

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 |

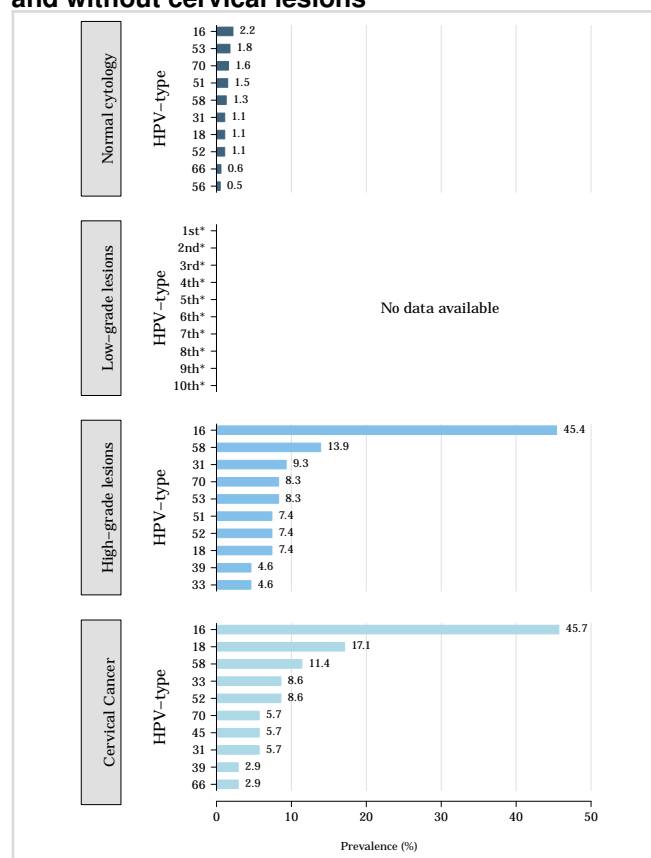
Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

| | 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



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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 |

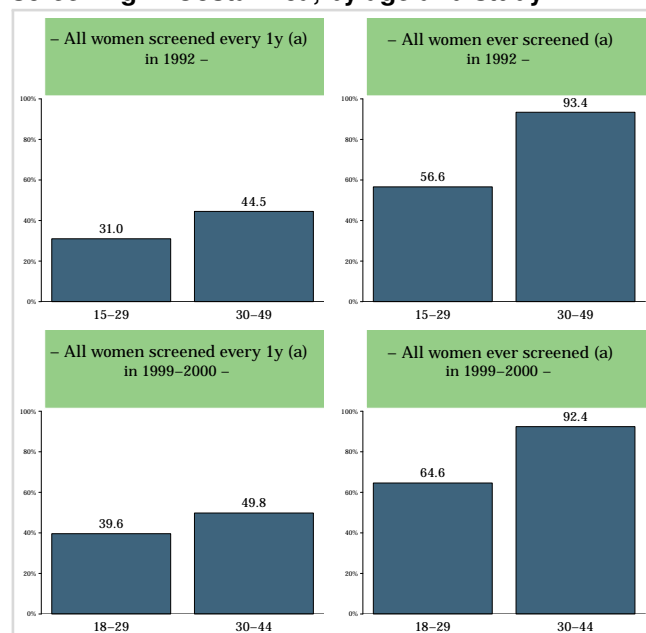
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

| | |
|--|-------|
| 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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