

# BRFSS Brief

Number 1801

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population ages 18 years and older.

## Cervical Cancer Screening New York State Adult Women, 2016

### Introduction and Key Findings

In New York State (NYS), approximately 840 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year and nearly 280 women die from the disease annually.<sup>1</sup> All women are at risk for cervical cancer, but risk is increased for women over the age of 30 and varies across racial groups.<sup>2,3</sup> Black women are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer and to die from the disease.<sup>3</sup>

Cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening tests and follow-up. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for cervical cancer for women ages 21 to 65 years with a Pap test every three years or, for women ages 30 to 65 years who want to lengthen the screening interval, screening with a combination of a Pap test and HPV test every 5 years.<sup>4,5</sup>

Virtually all cervical cancer cases are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), which can cause cervical cell abnormalities. The Pap test (or Pap smear) is one of the most reliable and effective screening tests available to prevent cervical cancer. The Pap test detects cervical cell abnormalities that could become cervical cancer without proper treatment. The HPV test looks for the presence of HPV strains.

In 2016, 82.2% of NYS women ages 21 to 65 years received cervical cancer screening in accordance with the USPSTF recommendations. Cervical cancer screening remains below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 93.0%.<sup>4,6</sup> In addition, some subpopulations are less likely to have received cervical cancer screening. In NYS, women ages 21 to 29 years are significantly less likely to have received recommended cervical cancer screening (70.1%) compared to women ages 30 to 65 years (85.7%). NYS women without health insurance (71.2%) and those with public or other types of insurance (76.4%) are significantly less likely to have received recommended cervical cancer screening, compared to those with private health insurance (88.3%). Similarly, women without a regular health care provider are significantly less likely to have been screened (70.5%) compared to women with a regular health care provider (84.4%) (Figure 2).

Of NYS women who have not received cervical cancer screening based on the USPSTF guidelines (an estimated 837,000 women), 81.1% were insured and 73.0% had a regular health care provider (data not shown). These data indicate opportunities for improvement among women who are engaged in and have access to health care in addition to women who are uninsured or who lack a regular source of health care.

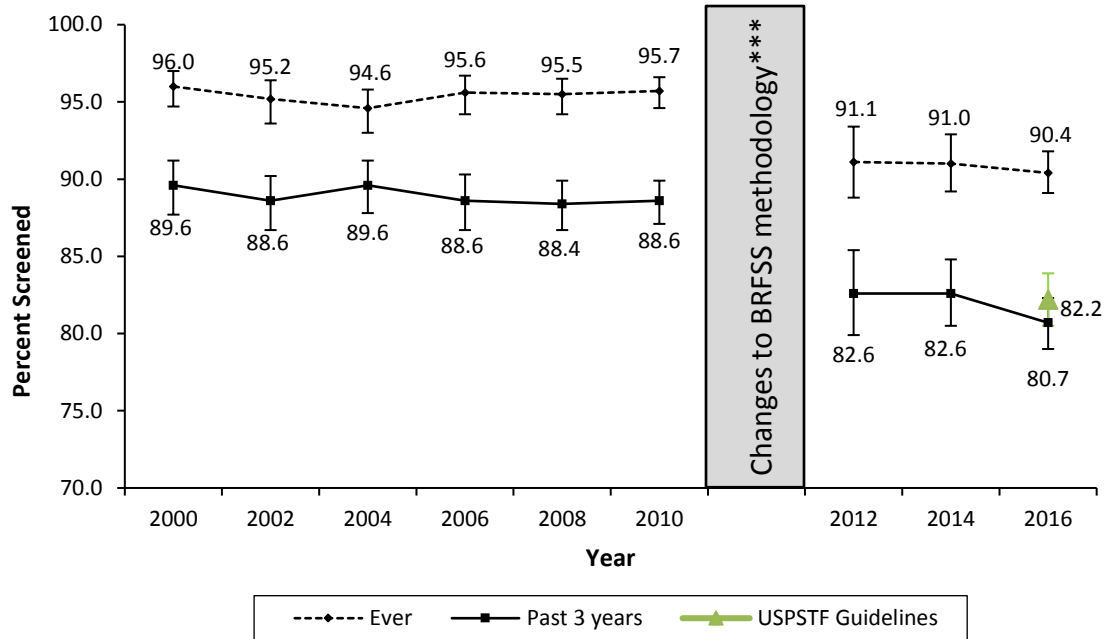
### BRFSS Questions

1. A Pap test is a test for cancer of the cervix. Have you ever had a Pap test? [If “yes”]
2. How long has it been since you had your last Pap test?

3. An HPV test is sometimes given with the Pap test for cervical cancer screening. Have you ever had an HPV test? [If “yes”]
4. How long has it been since you had your last HPV test?

[HPV Test questions became newly available in 2016]

**Figure 1. History of cervical cancer screening (ever had a Pap test, Pap test within past 3 years, and USPSTF guidelines\*) among New York State women\*\* by BRFSS survey year from 2000 to 2016**



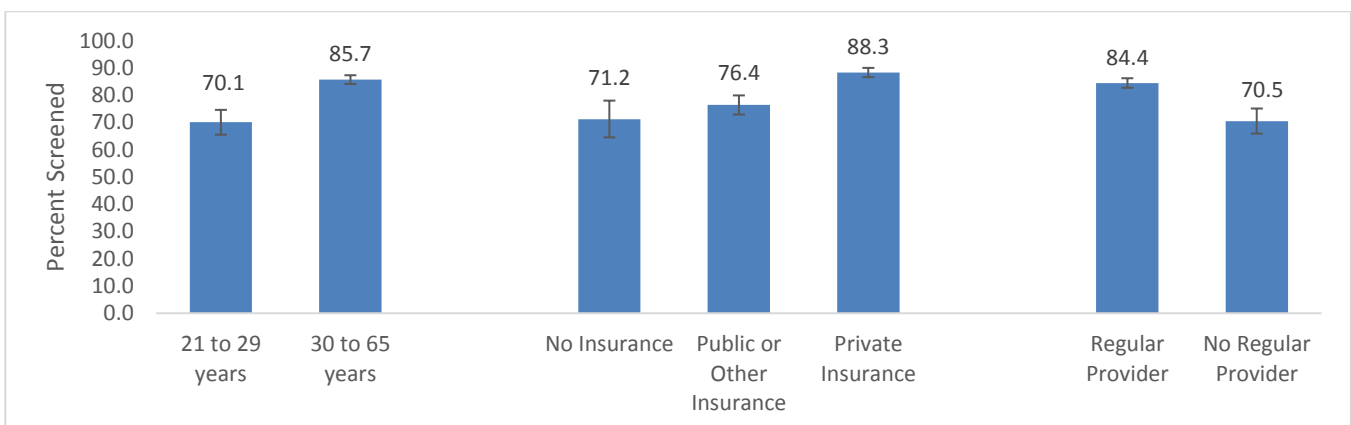
\*USPSTF guidelines are Pap test within 3 years for women ages 21 to 65 OR Pap and HPV co-test within past 5 years for women ages 30 to 65.

\*\*Figure excludes data from women who reported having a hysterectomy and is limited to women ages 21 to 65. HPV test questions not available prior to 2016.

\*\*\*Data from 2012, 2014, and 2016 are not comparable to prior years because of changes to the BRFSS methods in 2011. See the following link for more information on these changes: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6122a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm6122a3\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6122a3.htm?s_cid=mm6122a3_w)

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

**Figure 2. Percent of NYS women\* screened for cervical cancer according to USPSTF guidelines,\*\* by age, insurance and regular health care provider status, BRFSS 2016**



\*Figure excludes data from women who reported having a hysterectomy and is limited to women ages 21 to 65.

\*\*USPSTF guidelines are Pap test within 3 years for women ages 21 to 65 OR Pap and HPV co-test within past 5 years for women ages 30 to 65.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

**Table 1. History of cervical cancer screening among New York State women, by selected characteristics, BRFSS 2016 survey**

	Estimated population size <sup>a</sup>	Pap test ever		USPSTF Guidelines*	
		% <sup>b</sup>	95% CI <sup>b</sup>	% <sup>b</sup>	95% CI <sup>b</sup>
<b>Total NYS [N=9,422]</b>	4,779	90.4	89.1-91.8	82.2	80.5-83.8
<b>Age</b>					
21-29 years	1,087	75.2	71.0-79.4	70.1	65.5-74.7
30-65 years	3,693	94.8	93.7-96.0	85.7	84.1-87.3
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White non-Hispanic	2,505	94.4	93.1-95.7	84.5	82.7-86.3
Black non-Hispanic	724	93.8	90.9-96.7	85.3	80.7-89.9
Hispanic	916	86.4	83.2-89.7	81.6	78.0-85.2
Other non-Hispanic	508	73.6	66.1-81.2	66.8	58.8-74.8
<b>Annual household income</b>					
< \$25,000	1,217	86.0	82.8-89.1	76.1	72.4-79.8
\$25,000 - <\$50,000	775	87.9	84.4-91.5	77.0	72.6-81.3
≥ \$50,000	2,148	95.8	94.5-97.2	89.4	87.5-91.2
Missing <sup>c</sup>	639	83.5	78.5-88.6	75.5	70.1-81.0
<b>Educational attainment</b>					
Less than high school	611	85.8	81.1-90.4	76.5	70.9-82.2
High school or GED	1,038	87.6	84.1-91.2	77.6	73.5-81.6
Some post-high school	1,314	92.8	90.5-95.1	84.3	81.4-87.2
College graduate	1,798	91.8	90.0-93.7	85.1	82.8-87.3
<b>Primary health care coverage</b>					
Private insurance	2,504	94.7	93.3-96.1	88.3	86.6-90.0
Public or other insurance <sup>d</sup>	1,303	88.2	85.5-90.9	76.4	72.9-79.9
No insurance	491	81.3	74.9-87.6	71.2	64.5-78.0
<b>Regular health care provider</b>					
Yes	3,977	91.4	90.0-92.9	84.4	82.7-86.2
No	780	85.5	82.0-89.1	70.5	65.9-75.1
<b>Disability<sup>e</sup></b>					
Yes	840	89.1	85.5-92.6	75.5	71.3-79.8
No	3,908	90.8	89.3-92.2	83.7	81.9-85.5
<b>Residence</b>					
New York City (NYC)	2,195	87.4	85.0-89.9	80.6	77.7-83.4
NYS excluding NYC	2,585	92.9	91.5-94.3	83.5	81.7-85.3

\*Pap test within 3 years for women ages 21 to 65 OR Pap and HPV co-test within past 5 years for women ages 30 to 65.

<sup>a</sup> Estimated population size based on weighted frequencies from BRFSS, in thousands. Excludes individuals with missing data on each characteristic of interest, and women ages 21 to 65 who reported having a hysterectomy.

<sup>b</sup> %=Percentage; 95% CI=Confidence Interval. Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

<sup>c</sup> "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

<sup>d</sup> Health care coverage through Medicare; Medicaid or other state program; TRICARE, VA, or Military; Alaska Native, Indian Health Service, or Tribal Health Services; or some other source.

<sup>e</sup> Based on report of at least one type of disability (cognitive, ambulatory, vision, hearing, self-care, or independent living).

## References

1. Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality for New York State, 2010-2014. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, revised Nov. 2016. Available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/vol1/v1rnys.htm>
2. Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality by Age Group, New York State, 2010-2014. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, revised Nov. 2016. Available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/table6/tb6cervixnys.htm>
3. Cancer Incidence and Mortality by Gender and Race, New York State, 2010-2014. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, revised Nov. 2016. Available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/pdf/table4.pdf>
4. Final Update Summary, Cervical Cancer: Screening. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Rockville, MD, updated Sept. 2016. Available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspscerv.htm>
5. Cervical Cancer: What Should I Know About Screening? Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, updated Mar. 2016. Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic\\_info/screening.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/screening.htm)
6. HealthyPeople.gov, 2020 Topics and Objectives: Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, updated Dec. 2017. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/cancer/objectives>

## Program Contributions

New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research  
Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control

## Order Information

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