

Cervical Cancer in West Virginia

Risk Factors¹

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus that is spread by skin-to-skin contact.

Other risk factors for cervical cancer are:

- Smoking
- Having HIV or another condition that makes it difficult for your body to fight off health problems
- Using birth control for over five years
- Giving birth to three or more children

Warning Signs^{2, 3}

There are generally no signs or symptoms associated with early cervical cancer.

As the disease progresses the following may occur:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding after intercourse, between periods or after menopause
- An unusual discharge from the vagina
- Pain during sex

For more information, please contact the West Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Program

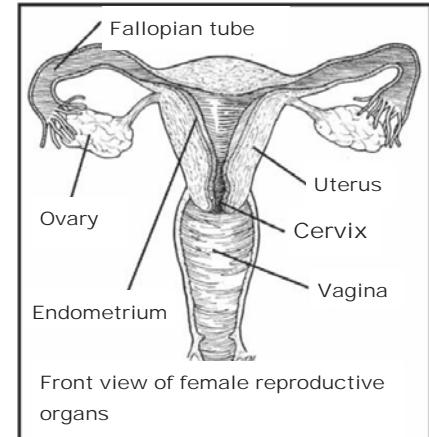
www.wvcancer.com
304-356-4193

What is Cervical Cancer?

Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. Cancer is always named for the part of the body where it starts, even if it spreads to other body parts later.

When cancer starts in the cervix, it is called cervical cancer. The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. The cervix connects the vagina to the upper part of the uterus, where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant.

Cervical cancer is highly preventable due to screening tests and because there is a vaccine to prevent the most common cause of cervical cancer, human papillomavirus (HPV).¹



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Who Gets Cervical Cancer?



All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over age 30.

Each year in West Virginia, approximately 100⁴ women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and in 2011, 50 died as a result.⁵

HPV is the primary cause of cervical cancer.

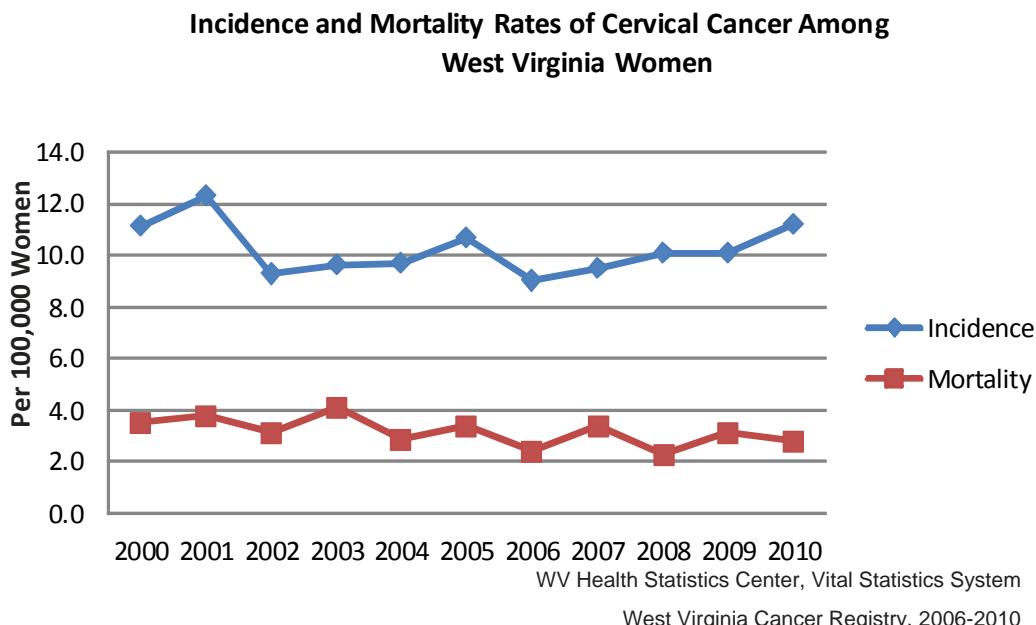
HPV is a common virus that is passed from one person to another through skin-to-skin contact. At least half of sexually active people will have HPV at some point in their lives, but few women will get cervical cancer.

Cervical Cancer Screening Surveillance Data

According to the 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS):

- Among West Virginia women aged 21-65: 81.3% reported having an annual pap in the past three years.⁶
- Among all West Virginia women, 93.2% reported ever having a pap test.⁶
- According to 2012 BRFSS, screening rates among women in West Virginia increase with increased education and income.⁶

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What You Can Do

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for cervical cancer in women ages 21 to 65 years with cytology (Pap smear) every 3 years or, for women ages 30 to 65 years who want to lengthen the screening interval, screening with a combination of cytology and HPV testing every 5 years.⁷

These recommendations apply to women who have a cervix, regardless of sexual history. These do not apply to women who have received a diagnosis of a high-grade precancerous cervical lesion or cervical cancer, women with in utero exposure to diethylstilbestrol, or women who are immunocompromised (such as those who are HIV positive).

Girls and boys aged 11-12 years old should receive the HPV vaccine. The HPV vaccine is a series of three injections and you must receive all three in order for the vaccine to be effective.⁷

Teenage and young adult males should receive the HPV vaccine through the age of 21 if they did not receive it when they were younger.⁷

Female teenagers and young adults should receive the HPV vaccine before the age of 26 if they did not receive the vaccine when they were younger.⁷

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gynecological Cancer, Topic Page. www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/index.htm. May 2013.
2. American Cancer Society.
3. Susan G. Komen for the Cure.
4. West Virginia Cancer Registry, 2007-2011.
5. West Virginia Health Statistics Center, Vital Statistics System .
6. West Virginia Health Statistics Center, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
7. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/spsbrca.htm>.

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Screening Assistance for Low-Income and Uninsured or Underinsured West Virginia Women

The West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) provides free or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services for eligible women in West Virginia.

To be eligible for WVBCCSP, a woman must be a West Virginia resident, between the ages of 25 and 64 years, be uninsured or underinsured, and be at or below 250% of the federal poverty level. Women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the WVBCCSP may be eligible to receive treatment through the WV Medicaid Treatment Act or the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund.

For more information about the WVBCCSP, eligibility, or a healthcare provider in your area, call 1-800-642-8522 or visit www.wvdhhr.org/bccsp.

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