Cervical cancer burden in EU-27

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix—the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. The major risk factor for cervical cancer is the infection with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), particularly from high-risk virus types, such as 16 and 18. The current vaccines are highly effective in preventing infections with HPV types 16 and 18. Effective screening methods exist to detect precancerous lesions of the cervix.

It is estimated that, in EU-27 countries in 2020, cervical cancer accounted for 2.3% of all new cancer cases (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) diagnosed in women and for 4.4% of all deaths of women due to cancer. Cervical cancer ranks 11th among the most frequently occurring cancers in women and 12th among the most frequent causes of cancer death in them.

2020 new cases (incidence) and deaths (mortality) estimates

NEW CASES OF CERVICAL CANCER per 100000 women*

Estimated incidence by country EU-27, female, all ages, 2020

DEATHS CAUSED BY CERVICAL CANCER per 100000 women*

Estimated mortality by country EU-27, female, all ages, 2020

*European standard population, 2013
NEW CASES OF CERVICAL CANCER – all ages, per 100000 women

CERVICAL CANCER SURVIVAL
Ages >15, cancers diagnosed in 2000-2007
Percentage of people who survived at least 5 years after diagnosis
(in absence of other causes of death except cancer)

ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES OF CERVICAL CANCER IN 2020 – BY AGE GROUP

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cervical cancer ranks 11th among the most frequently occurring cancers in women and 12th among the most frequent causes of cancer death in them.
- Estimated cervical cancer incidence rates varied five-fold and mortality rates eight-fold in 2020 across EU-27. This wide variation can be explained with differences in HPV prevalence, vaccination and cervical cancer screening policies among the EU countries.
- Cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates have tended to decrease in many EU countries.
- The five-year survival of cervical cancer patients diagnosed in 2000-2007 is highest in Western Europe and lowest in some countries of Eastern Europe. This in part reflects variations in cancer management and treatment.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to the European cancer registries as the data source for the indicators reported in the European Cancer Information System (ECIS).

This factsheet is part of a series that reports information from ECIS for all cancer sites.

For details, or to find other cancer factsheets, please visit https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu or scan this QR code:


In collaboration with IARC, IACR, and EUROCARE