

The Incidence of Cervical Cancer in South Australia by Country of Birth

International perspective

How does the incidence of cervical cancer in Australia compare with that of other countries?

Data from 153 cancer registries around the world in 1990 show that:

- ❖ There was a high incidence of cervical cancer in Africa, India, Central and South America, Eastern Europe and Asia (excluding China and Japan).
- ❖ Only China, Southern Europe and North America had a lower incidence than that in South Australia.
- ❖ The South Australian incidence was 17% below the Australian average (see figure 1).

The incidence of cervical cancer in South Australia by country of birth

Do women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups in South Australia have a higher or lower incidence of cervical cancer?

- ❖ In 1977-2000 Australian-born women in South Australia had an incidence about 9% lower than residents born overseas.
- ❖ The difference was particularly pronounced for women born in Germany and Eastern Europe. The incidence among German-born women in South Australia was approximately twice as high as for the Australian-born.
- ❖ Only women born in Southern Europe had a lower incidence than Australian-born women.

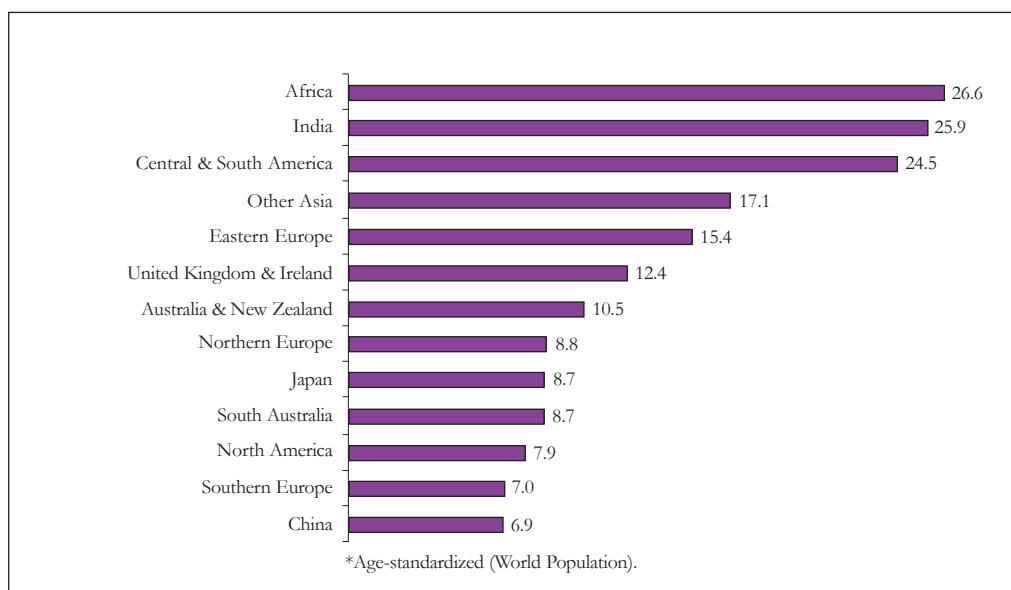


Figure 1 Annual incidence of cervical cancer per 100,000 circa 1990

Australia	1,068	(67.8%)
UK and Ireland	240	(15.2%)
Germany	51	(3.2%)
Italy	24	(1.5%)
Greece	22	(1.4%)
Poland	20	(1.3%)
Former Yugoslav states	19	(1.2%)
Other	131	(8.3%)

Places of birth of South Australian women with cervical cancer, 1997-2000

Is there a difference between the incidence of cervical cancer among CALD women in South Australia and that in their country of birth?

- ❖ The incidence of cervical cancer for overseas-born South Australians has been, in general, much lower than for their parent populations.
- ❖ This was likely to have been influenced by active screening and follow-up treatment of invasive disease in Australia.

Early detection

Is cervical cancer detected later among women from CALD backgrounds in South Australia?

- ❖ Yes. Cervical cancer is detected later among women from CALD backgrounds.
- ❖ Australian-born women have presented a higher proportion of micro-invasive cancers among their cervical cancers than the overseas-born. This does not apply to women from Germany and some other countries, such as New Zealand.

Improving cervical screening participation by CALD women. How can GPs assist?

- ❖ **be aware** of the cultural and linguistic diversity of your patients.
- ❖ **identify** in your case notes the country of origin of your female patients aged 18-70.
- ❖ **be pro-active** in recruiting women from CALD communities to have regular two yearly Pap smears.
- ❖ **display** Pap smear literature in different CALD languages in your waiting room.

- ❖ **encourage** your staff to promote regular two yearly Pap smears for all women aged 18- 70.
- ❖ **organise**, if appropriate free telephone interpreter service. Phone: 13 14 50
- ❖ **access** pamphlets in CALD languages from the SA Cervix Screening Program or from the national website:
www.cervixscreen.health.gov.au

For free resources and further information about Pap smear testing for CALD women contact:

SA Cervix Screening Program
55 King William Rd
North Adelaide 5006
Phone: (08) 8226 8181
Fax: (08) 8226 8186

SA Cervix Screening website:
www.dhs.sa.gov.au/cervixscreening

or Ms Katherine Healy
CALD Cervix Screening Project Officer
The Cancer Council South Australia
PO Box 929
UNLEY SA 5061
Phone: (08) 8291 4169
Fax: (08) 8291 4268

The Cancer Council South Australia website:
www.cancersa.org.au

The Cancer Council South Australia email:
tcc@cancersa.org.au

The South Australian cancer data presented in this fact sheet were extracted from annual reports published by the SA Cancer Registry, plus a supplementary data output from the Department of Human Services, for the 1977-2000 period. We also acknowledge the contribution of Dr David Roder, Centre for Cancer Control Research, The Cancer Council South Australia.



Government of South Australia
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SA Cervix Screening Program
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