

Bhutan

Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2017 (2017-04-19)



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Bhutan has a population of 255,967 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 37 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 19 die from the disease.

Cervical cancer ranks as the 1st most frequent cancer among women in Bhutan 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 Bhutan. However, in Southern Asia, the region Bhutan belongs to, about 4.4% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 80.3% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	10.5
Anal cancer	-	-
Vulva cancer	-	-
Vaginal cancer	-	-
Penile cancer	-	-
Pharynx (excluding nasopharynx)	2.5	1.4

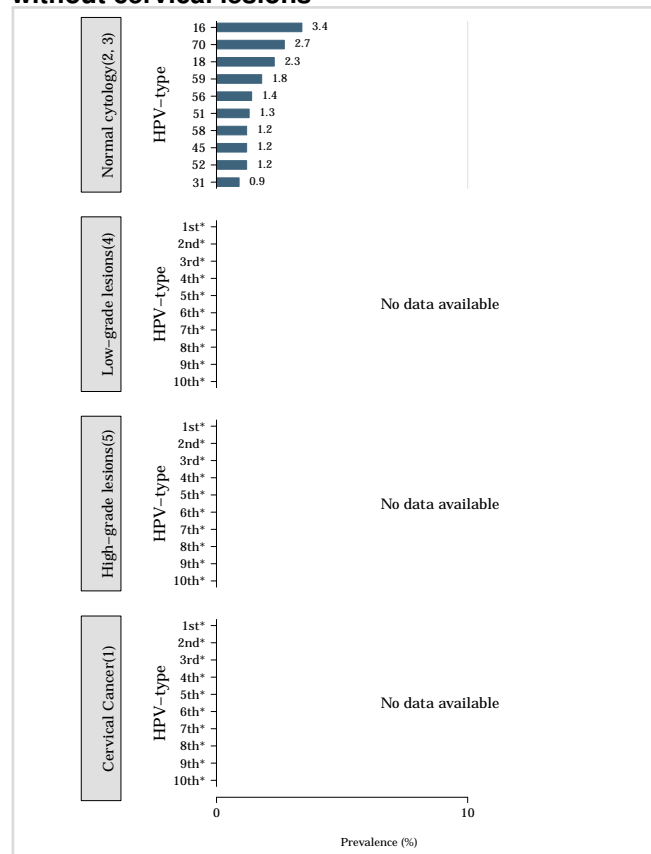
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	37	19
Crude rate	10.5	5.4
Age-standardized rate	12.8	7.0
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.3	0.8
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	1st	2nd
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	1st	1st

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Bhutan

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV prevalence in women with normal cytology	2272	23.0 (21.3-24.7)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	2272	5.7 (4.8-6.8)
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	--
High-grade cervical lesions	-	--
Cervical cancer	-	--

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Bhutan 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)	2.5
Hormonal contraception use (%) (pill, injectable or implant), among women	36.5
HIV prevalence (%), adults (15-49 years)	0.1 [<0.1-0.4]

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	-

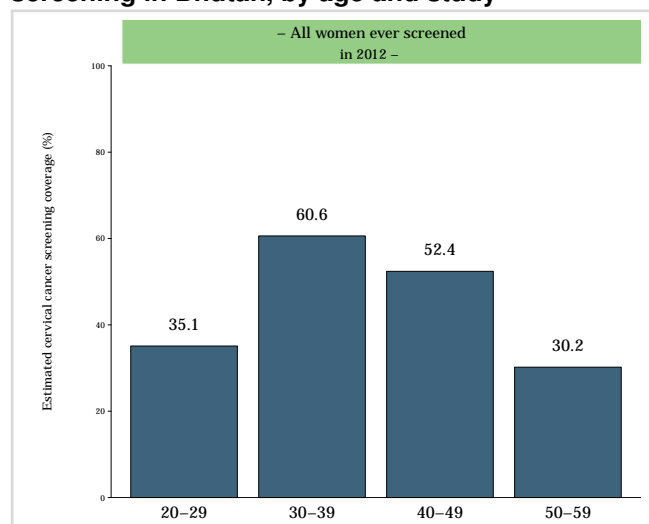
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

HPV vaccination programme	National program
Date of HPV vaccination routine immunization programme start	2010
HPV vaccination target age for routine immunization	12
Full course HPV vaccination coverage for routine immunization:	
% (calendar year)	92% (2010)

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Cervical cancer screening coverage, % (age and screening interval, reference)	40.9% (All women aged 20-59 ever screened, NHS Bhutan 2012)
Screening ages (years)	-
Screening interval (years) or frequency of screens	-

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



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