

Cervical Screening Uptake 2007-2020: Results from Three National Health Surveys

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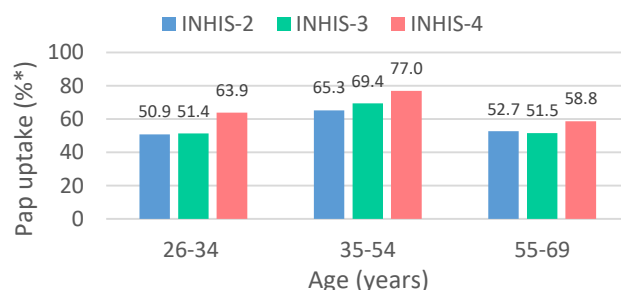
Introduction

The Ministry of Health recommends cervical cancer screening every three years in women 25-65 years. Prior to 2019, the national health basket funded tests only for women aged 35-54 years.

In 2019, the national health basket was expanded to include women aged 30-34 years and in 2020, a further expansion included women aged 25-29 years.

Aim: To examine PAP test uptake over time in different age groups

Pap uptake by age group and survey



*weighted for age and population group

Methods

Three national cross-sectional telephone interview surveys were conducted by the Israeli Centre for Disease Control between 2007-2010 (INHIS-2), 2013-2015 (INHIS-3) and 2018-2020 (INHIS-4).

Participants were asked about Pap smear uptake, supplementary/private health insurance and demographic characteristics. PAP uptake was defined as a PAP smear in the last five years.

For each age group (26-34, 35-54, 55-69 years), a multivariate logistic regression was performed to examine the associations between performing a Pap smear, time, and having supplementary/private insurance, adjusted for demographic characteristics.

Associations between Pap uptake, time and having supplementary/private insurance, by age group

Variable	Total study		
	OR ¹	CI 95%	P value
Aged 26-34			
Insurance			
No	1 (Ref)		
Yes	1.21	0.75-1.96	0.43
Survey			
INHIS-2	0.90	0.60-1.37	0.64
INHIS-3	1 (Ref)		
INHIS-4	2.25	1.46-3.45	0.0002
Aged 35-54			
Insurance			
No	1 (Ref)		
Yes	1.33	1.01-1.75	0.0456
Survey			
INHIS-2	0.79	0.62-1.0	0.0499
INHIS-3	1 (Ref)		
INHIS-4	1.66	1.32-2.10	<0.0001
Aged 55-69			
Insurance			
No	1 (Ref)		
Yes	1.49	1.02-2.19	0.0402
Survey			
INHIS-2	1.11	0.84-1.45	0.4673
INHIS-3	1 (Ref)		
INHIS-4	1.38	1.08-1.75	0.0089

¹ Adjusted for population group, level of religiosity, years of education, marital status and having children

Results

This study includes 4,820 women aged 26-69 years: 1,335 from INHIS-2, 1,791 from INHIS-3 and 1,694 from INHIS-4.

Pap uptake by age and survey is shown in the graph. In the total sample, compared with women aged 55-69 years, there is significantly higher Pap uptake in women 26-34 years (OR 1.48, CI: 1.20-1.82) and 35-54 years (OR 2.35, CI: 2.03-2.72).

A multivariate logistic regression for each age group is shown in the table.

Conclusion

Pap uptake was highest in women 35-54 years, who's tests were funded by the national health basket. The significantly increased uptake in women 26-34 years between 2013-2015 and 2018-2020 can be attributed to their addition to the national health basket, and the increased uptake in women 55-69 years can be attributed to the presence of supplementary and/or private health insurance. To encourage higher Pap test uptake it is necessary to finance them by their addition to the national health basket or by supplemental/private insurance. A follow-up survey is essential to examine the effect of the national health basket expansions.