

International Cancer Control



About 87% of women who die from cervical cancer live in low- and middle-income countries.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death worldwide. In 2012, more than 14 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed around the world. That number is expected to reach 19 million by 2025. Today, more than twice as many people die from cancer than from AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

Research shows that one-third of cancer deaths can be prevented through screening tests, vaccinations, and lifestyle changes such as quitting smoking. But many services and technologies that can help prevent and treat cancer are not widely available in low- and middle-income countries. Many areas also lack cancer registries that help track cancer cases and deaths.

CDC is working with partners to improve coordination of cancer prevention and control programs globally and reduce the cancer burden in low- and middle- income countries.

Regional Cancer Differences

- More than half of new cancer cases and about two-thirds of cancer deaths occur in less-developed regions.
- Five-year survival rates vary greatly. For example, breast cancer survival ranges from 79% in South Korea to 52% in India to only 12% in the Gambia.
- Only 5% of global cancer resources are spent in less-developed countries.

Female breast, colorectal, and lung cancers have been much more common in countries with greater health resources. However, areas with fewer resources are now experiencing increasing numbers of these cancers because people are living longer and have more cancer-related risk factors such as tobacco use, poor nutrition, and obesity.

Chronic infections like human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis B and C, and *H. pylori* account for 16% of all cancers worldwide and 23% in low- and middle-income countries. Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest percentage of cancers caused by infections (33%).

Less than one-fifth of the world population is covered by cancer registries.



What CDC Is Doing

While most of CDC's cancer programs focus on the United States, CDC's Office of International Cancer Control is also working on projects to prevent and control cancer around the world. CDC's global efforts focus on working with agencies like the World Health Organization, the American Cancer Society, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer to—

- Develop and distribute comprehensive guidelines for controlling cervical cancer.
- Support Bolivia and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands to improve access to cervical cancer screening by using a process called visual inspection with acetic acid.
- Study women's knowledge and attitudes about cervical cancer prevention, screening, and treatment practices in Brazil and Kenya.
- Test a tool to assess the cost of operating cancer registries in Colombia, India, and Kenya.
- Train health care workers to introduce HPV testing into cervical cancer screening programs in Thailand.
- Support cervical cancer screening programs through the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon program in Botswana, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- Set up cancer registry support centers to strengthen registries in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.

At least one-third of the 8 million cancer deaths every year can be prevented.



Cervical cancer training for health care providers in Bolivia

More Information

www.cdc.gov/cancer/international/
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