019
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	30-49 (cytology, Unk years)

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



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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