

BRFSS Brief

Number 1204

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, 2010

Introduction and Key Findings

In the United States, approximately 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4,000 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 nearly 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

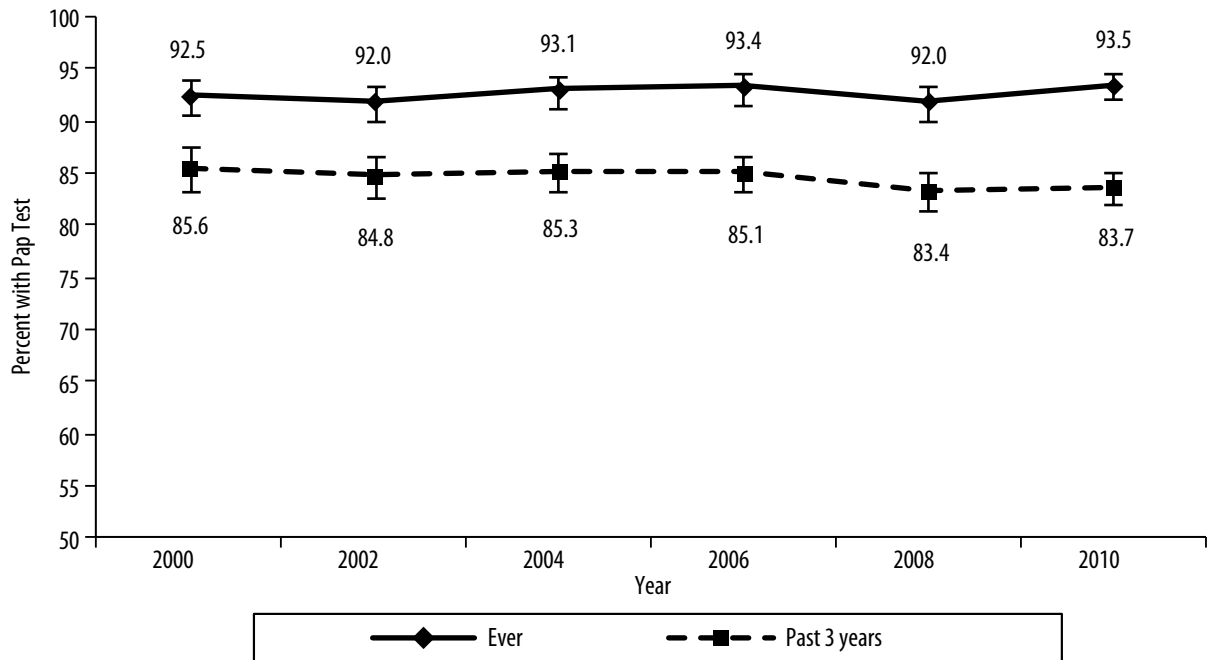
Cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening tests and follow-up. The Pap test (or Pap smear) is one of the most reliable and effective screening tests available to prevent cervical cancer. The Pap test detects cervical cell abnormalities that could become cervical cancer without proper treatment. The United States Preventive Services Task Force strongly recommends screening for cervical cancer in 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 human papillomavirus (HPV) testing every 5 years.^{4,5}

The overall percentage of women in NYS aged 18 years or older who have received a Pap test ever or within the past three years has remained steady from 2000 to 2010, showing no significant change. In 2010, 88.6 percent of women aged 21 to 65 years reported having a Pap test within the past three years, which is below the Healthy People 2020 goal for 93.0 percent of women aged 21 to 65 years to have received a cervical cancer screening based on the most recent guidelines.⁶ There are some subpopulations that are less likely to be screened. In NYS, women aged 18 and older without health insurance are significantly less likely to have received a Pap test in the past three years (70.4%) compared to women aged 18 and older with health insurance (85.3%)

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?

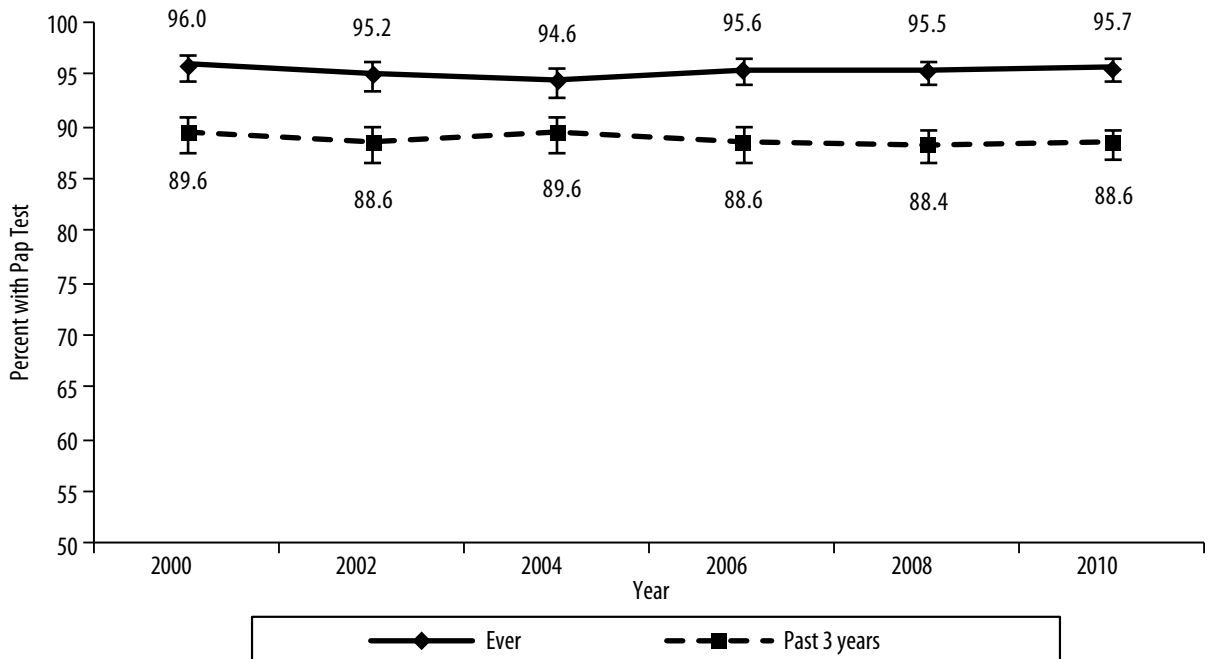
History of Pap test (ever, within past 3 years) among NYS women aged 18 years or older*, by BRFSS year



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 NYS women aged 21-65 years*, 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 NYS women aged 18 years or older*, by characteristics, 2010 BRFSS

	Ever		Within past 3 years	
	% ^a	95% CI ^a	%	95% CI
Total New York State (NYS) [N=4,324]	93.5	92.2-94.6	83.7	82.2-85.0
Age (years)				
21-65	95.7	94.6-96.6	88.6	87.1-89.9
21-29	85.6	79.1-90.3	84.3	77.8-89.2
30-65	97.3	96.4-98.0	89.3	87.9-90.5
≥66	95.3	94.1-96.3	66.8	63.6-69.8
Race/ethnicity				
White non-Hispanic	96.2	95.2-97.1	84.5	83.0-85.9
Black non-Hispanic	92.9	88.5-95.7	86.3	81.7-89.9
Hispanic	90.0	84.2-93.8	85.4	79.7-89.7
Other non-Hispanic	81.0	73.3-87.0	72.5	64.5-79.3
Annual household income				
< \$15,000	88.7	82.3-93.0	76.0	69.7-81.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	93.0	89.0-95.7	78.0	73.6-81.9
\$25,000-\$34,999	95.5	91.9-97.6	79.2	74.1-83.6
\$35,000-\$49,999	94.0	89.5-96.6	85.1	80.5-88.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	96.8	94.2-98.2	88.7	85.4-91.3
≥ \$75,000	96.7	94.4-98.0	90.0	87.5-92.0
Missing ^b	85.2	80.1-89.1	75.0	69.9-79.5
Educational attainment				
Less than high school	92.3	86.0-95.8	81.7	75.2-86.8
High school or GED	90.0	86.7-92.5	76.3	72.8-79.5
Some post-high school	93.2	90.2-95.3	84.3	81.1-87.0
College graduate	95.7	93.9-97.0	87.6	85.6-89.4
Health care coverage (insured)				
Yes	94.6	93.4-95.6	85.3	83.9-86.6
No	86.5	80.2-91.0	70.6	63.8-76.6
Disability^c				
Yes	93.9	91.3-95.8	77.2	74.0-80.0
No	93.4	91.9-94.6	85.4	83.8-87.0
Residence				
New York City (NYC)	90.6	88.2-92.5	82.6	80.1-84.9
NYS exclusive of NYC	95.9	94.4-97.0	84.5	82.6-86.1

* 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.

References

1. U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. United States Cancer Statistics: 1999–2007 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report. Atlanta (GA): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Cancer Institute; 2010. <http://www.cdc.gov/uscs>.
2. New York State Cancer Registry. Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality by Year, New York State, 1976-2008. New York State Department of Health, 2010. <http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/cancer/registry/table2/tb2cervixnys.htm>
3. New York State Cancer Registry. Cancer Incidence and Mortality, by Race, New York State, 2004-2008. New York State Department of Health, 2010. <http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/cancer/registry/table4.htm>
4. Screening for Cervical Cancer, Topic Page. March 2012. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspscerv.htm>
5. Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Cervical Cancer Screening. http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/screening.htm
6. US Department of Health and Human Services. HealthyPeople.gov. Healthy People 2020 Cancer Objectives. <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicid=5>

Program Contributions

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

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