

Costa Rica

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Costa Rica has a population of 1.88 millions women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 297 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 116 die

from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 5th most frequent cancer among women in Costa Rica and the 3rd most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. About 3.3% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 62.9% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	12.6
Anal cancer	0.4	0.5
Vulva cancer	-	0.9
Vaginal cancer	-	0.2
Penile cancer	1.0	-
Pharynx (excluding nasopharynx)	1.2	0.3

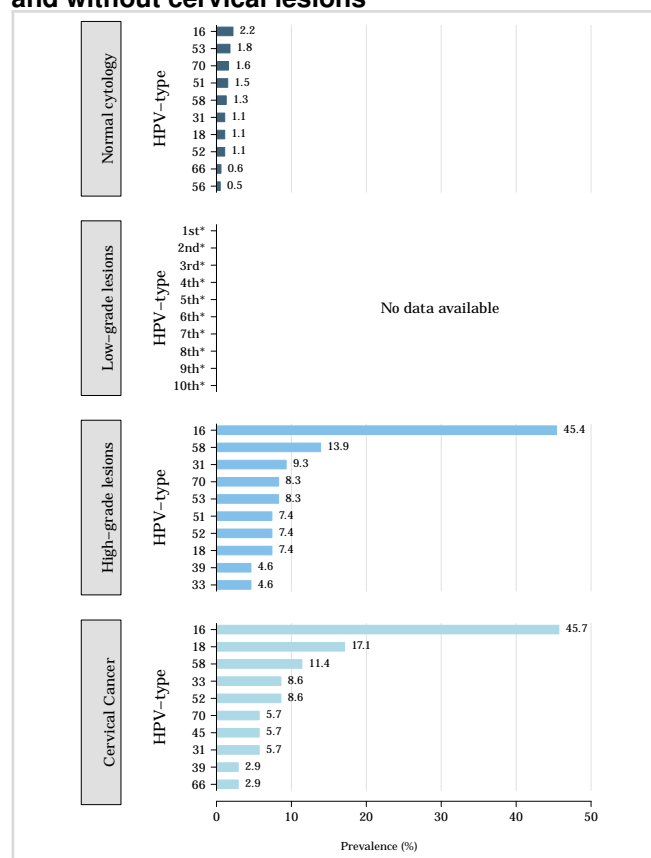
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	297	116
Crude rate	12.6	4.9
Age-standardized rate	11.4	4.4
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.1	0.5
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	5th	4th
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	3rd	2nd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Costa Rica

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV prevalence in women with normal cytology	12316	30.2 (29.4-31.0)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	7459	3.3 (2.9-3.7)
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	108	52.8 (43.4-61.9)
Cervical cancer	35	62.9 (46.3-76.8)

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Costa Rica 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	8.9 [4.8-14.0]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.8
Hormonal contraception use (%) (pill, injectable or implant), among women	29.5
HIV prevalence (%), adults (15-49 years)	0.3 [0.3 - 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	21.4

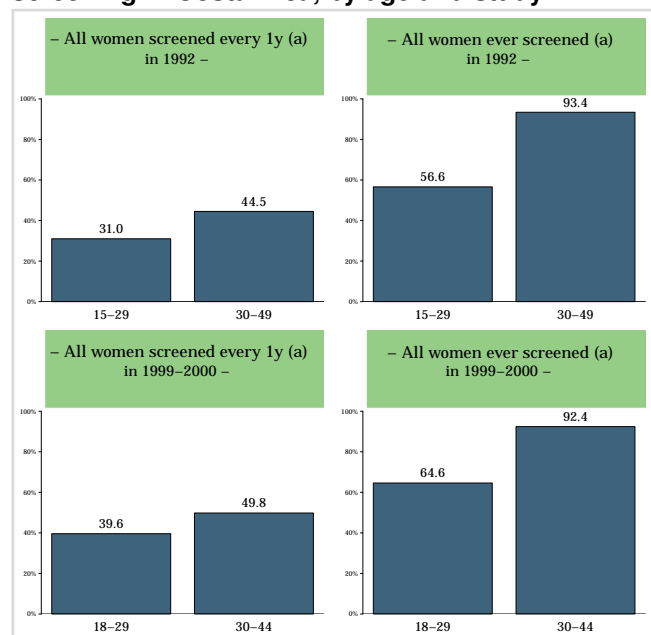
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

HPV vaccination programme	Pilot
Date of HPV vaccination routine immunization programme start	-

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Cervical cancer screening coverage, % (age and screening interval, reference)	35.4% (All women aged ≥ 35 screened every 2y, National Development Plan 2015-2018, Costa Rica)
Screening ages (years)	Above 20
Screening interval (years) or frequency of screens	1 year

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Costa Rica, 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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