

# an epidemiological profile

## Morbidity and Mortality

Latin America and the Caribbean have some of the highest cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates in the world, being only surpassed by East Africa and Melanesia.

Table 2

Malignant Neoplasm of the Cervix Uteri  
Age-Standardized Incidence and Mortality  
Rates Per 100,000 Population By Regions  
2000

Region	Incidence Rate	Mortality Rate
Eastern Africa	44.32	24.24
Melanesia	43.81	23.78
Central America	40.28	17.03
Caribbean	35.78	16.84
South America	30.92	11.97
North America	7.88	3.23

Source: Ferlay et al: Globocan 2000, IARC

## Trends in Incidence

Over the last 40 years, declines in cervical cancer incidence have resulted in significantly low rates of less than 10 cases per 100,000 females in Canada, the U.S.A. and other established market economies. However, in most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the annual rates of cervical cancer remain high, generally greater than 20 cases per 100,000 females.

## Trends in Mortality

Few countries in Latin America have demonstrated significant declines in reported mortality over the period of 1968 to 1993, in marked contrast to the North American experience. Available annual age-adjusted data from the Caribbean also suggests that cervical cancer mortality remains high in that sub-region, with an annual average of 25 deaths per 100,000 population.

Recent (1996-2001) PAHO mortality data indicates persistently high age-standardized cervical cancer mortality (ASMR) in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Peru. While mortality rates in some other countries appear lower, no individual country rate is as low as that reported for Canada, where an ASMR of 1.17 deaths per 100,000 females was noted for 2000.

Table 3

Age-Standardized Mortality Rates per  
100,000 Population in Some Latin American  
Countries 1996-2001

Country	ASMR 1996	ASMR 1997	ASMR 1998	ASMR 1999	ASMR 2000	ASMR 2001
Argentina	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.6
Brazil	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.6	6.9	
Chile	10.0	10.7	10.4	10.1	9.2	8.6
Colombia	13.3	12.8	13.3	13.3		
Costa Rica	10.1	10.2	10.0	8.7	8.0	8.8
Dominican Republic	9.0	8.2	7.3			
Ecuador	12.8	9.3	9.9	8.3	8.1	
El Salvador	13.3	11.2	20.1	18.8		
Mexico	13.2	12.9	12.7	12.6	11.9	11.4
Nicaragua	28.6	26.3	24.15	23.7	21.2	
Panama	14.0	13.3	14.2	15.7	11.7	
Peru	16.1	15.1	14.8	15.9	15.9	
Venezuela	11.4	10.6	10.2	11.6	9.3	

Source: Pan American Health Organization, Health Analysis and Information System Unit (AIS); PAHO Technical Information System