



Cervical Screening Programme

Department of Health

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Cervical Screening Programme Annual Statistics Report 2023

Non-communicable Disease Branch

Centre for Health Protection

Department of Health

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Abbreviations

ADENO	Adenocarcinoma
AGC	Atypical glandular cells
ASC-H	Atypical squamous cells, cannot exclude HSIL
ASCUS	Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance
CSIS	Cervical Screening Information System
CSP	Cervical Screening Programme
HPV	Human papillomavirus (HPV)
HSIL	High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
LSIL	Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
SCC	Squamous cell carcinoma

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The Government promotes cervical screening in collaboration with the healthcare sector to facilitate and encourage women to have regular cervical screening to prevent cervical cancer. The Cervical Screening Information System (CSIS) (www.csis.gov.hk) is a computerised registry that facilitates sharing of information among healthcare providers by keeping and processing related data, including participants' personal information, screening results and next recommended screening date.

Since 3 April 2023, the Department of Health (DH) has implemented primary human papillomavirus (HPV) testing for women aged 30 to 64 attending their cervical screening service. Women aged 25-29 continued to receive primary cytology test. Depending on the testing results, reflex cytology or HPV test was performed on cases as indicated.

Women aged 25 to 64 who ever had sexual experience should have regular cervical screening. This report presents key statistics derived from the CSIS database about the women aged 25-64 registered and screened under the Cervical Screening Programme (CSP) as at 31 December 2023.

Key findings:

1. As of 31 December 2023, after excluding registered deaths, the cumulative number of women aged 25-64 who have registered with the CSIS was about 534 800*, accounting for 21.1% of local female population of this age group. The number of new registrations of women aged 25-64 in 2023 was about 15 700*.
2. A total of 61 900* cervical screening results of registrants aged 25-64 were recorded in 2023. The overall rates of unsatisfactory and abnormal specimens were 0.2% and 9.5%, respectively. The number of standalone HPV tests, standalone cytology tests and co-tests[#] recorded were 31 700* (53.8%), 24 200* (41.1%) and 3 000* (5.1%), respectively.
3. The percentage of unsatisfactory specimens has remained low since the programme has launched. Among the 27 200* cytology results of registrants aged 25-64 in 2023, 0.4% were unsatisfactory specimens, 87.3% were normal results (which means “negative for intraepithelial lesion or malignancy”), and 12.3% were abnormal results.
4. From April to December 2023, among the 34 300* HPV results of registrants aged 30-64, 7.0% were positive for high-risk HPV, 93.0% were negative for high-risk HPV, and there were no unsatisfactory specimens.

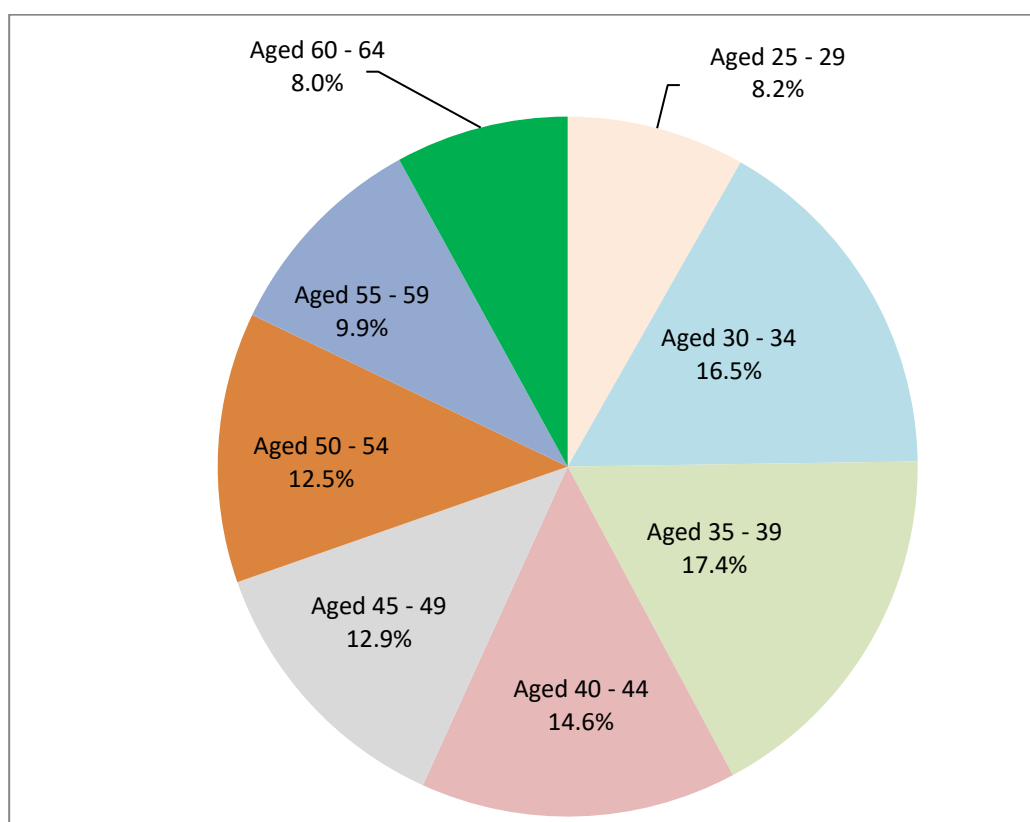
* Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

A “co-test” is defined as a cytology test and a HPV test performed within 14 days.

1. Number of women aged 25 – 64 registered with Cervical Screening Information System

As of 31 December 2023, after excluding registered deaths, the cumulative number of women aged 25-64 who registered with CSIS was about 534 800*, accounting for 21.1% of local female population of this age group. There were about 15 700* new registrants aged 25-64 in 2023. New registrants were mostly from the age group 35-39 (17.4%), followed by 30-34 (16.5%). These two age groups accounted for one-third of the total new registrations in 2023 (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. Breakdown of new registration (aged 25-64) in 2023, by age group



Notes:

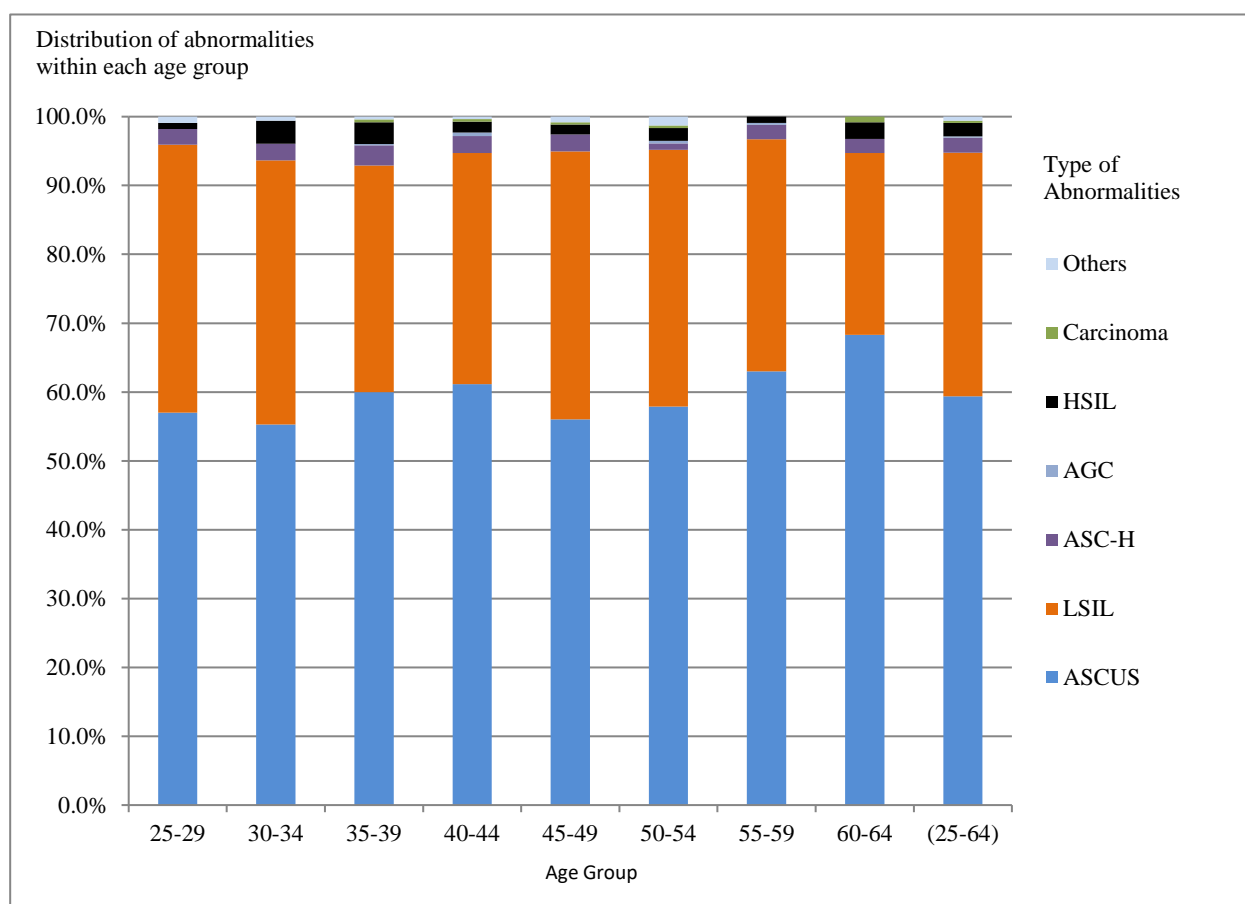
1. ^Percentage may not add up to 100.0% due to rounding.
2. Age of the registered women refers to the age as at 31 December 2023.

* Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

2. Cervical cytology results among registrants aged 25 – 64

The percentage of unsatisfactory specimens has remained low since the programme has been launched. Among the 27 200* cytology results of registrants aged 25-64 in 2023, 0.4% were unsatisfactory specimens, 87.3% were normal results (which means “negative for intraepithelial lesion or malignancy”), and 12.3% were abnormal results. Among the 3 300* abnormal cytology results, the vast majority, i.e. 94.8%, were low-grade lesions (ASCUS (59.4%) and LSIL (35.4%)), while only 1.9% were HSIL and 0.3 % were carcinoma (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. Distribution of abnormal cervical cytology test results among registered women aged 25-64 in 2023, by age group



3. HPV results among registrants aged 30 – 64

Primary HPV testing was implemented in the DH in April 2023. From April to December 2023, among the 34 300* HPV results of registrants aged 30-64, 7.0% were positive for high-risk HPV, 93.0% were negative for high-risk HPV, and there were no unsatisfactory specimens. **(Figure 3)**.

Figure 3. Distribution of HPV results among registered women (aged 30-64) (Apr to Dec 2023), by age group

