

# Belize

## Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2017 (2017-07-27)



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



Belize has a population of 122,603 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 43 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 17 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 2nd most frequent cancer among women in Belize and the 1st 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 Belize. However, in Central America, the region Belize belongs to, about 4.7% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 63.1% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPV types 16 or 18.

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

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	26.2
Anal cancer	-	-
Vulva cancer	-	-
Vaginal cancer	-	-
Penile cancer	-	-
Pharynx (excluding nasopharynx)	0.6	0.0

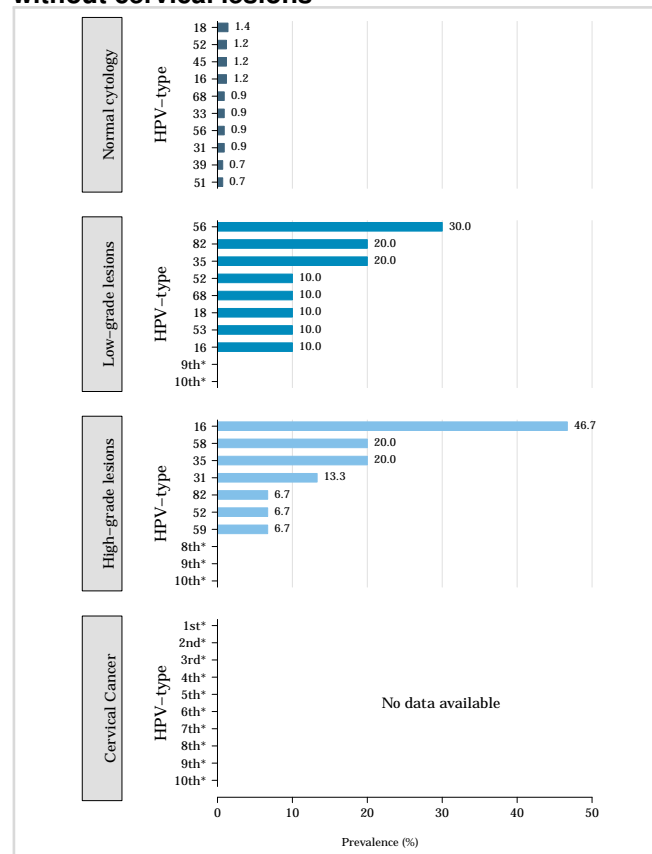
**Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer**

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	43	17
Crude rate	26.2	10.3
Age-standardized rate	32.7	14.9
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	3.1	1.6
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	2nd	1st
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	1st	1st

**Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Belize**

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV prevalence in women with normal cytology	426	10.1 (7.6-13.3)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	426	2.6 (1.4-4.6)
Low-grade cervical lesions	10	20.0 (5.7-51.0)
High-grade cervical lesions	15	46.7 (24.8-69.9)
Cervical cancer	-	-

**Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Belize among women with and without cervical lesions**



\*No data available. No more types than shown were tested or were positive.

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### II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

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

Smoking prevalence (%), women	-
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	2.6
Hormonal contraception use (%) (pill, injectable or implant), among women	24.0
HIV prevalence (%), adults (15-49 years)	1.5 [1.4 - 1.7]

**Table 5. Sexual behaviour**

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	14.8-18.2
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	15.6-18.5

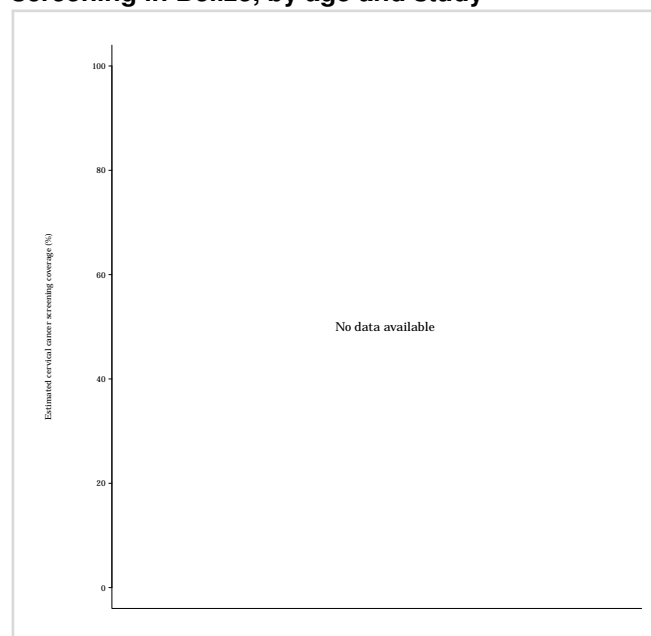
**Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction**

HPV vaccination programme	National program
Date of HPV vaccination routine immunization programme start	2016

**Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations**

Cervical cancer screening coverage, % (age and screening interval, reference)	37.3% (All women aged 13-49 ever screened, Family Health Survey 1999 Belize)
Screening ages (years)	21-55
Screening interval (years) or frequency of screens	3 years, after 3 consecutive annual negative tests

**Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Belize, by age and study**



<sup>a</sup> 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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