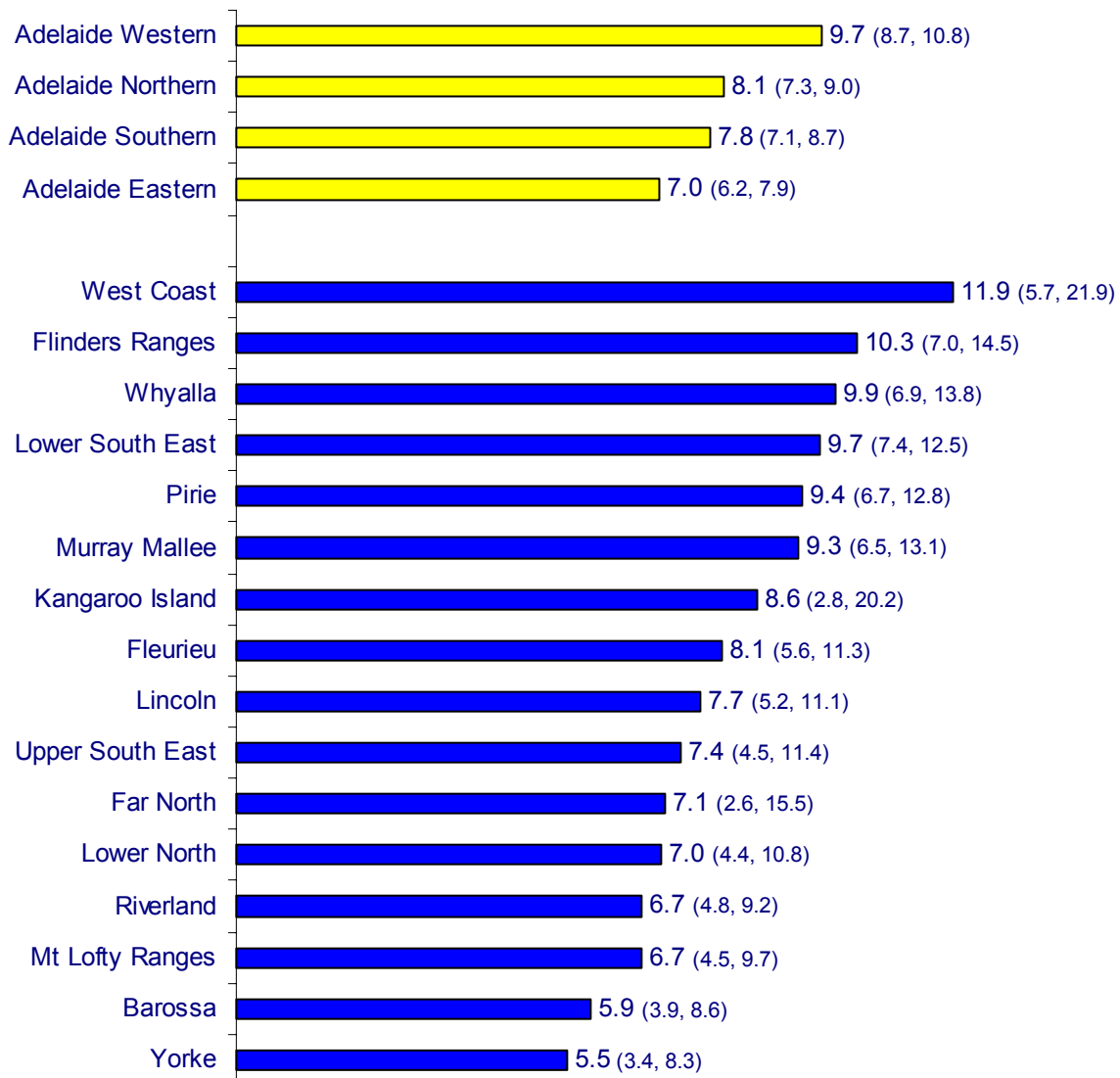


Annual incidence of cancer in South Australia in 1977-2001 by geographic region per 100,000 (age-standardized to World Population)

Cancer site: **Cervix**

Females Incidence (95% confidence limits)



CERVIX

- South Australia recorded a lower incidence of cervical cancer than comparison countries in 1993-97. The highest incidence was in Africa, which was about four times the South Australian rate.
- Within South Australia, females born in Germany and Eastern Europe had an elevated incidence in 1977-2000. By comparison, females born in Southern Europe had a lower incidence.
- During 1977-2001, females residing in low socio-economic areas of South Australia had a high incidence of cervical cancer. This corresponds with socio-economic gradients in other populations.
- **The incidence of cervical cancer did not differ appreciably between Adelaide and country regions in general during 1977-2001. Within Adelaide, however, a higher incidence was apparent in the Western than Eastern region. Although the rate appeared to be higher again in the West Coast, Flinders Ranges and Whyalla, this could have been due to random chance.**
- The incidence of cervical cancer reduced by 43% between 1977-81 and 1997-2001. This is attributed mostly to the detection through screening of precursor lesions, and their early treatment. Meanwhile, there was a corresponding reduction in mortality of about 58%.
- Risk factors include:
 - Not having regular Pap smears (normally recommended two-yearly).
 - Early commencement of sexual intercourse (eg, in early adolescence).
 - Having multiple sexual partners.
 - Having a sexual partner who has had multiple partners.
 - Tobacco smoking.
 - Immunosuppression, as may occur from cancer therapy or medical treatment to prevent organ-transplant rejection.