Incidence Rates

Between 2012 and 2016, the incidence rate for cervical cancer for women in California was 7.3 new cases per 100,000 persons per year. With respect to race/ethnicity, Hispanic women experienced the highest incidence rate (8.8 new cases per 100,000 persons per year).

Mortality Rates

The cervical cancer mortality rate for women in California was 2.2 deaths per 100,000 persons per year. With respect to race/ethnicity, while Hispanic women showed the highest rate of new cervical cancer cases, African-American women experienced the highest mortality rate (3.0 deaths per 100,000 women) in the state.

* Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population. Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health. Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry.

By The Numbers: Cervical Cancer in California

1,517

The number of new cervical cancer cases diagnosed among women in California in 2016.

475

The number of deaths from cervical cancer that occurred in California in 2016.
Incidence and Mortality Trends
The incidence and mortality rates of cervical cancer among California women have both decreased at a statistically significant rate from 1988 to 2016. From 2012 to 2016, the rate for invasive cervical cancer among women in California compared to the rest of the nation was 7 percent lower among non-Hispanic whites, 13 percent lower among African Americans, 13 percent lower among Hispanics, and 16 percent higher among Asians/Pacific Islanders.

Women of all ages are at risk of cervical cancer. Although the number of new cases has been declining over the past decades due to Pap screening, cervical cancer is still the fourth most common type of cancer for women in California.

Risk Factors
Most cervical cancers are caused by a high-risk type of human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus that can be passed from one person to another through sexual activity. Both men and women can be infected with HPV. It can be present for years without causing any symptoms and can be passed to others without knowing.

Other factors may increase the risk of developing cancer following a high-risk HPV infection. These include:

- Smoking.
- Having HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or reduced immunity.
- Taking birth control pills for a long time (more than five years).
- Having given birth to three or more children.

Cervical cancer almost never has noticeable symptoms until it is at advanced stage. Signs of advanced cervical cancer may include bleeding or discharge from the vagina. There are many reasons other than cancer that can cause these symptoms, so it is important to see a healthcare provider.

The risk of acquiring cervical cancer can be lowered or prevented by the following:

- Get an HPV vaccine (if you are 26 years of age or younger).
- Get regular Pap tests.
- Limit the number of sexual partners.
- Use condoms during sex.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If diagnosed when the tumor is:</th>
<th>The Five-Year Survival Rate* is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Localized: Tumor has broken through the basement membrane, but is confined to the primary site.</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional: The tumor has spread to the lymph nodes or adjacent tissues.</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distant: The tumor has metastasized or spread to other parts of the body.</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Five-Year Relative Survival Rate for Cervical Cancer in California</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk Factors
Certain factors have been shown to be associated with an increased risk of certain types of cancer. The majority of known cancer risk factors are related to individual characteristics (such as age, race/ethnicity, or family history/genetic susceptibility) and behaviors (such as smoking, diet, physical inactivity, unsafe sex, and sun exposure).

For More Information
For more information on breast cancer risk factors, prevention, screening, symptoms, and treatment:

- National Cancer Institute
  Check out the NCI’s What You Need to Know About Cancer Index at: www.cancer.gov/about-cancer or call the NCI Cancer Information Service: 1-800-4-CANCER
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  www.cdc.gov
- American Cancer Society (ACS)
  www.cancer.org | 1-800-227-2345

Percent of Cervical Cancer Cases by Stage of Diagnosis, CA 2012–2016*

- Localized (Confined to primary site)
- Regional (Spread to regional lymph nodes)
- Distant (Cancer has metastasized)
- Unknown (Unstaged)

* Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population. Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health. Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry