

BRFSS Brief

Number 1102

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 aged 18 years and older.

Cervical Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Women 2008

Introduction

In the United States, approximately 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4000 women die from the disease annually.¹ In New York State (NYS), there are approximately 900 new cases of cervical cancer diagnosed each year, and approximately 300 women die from the disease annually.² All women are at risk for cervical cancer, but this risk is increased for women over the age of 30 and varies across racial groups. Black women are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer. Among women with cervical cancer, black women are more likely than white women to die from the disease.³

Cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening tests and follow-up. The United States Preventive Services Task Force strongly recommends that all sexually active women, who have a cervix, be screened for cervical cancer. 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 American Cancer Society recommends that women be screened every one to two years beginning within three years of onset of sexual activity, and no later than the age of 21. After a woman has reached the age of 30, the screening interval can be extended to two or three years based on past screening results and risk factors.^{4,5,6}

There are both NYS and national objectives around cervical cancer mortality and screening. The New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda Toward the Healthiest State includes an objective to decrease the cervical cancer mortality rate to 2.0 per 100,000 females in the population by the year 2013.⁷ The current cervical cancer mortality rate in NYS is 2.4 per 100,000 females in the population.⁸ NYS aligns with the Healthy People 2020 goal for 93 percent of women aged 21 to 65 to have received a cervical cancer screening within the past three years.⁹

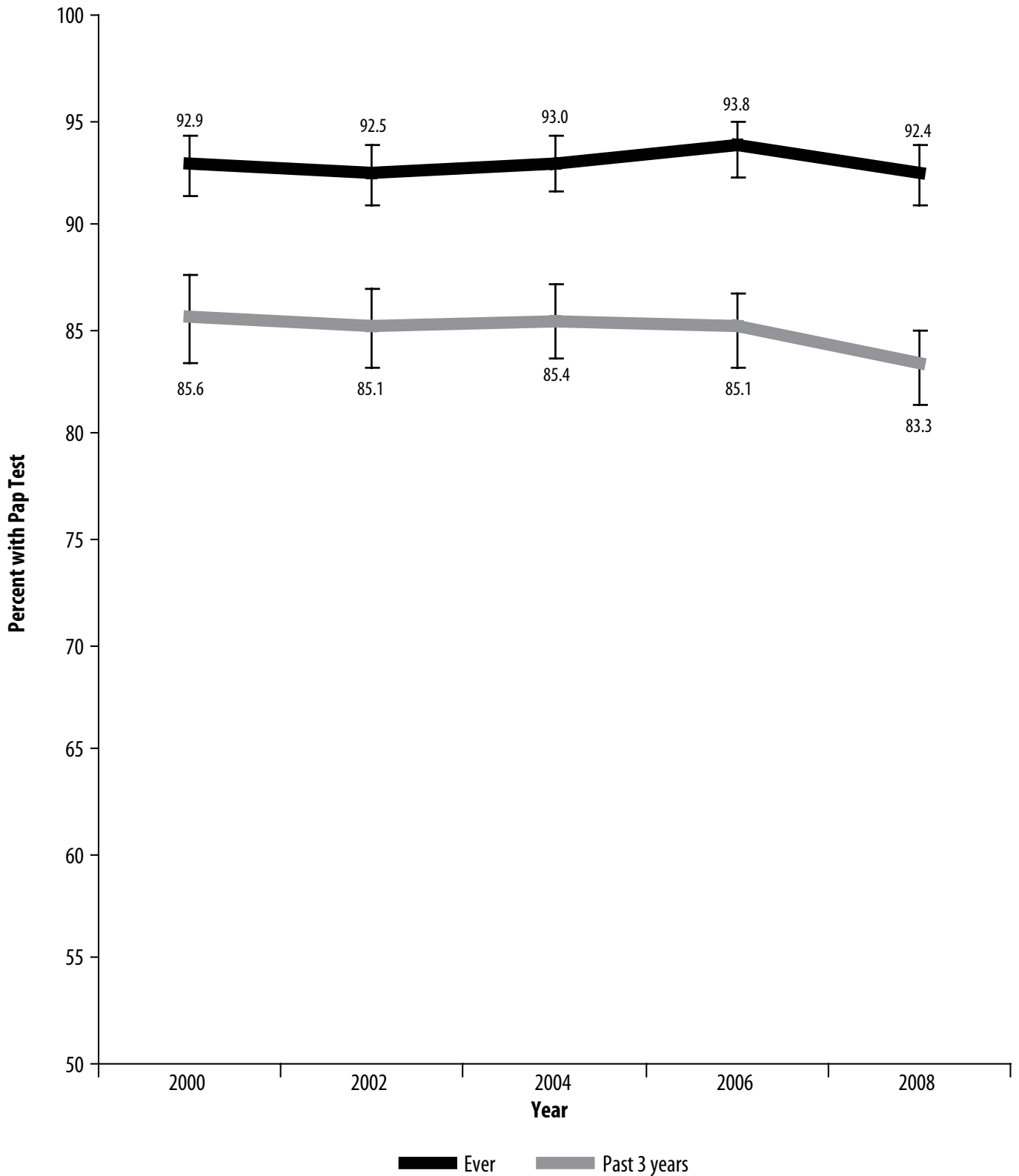
BRFSS Questions

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?*

History of Pap test (ever, within past 3 years) among New York State women aged 18 years or older*, by BRFSS year



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

* Figure does not include data from women who reported having a hysterectomy.

History of Pap test (ever, within past 3 years) among New York State women aged 18 years or older*, by characteristics^a, 2008 BRFSS

	Ever		Within past 3 years	
	% ^a	95% CI ^a	%	95% CI
Total New York State (NYS) [N=4,889]	92.4	90.9-93.7	83.3	81.4-85.1
Age (years)				
18-39	86.7	83.0-89.7	82.7	78.9-85.9
40-49	96.2	93.8-97.7	88.7	85.5-91.2
50-74	97.2	95.9-98.1	85.6	83.2-87.7
≥ 75	89.6	86.2-92.2	62.8	57.3-68.0
Race/ethnicity				
White non-Hispanic	94.7	93.2-95.8	84.0	82.0-85.7
Black non-Hispanic	90.3	85.5-93.6	83.9	77.9-88.6
Hispanic	88.2	81.5-92.6	83.8	76.4-89.2
Other non-Hispanic	86.0	77.3-91.7	76.5	67.1-83.9
Annual household income				
< \$15,000	86.6	78.9-91.8	70.3	61.5-77.9
\$15,000-\$24,999	88.8	83.4-92.6	77.6	71.3-82.8
\$25,000-\$34,999	94.6	89.8-97.2	82.1	75.9-87.0
\$35,000-\$49,999	95.0	91.4-97.2	83.5	78.7-87.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	98.4	95.8-99.4	91.3	88.0-93.8
≥ \$75,000	96.2	93.6-97.7	91.5	88.5-93.7
Missing ^b	83.8	78.4-88.1	73.1	66.7-78.7
Educational attainment				
Less than high school	90.0	82.0-94.7	77.2	68.2-84.2
High school or GED	88.6	85.1-91.4	77.1	72.8-80.9
Some post-high school	93.7	90.8-95.7	83.9	80.4-86.9
College graduate	95.2	93.0-96.7	89.0	86.4-91.1
Health care coverage (insured)				
Yes	93.3	91.8-94.5	84.8	82.9-86.4
No	86.6	77.9-92.2	73.8	65.0-81.1
Disability^c				
Yes	94.4	92.1-96.1	77.8	74.0-81.2
No	91.8	89.9-93.3	84.7	82.5-86.6
Residence				
New York City (NYC)	90.0	86.8-92.4	82.2	78.5-85.4
NYS exclusive of NYC	93.6	91.8-95.0	83.9	81.7-85.9

* Table does not include data from women who reported having a hysterectomy.

a % =Percentage; 95% CI =Confidence interval (at the 95 percent probability level). Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

b "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

c All respondents who report activity limitations due to physical, mental, or emotional problems OR have health problems that require the use of special equipment.

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Program Contributions

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