

Cervical Cancer Screening in Canada Monitoring Program Performance - Report

The Pan-Canadian Cervical Screening Initiative (PCCSI), a national cervical cancer screening forum supported by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (the Partnership), is pleased to present the first report on the performance of cervical screening performance indicators for women 20 – 69 years of age for the years 2006 – 2008.

The full report can be found on the Cervical Cancer Control in Canada (CCCiC) website at:
http://cancerview.ca/idc/groups/public/documents/webcontent/ccci_cervical_cs_report.pdf

The inaugural report would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the provincial and territorial screening programs. The degree of organization of cervical cancer screening activities varies across the country; therefore, information in this report is limited to provinces with available data. Some provinces were unable to submit data due to multiple factors including data availability, data completeness, human resource issues, information system capacity, and technical resources. These gaps in screening information must be addressed, as reliable, valid and available screening information is essential for evaluating cervical cancer in Canada.

Key results include the following:

- Participation in cervical screening ranges from 63.8% to 79.6% and over 74% of women return for another Pap test in the recommended interval. It would appear that the majority of women in Canada participate in cervical screening – although improvement in participation continues to be a primary goal.
- Provinces that use liquid-based cytology have the lowest rates of unsatisfactory tests.
- The follow up rate for women with significantly abnormal screening results are over 75% which is encouraging but leaves room for improvement in this high-risk group.
- Almost half of women with invasive cervical cancer have not had a Pap test in over 5 years. This emphasizes the importance of regular screening to prevent cervical cancer.

The PCCSI encourages the provinces and territories to use the information in this report to identify issues in their own jurisdictions and formulate plans to address gaps in cervical screening and treatment. We intend to continue efforts to foster collaboration and alignment of cervical screening systems across the country.

The next step in the process of monitoring cervical cancer screening program performance is the review and revision of the indicators to reflect changes in cervical cancer control including Human Papillomavirus testing and vaccination. Through this project and other initiatives, the PCCSI and the Partnership will continue to support the development of provincial and territorial organized cervical cancer screening programs.

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