

CERVICAL CANCER BURDEN IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

BASIC EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA

Central America and South America have a population of 185.17 million women of over 15 years and, as a result with risk of developing cancer cervical. The current estimates indicate that, in both regions are diagnosed every year 65,493 new cases of this disease and are recorded 29,526 deaths for this cause.

In South America, cervical cancer is second most frequent cancer in women of all the age groups and the most frequent in women between 15 and 44 years. In Central America, it occupies the first place both in the general population of women and in that of included ages between 15 and the 44 years.

The burden of this disease poses public health problem of first order that affects not only the women but the families and the complete structure of the society.

Cervical cancer is, in addition, a disease that is closely associated with the poverty and the low level of education, affects especially the most vulnerable groups and disadvantaged of the society, as to the women indigenous population, the women who live in rural areas or those which live in the suburbs of the large cities.

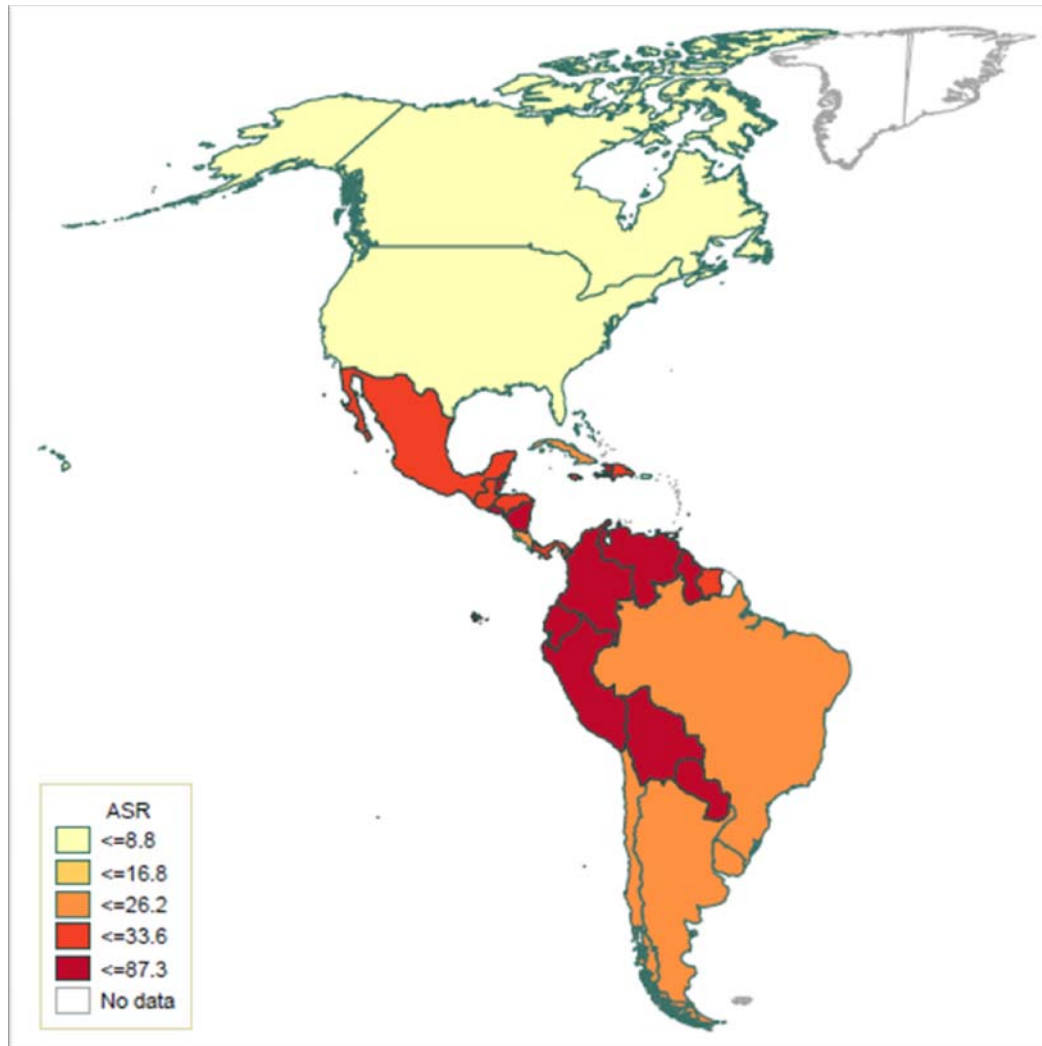
Table 1: Basic statistics dates in the region of Americas

	Américas	Caribe	América Central	Sudamérica	Norteamérica
Population					
Women at risk of cervical cancer (Women ≥15 years)/1000	336.432	14.831	49.968	135.207	134.424
Carga de enfermedad					
Annual number of new cases of cervical cancer	86.532	6.369	17.165	48.328	14.670
Annual number of deaths of cervical cancer	38.436	3.113	8.124	21.402	5.796

Data source: Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Summary Report 2009. WHO/ICO HPV Information Center.

INCIDENCE AND CERVICAL CANCER MORTALITY BY REGION AND COUNTRY

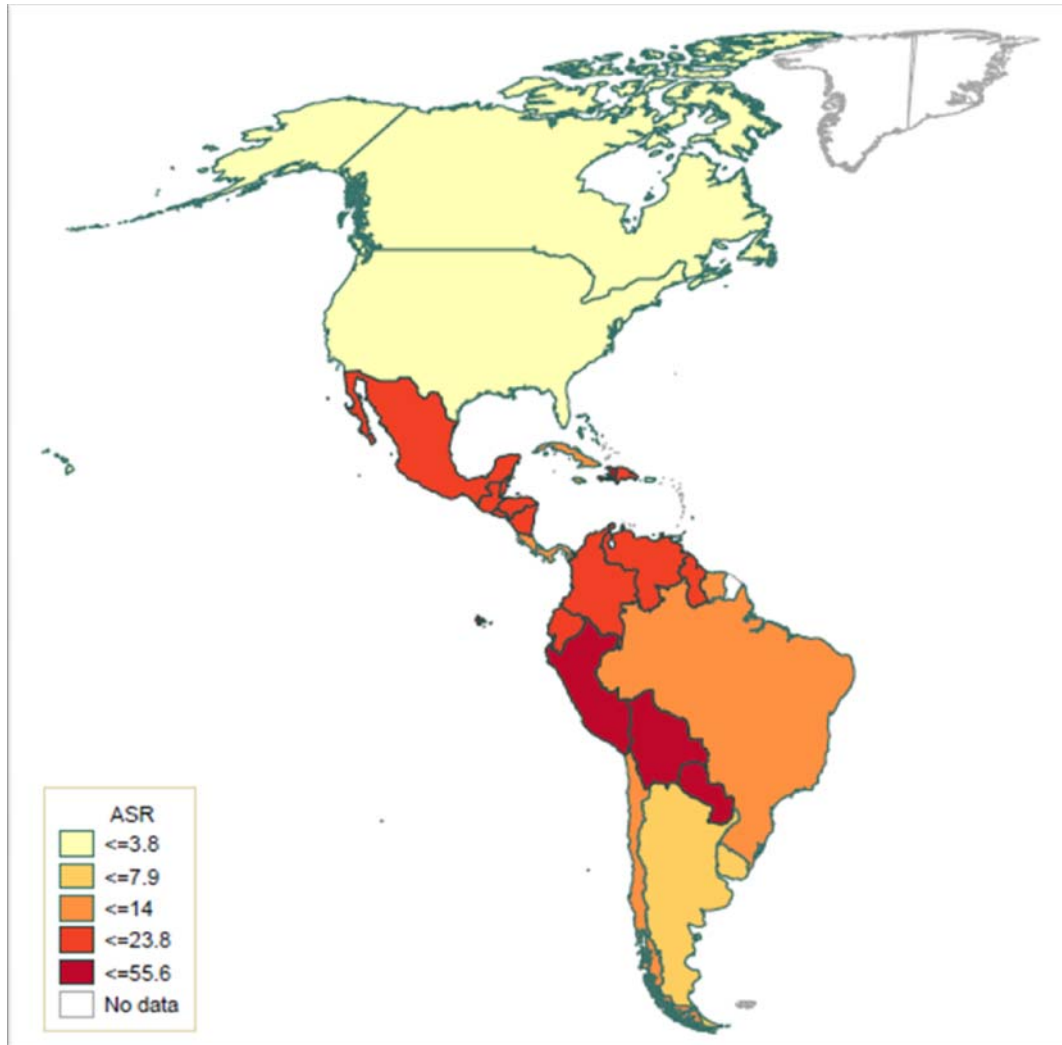
Figure 1: Age-standardized incidence rates of cervical cancer in Americas



Data source: Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Summary Report 2009. WHO/ICO HPV Information Center.

Latin America and the Caribbean have some of the highest incidence rates of cervical cancer of the world, only surpassed by those of East Africa and Melanesia. In Central America cancer is the most frequent in women while in South America it is the second in frequency but with major differences among the countries of the region, Bolivia and Paraguay samples the highest incidence rates of all America, and Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Guyana also have very high rates. Many of the cases are produced among the 15 and the 45 years old, it is treated as a result of a pathology of high impact that affects many young women, of childbearing age and frequently with several small children under their responsibility what has an impact critically on the family structure, especially taking into account the condition of Head of household that fulfills the woman in these countries.

Figure 2 Age-standardized mortality rates of cervical cancer in Americas.



Data source: Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Summary Report 2009. WHO/ICO HPV Information Center.

Despite being preventable, cervical cancer is the most frequent cause of death from cancer in the women of the developing countries. In the Americas it is calculated that it produces some 29,500 deaths per year, and maybe the number of cases is still higher because in the majority of these countries are no cancer registries and many cases are not reported. Within the region there exist major contrasts, while the cervical cancer is the second cause of death from cancer in the women of Latin America, (the first in Central America and the Dominican Republic and the second in South America) in North America it is not among the most frequent causes. Mortality are seven fold in Latin America and the Caribbean that in the United States and Canada. Bolivia and Paraguay present the highest mortality.

Tabla 2. Incidence and cervical cancer mortality by region and country

Region/Country	INCIDENCE				MORTALITY			
	ASR	Nº cases	Ranking		ASR	Nº deaths	Ranking	
			All ages	15-44a			All ages	15-44a
CENTRALAMERICA	30,6	17.165	1º	1º	15,0	8.124	1º	1º
Costa Rica	21,5	392	2º	1º	12,0	210	3º	1º
El Salvador	45,6	1.213	1º	1º	23,5	609	1º	1º
Guatemala	30,6	1.153	1º	1º	17,2	628	1º	1º
Honduras	30,6	664	1º	1º	17,2	361	1º	1º
México	24,4	12.516	1º	1º	14,1	5.777	1º	1º
Nicaragua	30,2	281	1º	1º	22,3	354	1º	1º
Panamá	28,2	374	2º	1º	12,9	166	1º	1º
R. Dominicana	-	-	-	-	13,3	184	1º	1º
SOUTH AMERICA	28,6	48.328	2º	2º	12,9	21.402	2º	1º
Argentina	23,2	4.924	2º	2º	7,8	1.679	4º	1º
Bolivia	55,0	1.831	1º	1º	30,8	987	1º	1º
Chile	25,8	2.163	2º	1º	10,9	931	3º	1º
Colombia	36,4	6.815	1º	1º	18,2	3.296	1º	1º
Paraguay	53,2	1.131	1º	1º	26,1	513	1º	1º
Perú	48,2	5.400	1º	1º	24,6	2.663	1º	1º

Notes: ASR: Age-standardised rate Rates per 100,000 women per year.

Data source: Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Summary Report 2009. WHO/ICO HPV Information Center.

The incident rates and mortality that appear in the table are samples of significant differences among the countries of the region, being Bolivia and Paraguay those which have higher rates. The programs for prevention and early diagnosis have demonstrated their effectiveness in the developed countries but, in the majority of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean even though these programs exist for years, there has not been a significant improvement of the data. Costa Rica, Chile, and Mexico present reductions of the rates of cervical cancer that have been attributed to improvements in the coverage, the organization and the quality of its screening programs.