

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF CERVICAL CANCER HOSPITALIZATIONS IN BRAZIL (2015–2024)

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**Introduction:** Cervical cancer is a malignant neoplasm affecting the lower portion of the uterus, usually associated with persistent infection by the human papillomavirus (HPV). In Brazil, it ranks as the third most common cancer among women, with an estimated 17,010 new cases per year between 2023 and 2025, corresponding to a rate of 15.38 per 100,000. Incidence is even higher in the North (20.48/100,000) and Northeast (17.59/100,000) regions, ranking second and third in frequency, respectively. Despite being preventable through vaccination and screening, it remains a significant cause of hospitalizations and deaths, especially among socially vulnerable women, with increased severity in those over 50 years of age. Thus, understanding its distribution is essential to guide intervention strategies. **Objectives:** To describe the epidemiological profile of hospital admissions due to cervical cancer in Brazil between 2015 and 2024. **Methods:** This is an ecological, descriptive study using secondary data from the SUS Hospital Information System (SIH/SUS) for the period 2015 to 2024. Variables analyzed included number of hospitalizations, deaths, age group, race/ethnicity, geographic location, year of registration, and costs. **Results:** Between 2015 and 2024, there were 237,963 hospitalizations and 2,949 deaths. The Southeast region accounted for the majority of cases (39.53% | 94,090), while the Center-West had the lowest proportion (7.29% | 17,348). The most affected age group was 35 to 49 years (40.66% | 96,776). In terms of race/ethnicity, most cases were among mixed-race (parda) women (45.77% | 108,925), followed by white and black women; Indigenous women accounted for only 0.14% (343). The year 2024 had the highest number of hospitalizations (12.89% | 30,676) and deaths (11.20% | 2,660). The Northeast led in hospital costs (R\$ 167,151,701.37 | 33.58%), followed by the Southeast, while the North had the lowest share (R\$ 31,815,400.12 | 6.50%). The state of Pará alone accounted for R\$ 14,214,376.65 (44.67% of the North's expenses). Despite having fewer total cases, the North had the highest mortality rate (15.73 per 100,000), exceeding the national average (11.06/100,000), indicating potential barriers to early diagnosis and timely treatment. **Conclusion:** The findings highlight significant disparities in the incidence and costs associated with cervical cancer in Brazil. The high concentration of cases among mixed-race women reflects social inequities and barriers to preventive care. The increase in cases and deaths in 2024 reinforces the urgency of expanding vaccination, screening, and continuous care, with a focus on the most vulnerable regions.

**Keywords:** Cervical cancer; Neoplasm; Hospitalizations.