

STATISTICS

- During 2006, 375 women in Michigan were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer.
- In 2007, 108 women in Michigan died of the disease.
- Michigan ranks 33rd in the nation in deaths from cervical cancer, with 18 states having lower cervical cancer death rates.
- Nearly 95 percent of Michigan women age 18 and older has received at least one Pap test during her lifetime.
- Nearly 83 percent of Michigan women age 18 and older has received a Pap test within the past three years.
- Women less likely to receive cervical cancer screening within the past three years include those with low incomes, less than a high school education, and/or between the ages of 18 and 29 and over the age of 70.

SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Michigan Cancer Consortium recommends that all women who are sexually active or age 21 talk to their health care providers about receiving cervical cancer screening.



RISK FACTORS

- The most important risk factor for cervical cancer is infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted disease.
- Women who have had unprotected sex, initiated intercourse at a young age, and/or have had many sexual partners are at an increased risk for HPV infection.
- Cigarette smoking and long-term use of oral contraceptives are also associated with increased risk of cervical cancer.
- Lack of screening is the most significant risk factor for development of cervical cancer.

RESOURCES

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

American Social Health Association
www.ashastd.org/hpv/hpv_overview.cfm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/>

Medicare
www.medicare.gov/Health/Cervical.asp

Michigan Cancer Consortium
www.michigancancer.org

Michigan Department of Community Health
www.michigan.gov/cancer

National Cancer Institute
www.cancer.gov/cancer_information/cancer_type/cervical/

National Cervical Cancer Coalition
www.nccc-online.org

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- No one should die from cervical cancer. If detected early, all deaths from cervical cancer can be prevented through appropriate treatment.
- Most cervical cancers develop over a relatively long period of time. During this time, abnormal tissue can be detected easily by a Pap test and then removed by a health care provider.
- The primary cause of cervical cancer is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States.
- The FDA has recently approved vaccines, administered in a series of three injections, which prevent against 70% of all cervical cancers. The vaccines are recommended for females age 9-26.

WHAT IS A PAP TEST?

A Pap test is a test that checks the cells of the cervix (the opening of the uterus) for changes that could lead to cancer.

During a pelvic exam, the health care provider inserts a speculum into the vagina and collects some cells from the cervix with a swab.

It is usually not painful and only takes a few minutes.

WHY IS A PAP TEST SO IMPORTANT?

Women who have cervical cancer may not have any symptoms.

Regular Pap tests and treatment, when needed, can prevent most cervical cancer.

If cancer or pre-cancer develops, it can be found early and treated.

FREE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Michigan's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides free annual breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to underserved populations across the state. Since 1991, the BCCCP has diagnosed and treated over 1,200 women with cervical cancer.

To be eligible for the BCCCP, a woman must:

- Have an income \leq 250% of federal poverty level
- Be uninsured (Women who are underinsured MAY be eligible for the program)
- Be age 40 - 64 for breast/cervical cancer screening and for diagnostic follow-up of breast/cervical abnormalities OR
- Be age 18 - 39, have been identified with a cervical abnormality through the Title X/Family Planning Program, and referred to the BCCCP for cervical cancer diagnostic follow-up

Call 800-922-6266 or visit www.michigancancer.org/bcccp for more information about eligibility requirements or participating BCCCP providers.