Cervical Cancer in Minnesota

The primary cause of cervical cancer is persistent infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV). Cervical cancer is largely preventable with HPV vaccination, plus regular Pap tests and prompt treatment of detected abnormalities. The HPV vaccine protects against certain types of the HPV virus that cause about 90 percent of cervical cancers. In Minnesota women continue to develop and die from this cancer, and women of color are at especially high risk.

Relative 5-year survival is higher when diagnosed early but is lower in blacks than whites.

Incidence rates are the highest for American Indians. Mortality rates are highest for Asians.

American Indian women are the most likely to develop cervical cancer in Minnesota. During 2012-2016, they were twice as likely to be diagnosed with this cancer as non-Hispanic white women. Asian women were more than four times as likely to die from cervical cancer as non-Hispanic white women.

Pap test screening is lowest for Asians and highest for college graduates.

In 2016, 160 women were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer. The age-adjusted incidence rate was 5.9/100,000. There were 42 women who died of cervical cancer in 2016. The age-adjusted rate was 1.2/100,000.
Asian women were the least likely to report having been screened in the past three years, followed by black women. The likelihood of having a Pap test in the past three years is strongly associated with education. Only 78 percent of women who didn’t complete high school reported being screened while 86 percent of college graduates were screened.

**Screening guidelines**

- Women ages 21 through 29 should be screened with a Pap test every 3 years
- Women ages 30 through 65 should be screened with any of three methods:
  - Pap test every 3 years
  - HPV testing alone every 5 years
  - Co-testing (HPV and Pap test) every 5 years

**Data and sources**

- Minnesota Cancer Reporting System
- Relative survival based on cases diagnosed 2009-2015 with follow up through 2016.
- Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Population (19 age groups - Census P25-1130) standard.
- Pap test screening data from 2018
- [CDC-HPV and Cancer](www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm)