Cancer Series
Number 33

Cervical screening in Australia 2003–2004

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for the
National Cervical Screening Program

August 2006

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Canberra

AIHW cat. no. CAN 28

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced without prior written permission from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the Head, Business Promotion and Media, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Cancer Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Publications Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's website <www.aihw.gov.au>.

ISSN 1039-3307 ISBN 174024 603 9

Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2006. Cervical Screening in Australia 2003–2004. AIHW cat. no. 28. Canberra: AIHW. Cancer Series no. 33.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair Hon. Peter Collins, AM, QC

Director Penny Allbon

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Mr John Harding Australian Institute of Health and Welfare GPO Box 570 Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6244 1140

Published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Contents

List of tables	iv
Acknowledgments	x
Introduction	xi
National cervical screening monitoring indicators	1
Tables	5
Appendixes	90
Appendix A: Cervical cancer – symptoms, detection and treatment	90
Appendix B: Data sources and limitations	92
Appendix C: Methods	94
Appendix D: Population data	96
Appendix E: National Cervical Screening Programs contact list	98
Appendix F: NHMRC guidelines for the management of women with screen-detected abnormalities (valid to 3 July 2006)	
Abbreviations	102
Glossary	103
References	106

List of tables

Table 1:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program in Australia by age, 1997–1998 to 2003–2004	5
Table 2:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1997–1998 to 2003–2004	6
Table 3:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2003–2004	7
Table 4:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2003–2004	8
Table 5:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2002–2003	9
Table 6:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2002–2003	10
Table 7:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2001–2002	11
Table 8:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2001–2002	12
Table 9:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2000–2001	13
Table 10:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 2000–2001	14
Table 11:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1999–2000	15
Table 12:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1999–2000	16
Table 13:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1998–1999	17
Table 14:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1998–1999	18
Table 15:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1997–1998	19
Table 16:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1997–1998	20
Table 17:	Number of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1996–1997	21
Table 18:	Proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program by age, states and territories, 1996–1997	22

Table 19:	Number of women with repeat screenings following a normal Pap smear in Australian cohorts from 1996 to 2003	. 23
Table 20:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings following a normal Pap s mear in Australian cohorts from 1996 to 2003	. 23
Table 21:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2003 cohort, by states and territories and Australia.	. 24
Table 22:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2003 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 24
Table 23:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2002 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 25
Table 24:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2002 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 25
Table 25:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2001 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 26
Table 26:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2001 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 26
Table 27:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2000 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 27
Table 28:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 2000 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 27
Table 29:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1999 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 28
Table 30:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 21 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1999 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 28
Table 31:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 24 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1998 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	. 29
Table 32:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 24 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1998 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	
Table 33:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 24 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1997 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	

Table 34:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 24 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1997 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	30
Table 35:	Number of women with repeat screenings in the 24 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1996 cohort, by states and territories and Australia	31
Table 36:	Percentage of women with repeat screenings in the 24 months following a normal Pap smear in the 1996 cohort, by states and territories and Australia.	31
Table 37:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–60 years, Australia, 1997–2004	32
Table 38:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2004	32
Table 39:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2003	33
Table 40:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2002	33
Table 41:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2001	34
Table 42:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20-69 years, states and territories, 2000	34
Table 43:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20-69 years, states and territories, 1999	35
Table 44:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 1998	35
Table 45:	Number of low- and high-grade abnormalities on histology for women aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 1997	36
Table 46:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened in Australia by age, 1997–2004	37
Table 47:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 2004	38
Table 48:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 2003	39
Table 49:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 2002	40
Table 50:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 2001	41
Table 51:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 2000	42
Table 52:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 1999	

Table 53:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 1998	44
Table 54:	Rate of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities per 1,000 women screened by age, states and territories, 1997	45
Table 55:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities in Australia by age, 1997–2004	46
Table 56:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 2004	47
Table 57:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 2003	48
Table 58:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 2002	49
Table 59:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 2001	50
Table 60:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 2000	51
Table 61:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 1999	52
Table 62:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 1998	53
Table 63:	Number of histologically confirmed high-grade abnormalities by age, states and territories, 1997	54
Table 64:	Number of women screened in Australia by age, 1997–2004	55
Table 65:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 2004	56
Table 66:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 2003	57
Table 67:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 2002	58
Table 68:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 2001	59
Table 69:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 2000	60
Table 70:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 1999	61
Table 71:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 1998	62
Table 72:	Number of women screened by age, states and territories, 1997	63
Table 73:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened in Australia aged 20–69 years, 1997–2004	64
Table 74:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2004	64
Table 75:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2003	65
Table 76:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2002	65

Table 77:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2001	56
Table 78:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 2000	56
Table 79:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 1999	5 7
Table 80:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 1998	5 7
Table 81:	Age-standardised high-grade abnormality rate on histology, per 1,000 women screened aged 20–69 years, states and territories, 1997	58
Table 82:	New cases of micro-invasive cervical cancer by age, Australia, 1991–2002 6	59
Table 83:	Age-specific and age-standardised incidence rates of micro-invasive cervical cancer by age, Australia, 1991–2002	70
Table 84:	New cases of cervical cancer by age, Australia, 1991–2002	71
Table 85:	Age-specific and age-standardised incidence rates of cervical cancer by age, Australia, 1991–2002	72
Table 86:	New cases of cervical cancer by age, states and territories, 1995–1998	73
Table 87:	Age-specific and age-standardised incidence rates of cervical cancer, states and territories, 1995–1998	74
Table 88:	Number of new cases of cervical cancer by age, states and territories, 1999–2002	75
Table 89:	Age-specific and age-standardised incidence rates of cervical cancer, states and territories, 1999–2002	76
Table 90:	New cases of cervical cancer by histological type for women aged 20–69 years, Australia, 1991–2002	77
Table 91:	Age-standardised incidence rates for cervical cancer by histological type for women aged 20–69 years, Australia, 1991–2002	77
Table 92:	New cases of cervical cancer by histological type for women, all ages, Australia, 1991–2002	78
Table 93:	Age-standardised incidence rates for cervical cancer by histological type for women, all ages, Australia, 1991–2002	78
Table 94:	New cases of cervical cancer by age and location, 1995–1998 and 1998–2002	79
Table 95:	Age-specific and age-standardised incidence rates for cervical cancer by age and location, 1995–1998 and 1999–2002	30
Table 96:	Deaths from cervical cancer by age, Australia, 1984–2004	31
Table 97:	Age-specific and age-standardised death rates for cervical cancer by age, Australia, 1984–2004	32
Table 98:	Deaths from cervical cancer by age, states and territories, 1997–2000	33

Table 99:	Age-specific and age-standardised death rates for cervical cancer by age, states and territories, 1997–2000	. 84
Table 100:	Deaths from cervical cancer by age, states and territories, 2001–2004	. 85
Table 101:	Age-specific and age-standardised death rates for cervical cancer by age, states and territories, 2001–2004	. 86
Table 102:	Deaths from cervical cancer by age and location, 1997–2000 and 2001–2004	. 87
Table 103:	Age-specific and age-standardised death rates for cervical cancer by age and location, 1997–2000 and 2001–2004	. 88
Table 104:	Number of deaths and age-specific and age-standardised death rates for cervical cancer by age and Indigenous status, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory, 2001–2004	. 89
Table B1:	Cervical cancer screening indicators data sources	. 92
Table D1:	Australian Standard Population and WHO World Standard Population	. 96
Table D2:	Hysterectomy fractions for women aged 15-80+ years, Australia, 2001	. 97

Acknowledgments

The financial support and professional assistance of the Cancer Screening Section of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is gratefully acknowledged.

The authors of this report are Ms Janet Markey and Mr John Harding from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The authors extend their gratitude to those people working in the National Cervical Screening Program who provided data and comments for this report. The authors also acknowledge the input of the members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group of the former Australian Screening Advisory Committee, and the Australasian Association of Cancer Registries.

National Cervical Screening Program

New South Wales Victoria

Ms Jane McQueenMs Vikki SinnottMs Clare BanksMs Cathy BurrowsMs Jayne RossDr Heather MitchellMr Hassan MamoonMr Rory Wilby

Queensland Western Australia

Ms Jennifer Muller
Ms Gillian Mangan
Mr Nathan Dunn
Ms Nerida Steele
Ms Kathlage O'Conne

Ms Kathleen O'Connor Ms Shamila Kumar

South Australia Tasmania

Ms Bernadette Kenny Ms Gail Raw Mr Russell Diehl Ms Deborah Fulton

Mr Paul Chandler

Australian Capital Territory Northern Territory

Ms Helen Sutherland Ms Chris Tyzack
Mr Peter Couvee Mr Guillermo Encisco

Ms Coral Swan

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Ms Julianne Quaine Ms Maryellen Moore Ms Andriana Koukari