

CERVICAL CANCER IN PARÁ, BRAZIL: TRENDS IN MORTALITY, HPV VACCINATION COVERAGE, AND SCREENING FROM 2019 TO 2023

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Introduction: Cervical cancer is one of the main causes of mortality among women in Brazil, especially in the North Region, where inequalities in access to prevention and screening services are more striking. Persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main etiological factor, making immunization and early detection actions essential for controlling the disease. The global strategy of the World Health Organization (WHO) proposes to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030, with targets of 90% of girls vaccinated by age 15, 70% of women screened, and 90% of lesions treated. Monitoring regional data is essential to identify barriers and guide interventions. **Objectives:** To analyze the trend in cervical cancer mortality in the state of Pará and relate it to HPV vaccination data and cytopathological exams between 2019 and 2023. **Methods:** This was a retrospective, descriptive, epidemiological study with a quantitative approach, using secondary data from Tabnet/DATASUS, the National Cancer Institute (INCA), and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Age-adjusted mortality rates (per 100,000 women), the number of doses of the HPV vaccine administered, and the number of cytopathological tests (PCCU) performed in the same period were included. The data were organized into tables and analyzed using descriptive statistics. Coverage estimates were compared with the parameters established by the WHO. **Results:** The cervical cancer mortality rate in Pará varied over the period, with a reduction between 2019 (9.13/100,000) and 2021 (7.77/100,000), followed by an increase in 2022 (8.94/100,000) and a slight decrease in 2023 (8.51/100,000). HPV vaccination coverage, considering the target population of girls aged 9 to 14, was 36.09% in 2022, significantly below the 80% target established by the National Immunization Program. In 2022, 194,000 doses were administered to girls, representing an increase of 72% compared to the previous year, but still insufficient to achieve ideal coverage. The number of PCCU exams performed has significantly reduced: from 53,831 collections in 2019 to 16,048 in 2023, indicating a drop of approximately 70% in the period. Considering more than 2 million women of target age in the state, the rates remain critically below ideal. **Conclusion:** Based on the above, the data show serious gaps in primary and secondary prevention of cervical cancer in Pará, which could compromise disease control in the medium and long term. The persistently high mortality rate, low vaccination uptake and

declining screening indicate the need for regionalized public policies, focusing on social and logistical barriers. Urgent interventions are essential to bring the state closer to global elimination targets.

Keywords: Cervical cancer; Vaccination coverage; Cytopathological screening.