

South Africa

Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2018 (2019-06-17)

I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



South Africa has a population of 19.81 millions women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 12983 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 5595 die

from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 2nd most frequent cancer among women in South Africa and the 1st most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 3.2% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 64.2% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPV16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	44.4
Anal cancer	0.2	0.0
Vulva cancer	-	0.8
Vaginal cancer	-	0.2
Penile cancer	0.6	-
Oropharynx	1.1	0.3

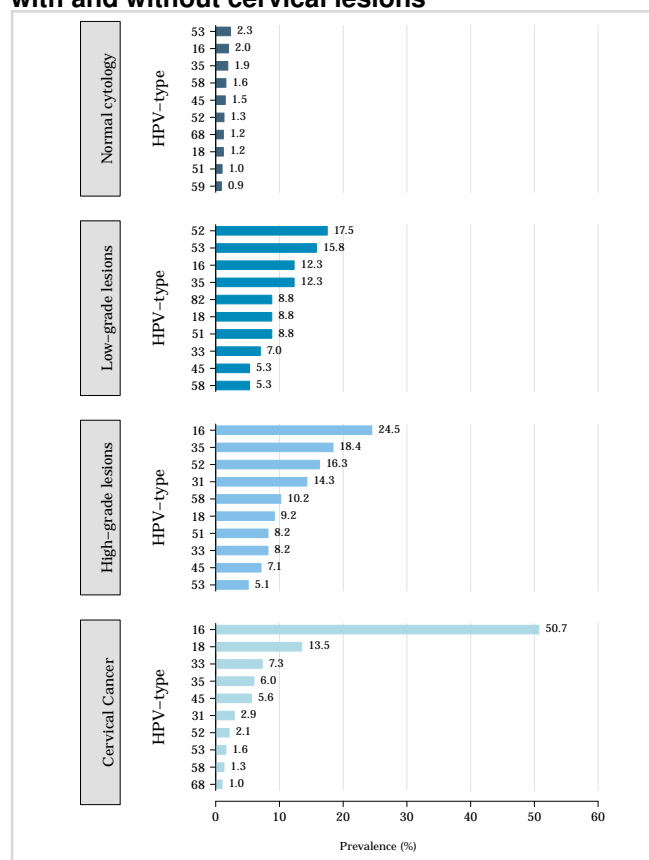
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	12983	5595
Crude rate	44.4	19.1
Age-standardized rate	43.5	19.2
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	4.2	2.0
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	2nd	1st
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	1st	3rd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection South Africa

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV prevalence in women with normal cytology	10209	18.4 (17.6-19.1)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	8661	3.2 (2.8-3.6)
Low-grade cervical lesions	57	21.1 (12.5-33.3)
High-grade cervical lesions	98	33.7 (25.1-43.5)
Cervical cancer	674	64.2 (60.6-67.8)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in South Africa 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 (%), women	7.0 [5.5-9.1]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	2.5
Hormonal contraception use (%) (pill, injectable or implant), among women	39.3
HIV prevalence (%), adults (15-49 years)	19.2 [18.4 - 20.0]

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	18.2-19.2

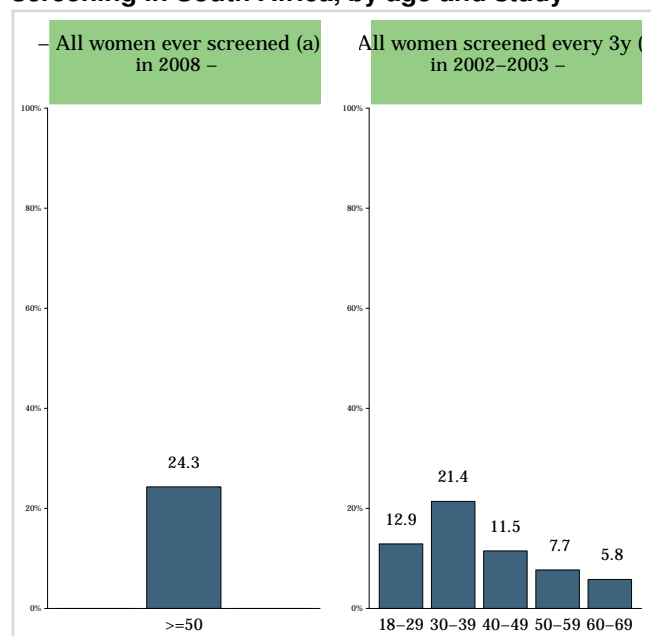
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

HPV vaccination programme	National program
Date of HPV vaccination routine immunization programme start	2014

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Cervical cancer screening coverage, % (age and screening interval, reference)	19.3% (All women aged 25-64 screened every 3y, WHS 2003 South Africa)
Screening ages (years)	Above 30
Screening interval (years) or frequency of screens	10 years

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in South Africa, 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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