

# Vanuatu

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



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



Vanuatu has a population of 98,702 women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 22 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 19 die from the disease. Cer-

vical cancer ranks as the 2nd most frequent cancer among women in Vanuatu and the 2nd 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 Vanuatu. However, in Melanesia, the region Vanuatu belongs to, about 7.7% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 82.9% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

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

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	14.5
Anal cancer	0.64	0
Vulva cancer	-	0
Vaginal cancer	-	0.66
Penile cancer	0	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	0	0
Oral cavity cancer	1.93	1.32
Laryngeal cancer	1.28	0

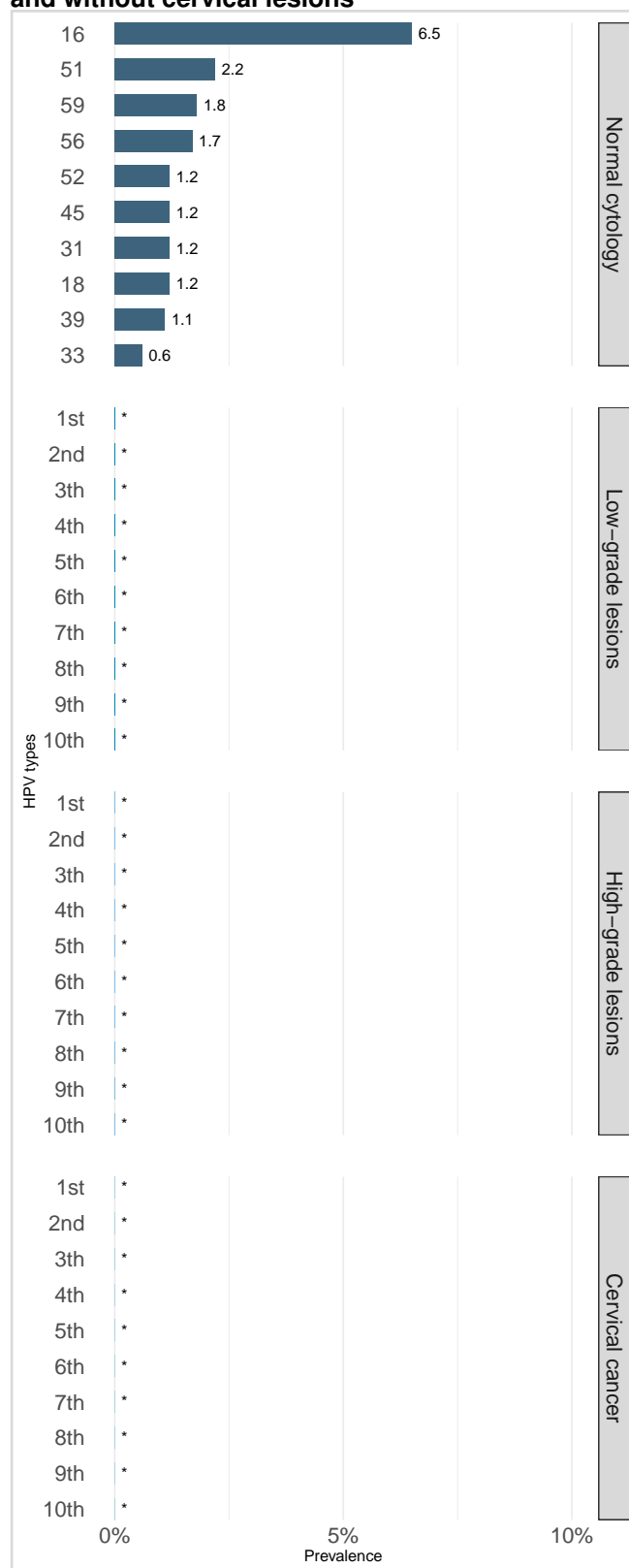
**Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer**

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	22	19
Crude rate	14.5	12.5
Age-standardized rate	17.1	14.9
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	1.67	1.49
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	2nd	1st
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	2nd	1st

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

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	726	7.7 (6.0-9.9)
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	-	-
Cervical cancer	-	-

**Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Vanuatu 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 (%) [95% UI], women	2.8 [1.5-4.2]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	3.2
Hormonal contraception use (%)	10.5
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	-

**Table 5. Sexual behaviour**

<b>MEN</b>	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-
<b>WOMEN</b>	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	-
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	-

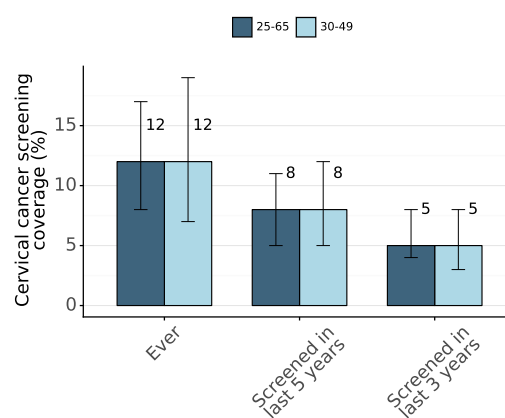
**Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction**

<b>Females</b>	
HPV vaccination programme	Not Available/Not Introduced
Year of introduction	-
Year of estimation	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	-
<b>Males</b>	
HPV vaccination programme	Not Available/Not Introduced
Year of introduction	-
Year of estimation	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	-

**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	30-65 (cytology, Unk years)

**Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Vanuatu\***



\* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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