

Cervical Cancer Briefing Document
Presented to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
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Cervical cancer is characterized by an uncontrolled growth of cancer cells in the cervix of the uterus, which have the potential to spread to other areas of the body.

CRITERION #1: PREVALENCE / INCIDENCE

- From 1992-2004, there was a decline in the incidence rate of invasive cervical cancer.
- In 2004, 215 women were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer, for an age-adjusted incidence rate of 6.8 per 100,000.

CRITERION #2: SEVERITY

- Deaths from cervical cancer are rare.
- In 2005, there were 63 deaths from invasive cervical cancer in Washington for an age-death of 2 per 100,000 women.
- Washington's age-adjusted mortality rate from cervical cancer has declined from 1980 to 2005.

CRITERION #3: DISPARITY

- In the years 1999-2001 combined, the age-adjusted incidence rate for cervical cancer in Washington was significantly higher for Hispanics (14.7 per 100,000) than for Non-Hispanics (7.0 per 100,000). The rate among Asian/Pacific Islander women (10.5 per 100,000) was significantly higher than the rate for white women (7.0 per 100,000). The rates for American Indian/Alaska Natives and blacks were 7.3 and 8.3 per 100,000, respectively.
- The index of disparity for incidence by race and ethnicity was 45.8% for the years 1999-2001 combined.
- From 2002-2004, the incidence rate remained higher for Hispanic women (11.6 per 100,000) than for non-Hispanic white women (6.5 per 100,000). The rate for Asian/Pacific Islander women was 9.0 per 100,000 and two few cases of invasive cervical cancer (less than 20) were diagnosed in the African American and American Indian and Alaska Native groups during that period.
- In the U.S., the incidence rate for cervical cancer among Vietnamese women is four times higher compared to all other Asian/Pacific Islander groups combined.
- It is difficult to compare mortality rates for cervical cancer between racial and ethnic groups because the numbers of deaths are very small. However, Washington data from 2000-2002 combined indicate that Asian and Pacific Islander women have higher death rates than white women.
- In 2004, Hispanic women were less likely to report having a Pap test in the last three years than non-Hispanic whites (73% and 81% respectively), though the difference was not observed after adjusting for age, income, and education.

The Index of Disparity is the average of the difference in rates between the racial/ethnic group with the "best" rate and all other racial/ethnic groups.

Keppel KG et al., Measuring progress in healthy people 2010. Statistical Notes, no 25. NCHS, 2004