

Cervical Cancer Global Crisis Card

Cervical Cancer Crisis Card: Death Count		
Country	Comparative Ranking	Number of deaths
India	1	72825
China	2	33914
Brazil	3	11055
Bangladesh	4	10364
Nigeria	5	9659
Indonesia	6	7493
Pakistan	7	7311
Russian Federation	8	7161
Thailand	9	5216
Mexico	10	5061
Tanzania	11	4355
US	12	3869
Myanmar	13	3536
Japan	14	3350
Ethiopia	15	3235
South Africa	16	3027
Democratic Republic of the Congo	17	2760
VietNam	18	2472
Uganda	19	2464
Ukraine	20	2411
Mozambique	21	2356
Colombia	22	2154
Peru	23	2098
Poland	24	2059
Germany	25	2018
Ghana	26	2006
Nepal	27	1872
Philippines	28	1856
Argentina	29	1809
Kenya	30	1676
Malawi	31	1621
Zimbabwe	32	1286
Zambia	33	1276
UK	34	1111
Republic of Korea	35	1043
Mali	36	1010
France	37	991
Italy	38	906
Cambodia	39	867
Sri Lanka	40	814
Spain	41	712
Rwanda	42	678
Malaysia	43	631
Turkey	44	556
Canada	45	544
Australia	46	241
Sweden	47	178
Denmark	48	124
Israel	49	98
Norway	50	94

Cervical Cancer Crisis

Cervical cancer kills an estimated 275,000 women every year and 500,000 new cases are reported worldwide. This entirely preventable disease is the second largest cancer killer of women in low and middle-income countries, with most women dying in the prime of life.

While numerous tools and technologies exist to prevent cervical cancer, these interventions remain largely inaccessible to the girls and women who need them most. Despite the proven link between the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer, HPV vaccines are not yet widely available and screening rates remain low in much of the world. Lack of awareness and deep-seated stigma associated with the disease also pose significant barriers to access.

Projections show that by 2030, almost half a million women will die of cervical cancer, with over 98% of these deaths expected to occur in low and middle-income countries.

The hard facts

Using data from the WHO, United Nations, the World Bank and IARC Globocan, the cervical cancer crisis cards highlight the inequity women face depending on where they live. Fifty countries were selected to provide a snapshot of the world and reflect geographic, economic and population variations (and where data was available).

The Cervical Cancer Crisis Card: Death Count, reveals the huge number of women dying in Asia. India alone represents 26.4% of all women dying of cervical cancer globally, with China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand also showing high death incidence.

The Cervical Cancer Crisis Card: Mortality Rates highlights that Africa is the most dangerous place to be a woman with cervical cancer. All ten of the countries with the highest cervical cancer mortality rate can be found in Africa

In a positive sign of what can be achieved, Australia has had a successful national rollout of the HPV vaccine and has seen a decline in genital warts and cervical abnormalities among young women since its introduction.

Overcoming the crisis

Cervical cancer is almost entirely preventable and if the world followed Australia's example of rolling out comprehensive vaccination, screening and treatment, we would see mortality rates and the death rates dramatically reduce.

We have safe and efficacious HPV vaccines available on the market to prevent infection with the main cancer causing strands. For early screening of precancers the pap smear (colposcopy), visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) and HPV testing can help diagnose early cancerous cells. Treatment of precancers is also advancing, which provides hope to the hundreds of thousands of women who missed out on the vaccine. This also emphasizes the need for women to be screened regularly.

Innovative funding mechanisms to increase access to HPV vaccines and screening tools are being developed. Several countries around the world, such as Malaysia, Mexico and Rwanda have shown leadership in strengthening cervical cancer prevention. With funders and country governments increasingly working together with vaccine manufacturers and donors to ensure access and affordability of HPV vaccines, we must ensure that we take action to cut both the death count and mortality rate of cervical cancer.

Global Forum on Cervical Cancer Prevention

World leaders and experts are uniting in Kuala Lumpur later this month to plot out a roadmap to ensure that all women and girls have equitable access to HPV vaccines, screening and treatment.

Whatever the outcome, it will be critical that at the local, national and international levels we work in partnership to ensure that words are turned into action and we use the tools and technologies available to prevent cervical cancer.

Cervical Cancer Crisis Card: Mortality Rates		
Country	Comparative Ranking	Mortality Rate* (per 100,000)
Zambia	1	38.6
Malawi	2	38.3
United Republic of Tanzania	3	37.5
Uganda	4	34.9
Mozambique	5	34.5
Zimbabwe	6	33.4
Mali	7	28.4
Ghana	8	27.6
Rwanda	9	25.4
Nigeria	10	22.9
Bangladesh	11	17.9
Nepal	12	17.6
Kenya	13	17.3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	14	16.4
Peru	15	16.3
Cambodia	16	16.2
India	17	15.2
Myanmar	18	15
South Africa	19	14.5
Ethiopia	20	14
Pakistan	21	12.9
Thailand	22	12.8
Brazil	23	10.9
Colombia	24	10
Mexico	25	9.7
Argentina	26	7.4
Indonesia	27	7
Sri Lanka	28	6.9
Poland	29	6.2
Ukraine	30	6.2
Russian Federation	31	5.9
Viet Nam	32	5.7
Malaysia	33	5.6
Philippines	34	5.3
China	35	4.2
Croatia	36	3.5
Republic of Korea	37	2.7
Japan	38	2.6
Denmark	39	2.5
Germany	40	2.3
Norway	41	2.3
Israel	42	2.1
UK	43	2
Spain	44	1.9
France	45	1.8
Sweden	46	1.8
US	47	1.7
Turkey	48	1.6
Italy	49	1.5
Australia	50	1.4

Data derived from official reports by WHO, United Nations, The World Bank, IARC Globocan <http://www.who.int/hpvcentre/statistics/en/>