

Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccination in India

Quick Facts

Cervical cancer remains a **leading cause of cancer deaths** in India with approximately **60,078** deaths reported annually.¹



Two Human Papilloma Virus types **HPV 16** and **18** account for:

70%

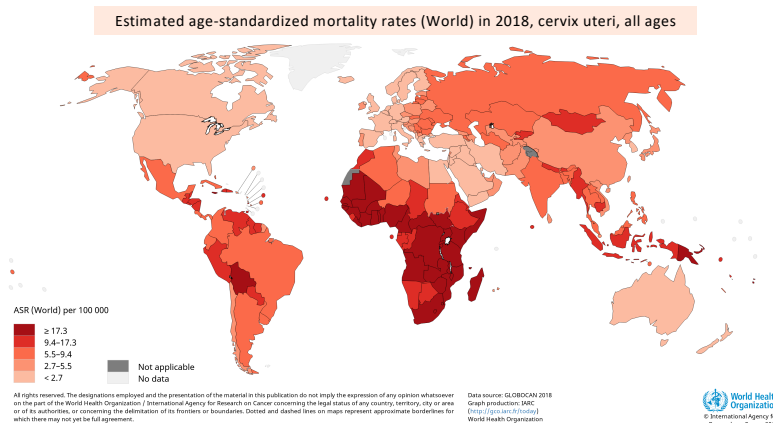


of cervical cancers and precancerous cervical lesions globally.²

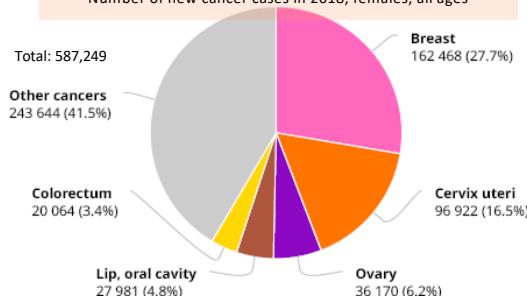
82%



of cervical cancers and precancerous cervical lesions in India.³



Number of new cancer cases in 2018, females, all ages



Cervical Cancer Prevention

Combining HPV vaccination with cervical screening will have the greatest impact in preventing needless death and suffering from cervical cancer.

Primary Prevention: HPV Vaccination

- Cervical cancer is **caused by a virus** – Human Papilloma Virus.
- **80%** of cervical cancers in India can be **prevented** by HPV vaccination.³
- HPV vaccination is **safe** and provides **long lasting protection**.⁴
- HPV vaccination is most protective when given to girls between the ages of **9-14 years**.
- HPV vaccination is given in **2 doses, 6 months apart**.
- 2 HPV vaccines are available in India (**Cervarix** and **Gardasil**).
- **8 Asian countries** have introduced the HPV vaccine in their **National Immunization Program** or have adopted policy to do so soon.



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Secondary Prevention: Cervical Screening



WHO Call for Elimination of Cervical Cancer
(Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control: 2018-2030)

Vision: A world without cervical cancer

Threshold: All countries to reach <4 cases per 100,000 woman-years

2030 CONTROL TARGETS (90-70-90)*

90%

of girls fully vaccinated
with HPV vaccine by 15
years of age

70%

of women screened
with an effective test at
35 and 45 years of age

90%

of women identified
with cervical disease
receive treatment &
care

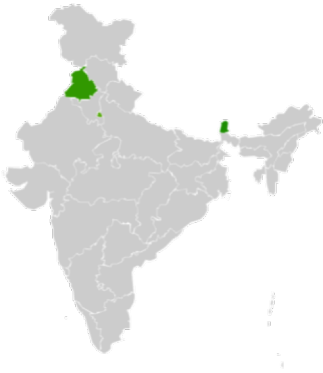
SDG 2030: Target 3.4 – 30% reduction in mortality from cervical cancer

*The 2030 targets and elimination threshold are subject to revision depending on the outcomes of the modeling and the WHO approval process

In addition to HPV vaccination, WHO recommends cancer screenings using high performance tests at least twice in a women's lifetime, as the vaccine does not protect against all high-risk HPV types.



India's Progress in HPV Vaccination



- The vaccine has been **approved by NTAGI**.⁴
- **Punjab** launched a statewide school-based program in November 2016.
- **Delhi** launched a government-sponsored opportunistic vaccination program for school-girls aged 11 years in 2016.
- **Sikkim** launched a statewide program in 2018.



How can you inform policy and the public?



Your **evidence-backed stories** can build public awareness around this topic leading to a demand for **preventive measures**. Inclusion of HPV vaccination in India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is critical to provide **equitable vaccine access** to adolescent girls across the nation.

References:

1. The Global Cancer Observatory Globocan 2018. May 2019
2. [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-papillomavirus-\(hpv\)-and-cervical-cancer](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-papillomavirus-(hpv)-and-cervical-cancer). Accessed on Feb 02, 2020
3. http://apps.who.int/hpvcentre/statistics/dynamic/ico/country_pdf/IND, p 28. Accessed on Feb 10, 2018
4. World Health Organization. Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, 4-5 December 2019. Weekly Epidemiological Record. 2020;4(95):25-36.
5. National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (India)

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