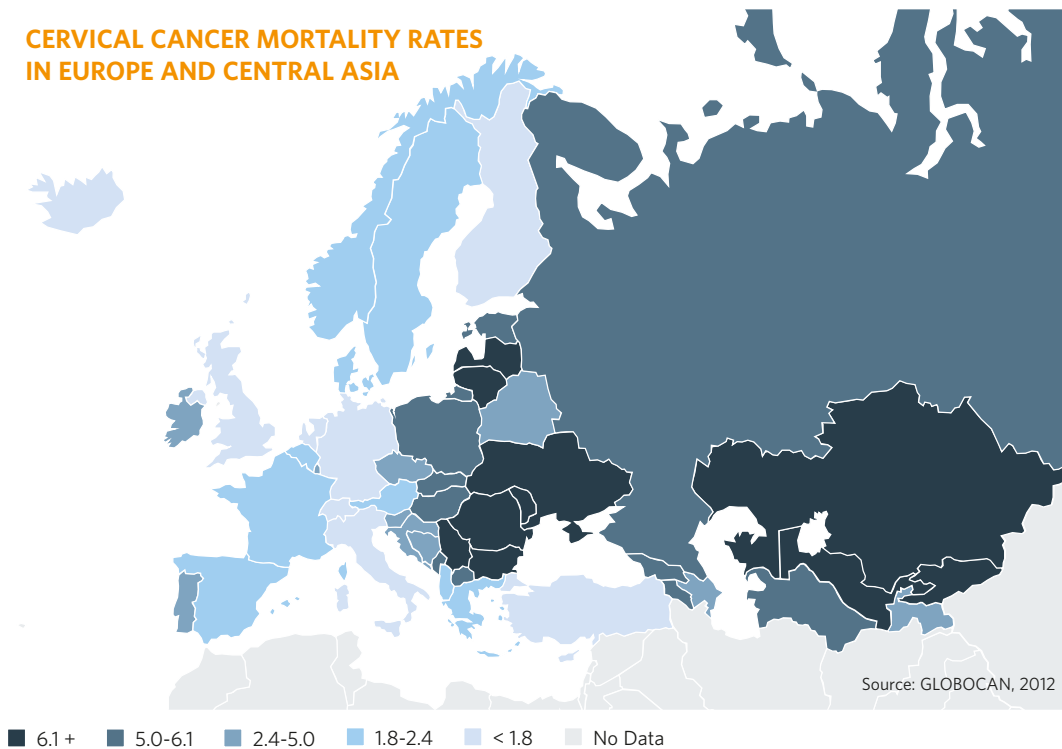


CERVICAL CANCER

IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

CERVICAL CANCER MORTALITY RATES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



FACTS AND FIGURES

New cases:
> **38,000** (per year)

Deaths:
> **18,000** (per year)

Second most deadly
cancer among
reproductive-age women

Preventable cases:
about **90%**

Note: all figures relate to the
Eastern Europe and Central Asia
region

Why should we prioritise cervical cancer prevention?

- Cervical cancer takes a high emotional, social, and financial toll on women, their families, and national health systems.
- The cancer primarily affects younger women at the peak of their career and caregiving responsibilities.
- Nearly every case of cervical cancer can be prevented.
- Most cases occur in low- and middle-income countries without cervical cancer prevention programmes.
- Screening in almost all countries in the region happens only when a patient or doctor specifically requests it, an approach that has been shown to under-screen vulnerable groups, who have a higher cancer risk.

How does cervical cancer prevention work?

- Effective cervical cancer prevention requires well-organised screening programmes combined with vaccination of adolescent girls for human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted virus that can cause the cancer.
- Organised screening programmes must systematically recruit women to be tested, monitor attendance or follow-up, and ensure all component services are of high quality. This ensures the widest possible coverage, and delivers the most cost-effective reductions in cancer rates.
- Although most countries in the region offer cervical screening and cancer treatment free of charge, very few cover the cost of following-up a positive screening test or the treatment of precancerous lesions – a necessary element in any successful prevention programme.
- Programmes providing free HPV vaccination to adolescents are crucial for reducing the incidence of cervical cancer. In most countries in the region, this vaccination is available primarily through private providers on a patient-pay basis.
- In order to mitigate the social and economic burdens of cervical cancer, it is recommended to establish national mechanisms to ensure that screening services are of high quality and can be equally accessed by all women in the target population.

