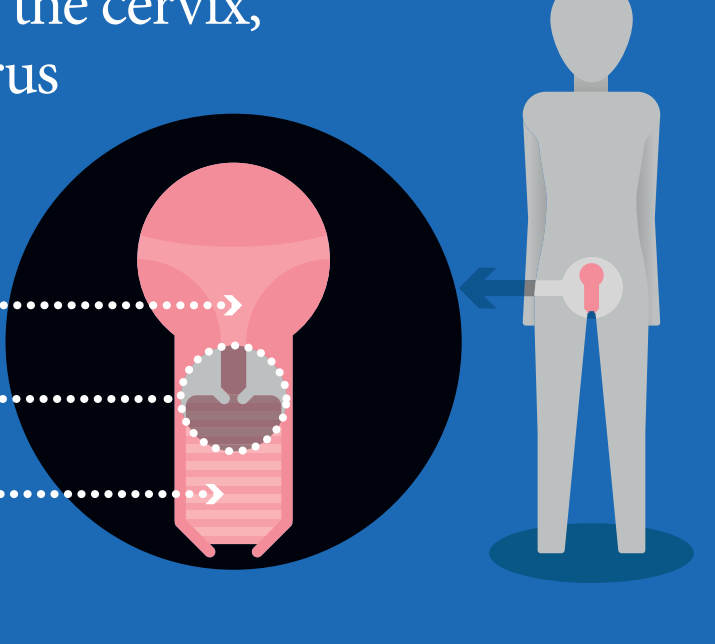


Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer forms in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus

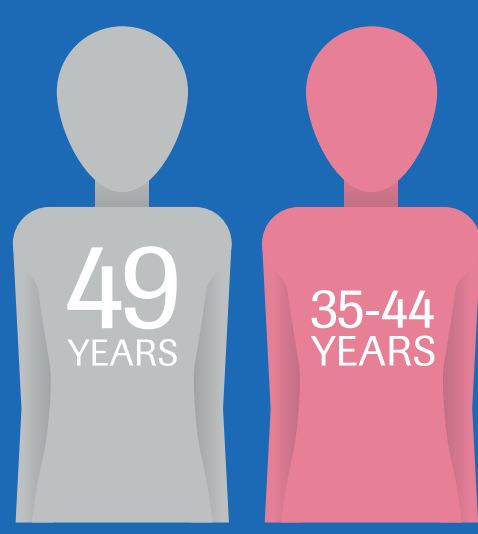
UTERUS
 CERVIX
 VAGINA



Every year more than **half a million** women, approximately the equivalent of the population of Dublin, are **diagnosed with cervical cancer** worldwide

Source: GLOBOCAN 2012 available at http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx

Cervical cancer is the **fourth most common cancer in women** and is most commonly diagnosed in younger women (those aged between **35 and 44**). The average age for diagnosis is **49**.



Sources: SEER available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html>
 GLOBOCAN 2012 available at http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx

Risk factors for cervical cancer include:

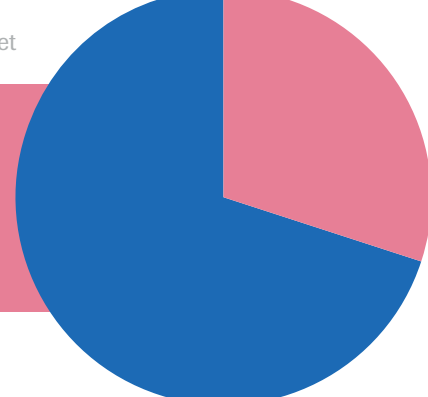
| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| | | | |
| Increased exposure to HPV | A weakened immune system | Chlamydia infection | Smoking |

Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by the **human papilloma virus (HPV)**. HPV is a very common virus that's spread through sexual contact

Not all HPVs cause cancer. However two in particular – **HPV types 16 and 18** – are responsible for **70% of cervical cancers**

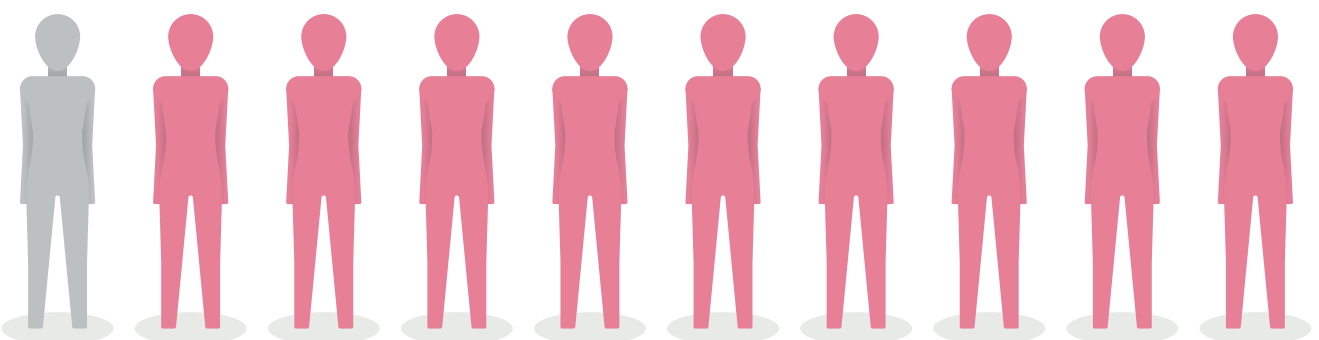
Source: National Cancer Institute available at <http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-fact-sheet>

Around **70%** of men and women will be exposed to HPV in their lifetime

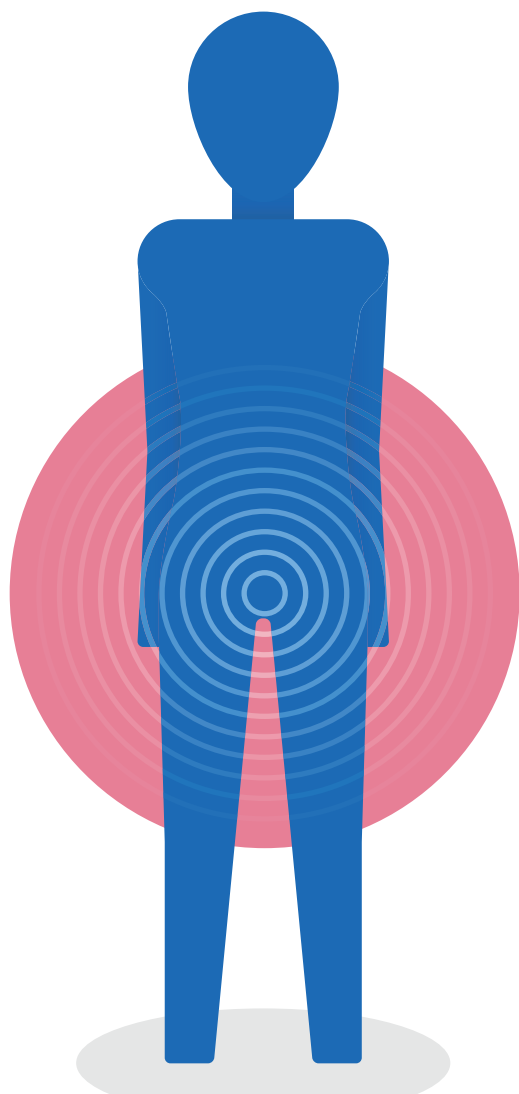


Source: About Health available at http://cervicalcancer.about.com/od/riskfactorsandprevention/a/hpv_prevention.htm

If caught early, cervical cancer is one of the most **preventable cancers** with a **survival rate of more than 90%**. Screening programmes using HPV testing can help prevent the disease in women.



Too many women are **not** attending regular screening



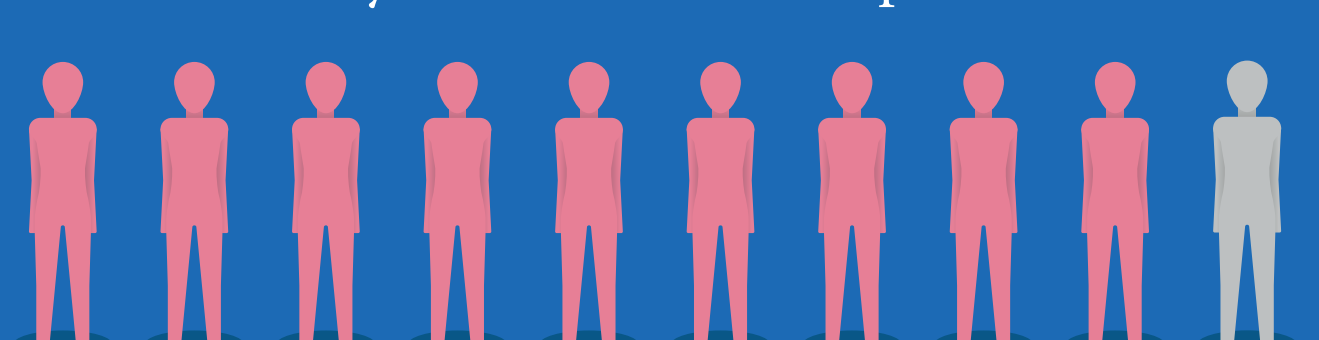
However, cervical cancer is still the **fourth leading cause of death** in women around the world

Source: GLOBOCAN 2012 available at http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx

When changes in cervical cells progress to cancer, symptoms can develop and can include:

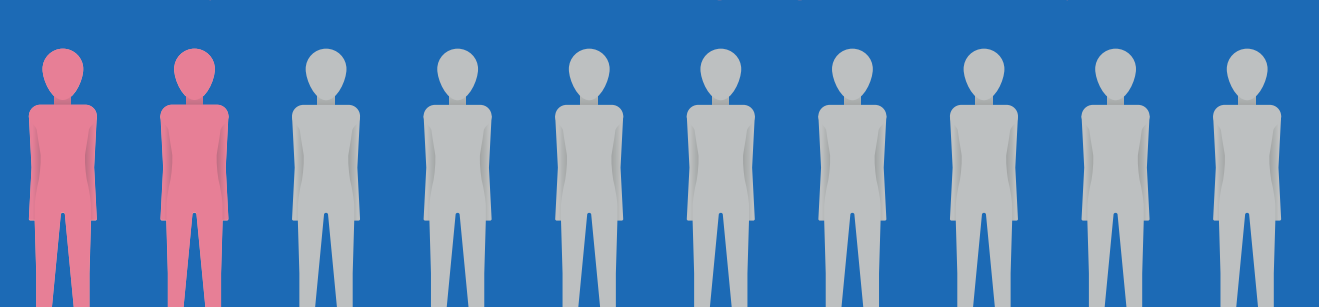
- Abnormal bleeding or substantial change in your menstrual cycle
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Pelvic pain
- Bleeding after intercourse

If caught early, the outlook is good - there is an estimated five-year survival rate of up to **91%**



Source: SEER available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html>

However, if cervical cancer is caught **late** and the disease has advanced, five-year survival rates are less than **20%**. The aim of treatment at this stage is to **relieve symptoms and prolong a good quality of life**



Source: SEER available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html>

While work is ongoing to optimise the treatment of cervical cancer, it is critical that more women have access to vaccination against HPV and to screening technologies.