

Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.1.3c— Cancer screening rates, National Cervical Screening Program participation rate, 2021

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Australian Health Performance Framework: PI

2.1.3c—Cancer screening rates, National Cervical Screening Program participation rate, 2021

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	AHPF PI 2.1.3c—National Cervical Screening Program participation rate, 2021
Synonymous names:	NCSP participation rate
METEOR identifier:	772770
Registration status:	Health , Standard 07/09/2023
Description:	Rates of cervical screening for women in the national target age group during the defined 5 year period .
Rationale:	<p>In Australia, primary prevention of cervical cancer is through vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV), which is the primary underlying cause of cervical cancer. Secondary prevention is by cervical screening, through the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP), to detect and treat abnormalities while they are in the precancerous stage, prior to any possible progression to cervical cancer. Prior to 1 December 2017, detection of precancerous abnormalities through cervical screening used cytology from the Papanicolaou smear, or 'Pap test', as the screening test.</p> <p>A renewed NCSP was introduced in 2017 that included a change from 2-yearly Pap tests for the target age group 20–69 to 5-yearly Cervical Screening Tests (CST) for the target age group 25–74. A CST is a human papillomavirus (HPV) test, followed by a liquid-based cytology (LBC) test if oncogenic (cancer-causing) HPV is found.</p> <p>Participation is a major indicator of the performance of the NCSP. High participation in screening is required for the NCSP to achieve its aim of reducing cervical cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality, by detecting and treating cervical abnormalities that could otherwise develop into cervical cancer.</p> <p>Participation is measured over a 5-year period in line with the current recommended screening interval.</p>
Indicator set:	Australian Health Performance Framework, 2021 Health , Standard 11/07/2023

Collection and usage attributes

Population group age from:	25 years
Population group age to:	74 years
Computation description:	<p>The denominator is adjusted to exclude the estimated number of women who have had a hysterectomy, using national hysterectomy fractions.</p> <p>Age-standardised rates are directly age-standardised to the 2001 Australian population.</p> <p>Analysis by Primary Health Network (PHN), remoteness and Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is based on postcode of residential address at the time of screening.</p> <p>Presented as a percentage.</p>
Computation:	$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$

Numerator: Number of women aged 25–74 who have been screened in a 5-year period.

Numerator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

[A1 Participant identifier, identifier X\[X\(19\)\]](#)

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: National Cancer Screening Register
Count is of individual participants, not tests.

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

[B4 date of birth](#)

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Registry

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

H1 HPV test type

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Registry
If multiple tests within a [defined 5 year period](#), the first screening test is counted.

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

H4 Reason for HPV test

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Registry
Only includes C1 or C2.

Denominator:

Population of women aged 25–74 in each state and territory, geographic region, socio-economic status and Australia, using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated resident population (ERP) for females at 30 June, averaged over the relevant 5 years by age group and adjusted for the estimated proportion of women who have had a hysterectomy

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Proportion of women within the target population who have had a hysterectomy

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product
National hysterectomy fractions derived from the AIHW National Hospital Morbidity Database are used to adjust the population to exclude the estimated number of women who have had a hysterectomy. See Appendix C (Data sources) in National Cervical Screening Program monitoring report 2019 (AIHW 2019).

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—estimated resident population of Australia, total people N\[N\(7\)\]](#)

Data Source

[ABS Estimated resident population \(2016 Census-based\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Census based and administrative by-product data

Disaggregation:

2018, 2018–2021—Nationally by

- 5-year age group (25–29 to 70–74 and totals for the 25–70)
- Remoteness area (Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure)
- Socio-economic status (SEIFA IRSD quintile).

2018–2021 state and territory.

2018–2020 Primary Health Network (PHN).

Data are presented as numbers of participants and participation rates (percentage) including age-specific and age-standardised rates.

- National age-standardised rates are provided for women aged 25–74.
- State and territory age-standardised rates are provided for women aged 25–74.

Some disaggregation may result in numbers too small for publication.

Disaggregation by socio-economic status and by remoteness area use the 2016 version of SEIFA.

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

[A14 Woman—Residential Australian state/territory name, code {AA\[A\]}](#)

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Registry
Used for disaggregation by state and territory.

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

[A15 Woman—residential Australian postcode, {NNNN}](#)

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Registry
Used for disaggregation by PHN, Statistical Area Level 3, remoteness and SEIFA IRSD.

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

[B4 Date of birth](#)

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: National Cancer Screening Register
Used for disaggregation by age group

Comments:

Most recent data available for 2021 Australian Health Performance Framework reporting: 2018–2021. These are preliminary estimates until the 5-year screening period is completed in the future.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: NN.N

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [1. Effectiveness](#)

Data source attributes

Data sources:

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Frequency

Annual

Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data Source

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

Frequency

Annual

Data custodian

Department of Health and Ageing

Data Source

[ABS Estimated resident population \(2016 Census-based\)](#)

Frequency

Quarterly

Data custodian

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Accountability attributes

Reporting requirements: Australian Health Performance Framework

Organisation responsible for providing data: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Accountability: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2022. National Cervical Screening Program data dictionary: version 1.1.Cat. no. CAN 146. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer-screening/ncsp-cervical-screening-data-dictionary-v1-1/summary>

AIHW 2022. National Cervical Screening Program monitoring report 2022. Cancer series no XX. Cat. no. CAN 149. Canberra: AIHW

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer-screening/national-cervical-screening-monitoring-2022/summary>

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Supersedes [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.1.3c–Cancer screening rates, National Cervical Screening Program participation rate, 2020](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 07/09/2023

Has been superseded by [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.1.3c–Cancer screening rates, National Cervical Screening Program participation rate, 2024](#)
[Health](#), Recorded 28/02/2024