

# South Africa

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

### I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



South Africa has a population of 22.2 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 10702 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 5870 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 HPVs 16 or 18.

**Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers**

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	35.6
Anal cancer	0.66	0.90
Vulva cancer	-	1.29
Vaginal cancer	-	0.62
Penile cancer	0.72	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	1.31	0.38
Oral cavity cancer	3.99	2.55
Laryngeal cancer	2.45	0.54

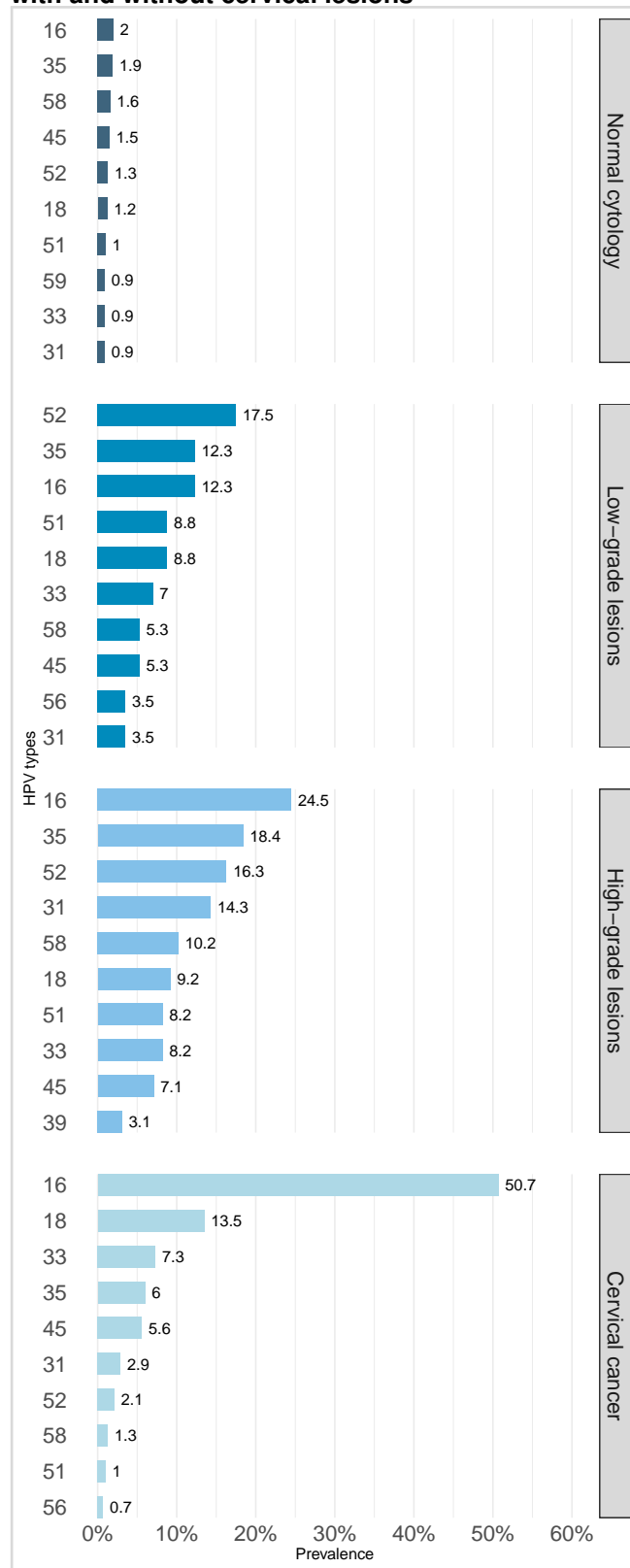
**Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer**

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	10702	5870
Crude rate	35.6	19.5
Age-standardized rate	35.3	19.6
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	3.58	2.10
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	2nd	1st
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	1st	1st

**Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection South Africa**

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
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**



# South Africa

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

### II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

**Table 4. Factors contributing to cervical cancer (co-factors)**

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women	7.9 [6.1-10.1]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	2.4
Hormonal contraception use (%)	8.40
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	25.8 [22.3-28.6]

**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

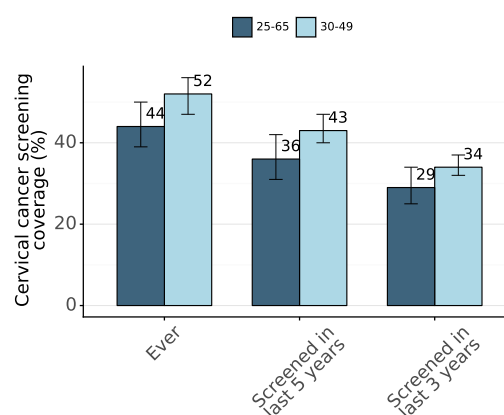
**Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction**

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2014
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	37
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	34
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	2017
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	25-55 (cytology, 5 years); 25-55 (HPV test, 10 years)

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



\* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

#### Contact information:

ICO/IARC HPV Information Centre  
 Institut Català d'Oncologia  
 Avda. Gran Via de l'Hospitalet, 199-203  
 08908 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona, Spain)  
[info@hpvcentre.net](mailto:info@hpvcentre.net)  
[www.hpvcentre.net](http://www.hpvcentre.net)