Australia



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

I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Australia has a population of 10.8 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 920 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 328 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 14th most frequent cancer among women in Australia and the 5th most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 8.5% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 76.1% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	7.19
Anal cancer	1.88	2.94
Vulva cancer	-	3.56
Vaginal cancer	-	0.74
Penile cancer	1.03	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	6.26	1.20
Oral cavity cancer	14.7	7.23
Laryngeal cancer	3.89	0.50

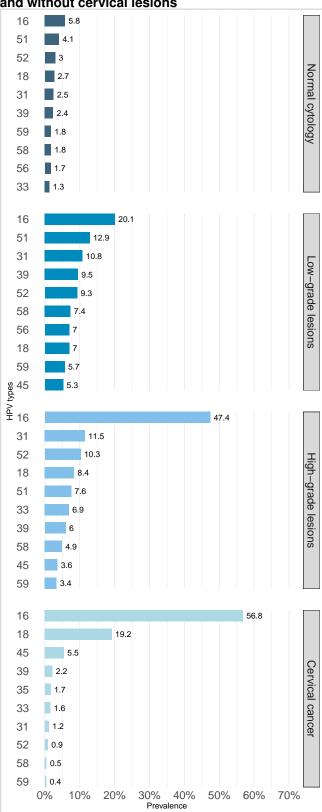
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	920	328
Crude rate	7.19	2.56
Age-standarized rate	5.63	1.49
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	0.53	0.16
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	14th	17th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	5th	4th

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Australia

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	2271	8.5 (7.4-9.7)
Low-grade cervical lesions	473	27.1 (23.3-31.2)
High-grade cervical lesions	1099	55.8 (52.8-58.7)
Cervical cancer	785	76.1 (72.9-78.9)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Australia 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 (cofactors)

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women 12.3 [9.9-15]

Total fertility rate (live births per women) 1.8

Hormonal contraception use (%) 16.7

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	13.0
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	6.5
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-

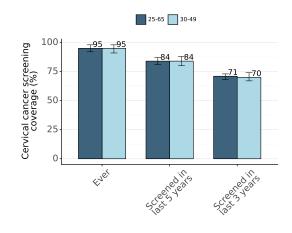
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	_
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2007
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	74
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	66
Males	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2013
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	73
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	62

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Existence of official national rec-	Yes			
ommendations				
Starting year of recommendations	2018			_
Active invitation to screening	Yes			_
Screening ages (years), pri-	25-74	(HPV	test,	5
mary screening test used, and	years)			
screening interval or frequency of				
screenings				

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



^{*} Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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