

St Lucia

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



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



St Lucia has a population of 74,759 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 20 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 13 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 2nd most frequent cancer among women in St Lucia and the 3rd 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 St Lucia. However, in Caribbean, the region St Lucia belongs to, about 15.8% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 60.2% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPV16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	21.5
Anal cancer	0	0
Vulva cancer	-	1.07
Vaginal cancer	-	1.07
Penile cancer	5.53	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	1.11	1.07
Oral cavity cancer	9.95	1.07
Laryngeal cancer	3.32	0

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	20	13
Crude rate	21.5	13.9
Age-standardized rate	16.6	11.0
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	2.15	1.48
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	2nd	3rd
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	3rd	3rd

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection St Lucia

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	-	-
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	-	-
Cervical cancer	-	-

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

No data available

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II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

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

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women	- [—]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	1.4
Hormonal contraception use (%)	21.8
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	0.6 [0.5-0.6]

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	-

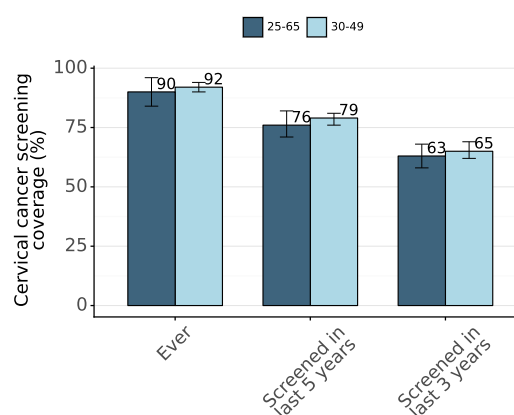
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2019
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	83
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	62
Males	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2019
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	76
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	56

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Existence of official national recommendations	Yes
Starting year of recommendations	Unk
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	18-55 (cytology, 1 year)

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in St Lucia*



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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