

Risk factors for not undergoing cervical cancer screening in the Campania Region of Italy: results of Studio Passi 2005



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Introduction

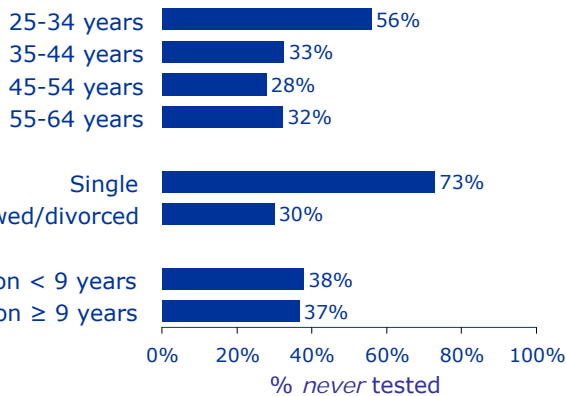
- In Italy, cervical cancer screening programs based on Pap testing were launched in 1995 and provide free screening every 3 years for women 25-64 years
- In the Campania Region (population 5.7 million), coverage has remained low as a result of organizational and economic problems

Objective

- Using data from PASSI 2005, evaluate prevalence and risk factors for never having undergone Pap testing

Results 1: Prevalence and sociodemographic risk factors associated with never having had a Pap test

37% of women 25-64 years reported *never* having had a Pap test



Younger women and those who were single were significantly more likely to have never been tested (p<0.0001)

Results 3: Multivariate analysis of risk factors for never having had a Pap test

Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI
Age, years		
25-34	1.7	1.1 - 2.8
35-44	1.2	0.8 - 2.0
45-54	1.1	0.7 - 1.7
55-64	1.0	---
Marital status		
Married/widowed/divorced	1.0	---
Single	4.4	2.8 - 6.9
Educational level		
< 9 years	1.5	1.1 - 2.1
≥ 9 years	1.0	---
Letter from LHU		
Yes	1.0	---
No	1.4	1.0 - 1.9
Physician advice		
Yes	1.0	---
No	5.8	4.2 - 7.9

-Logistic model included: age, marital status, education, letter from LHU and physician advice

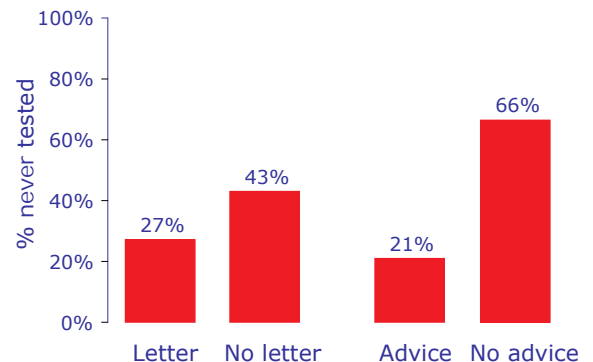
In the multivariate model, the factors most strongly associated with never having been screened were not receiving physician advice and being single, although younger age, low education level, and not getting a LHU letter were also significant

Methods

- Cross-sectional telephone survey conducted in Campania between May and December 2005 by local health staff
- All 13 local health units represented
- 985 female respondents between the ages of 25-64 years
- Prevalence and risk factors for "never having had a pap-test" were estimated with descriptive and logistic multivariate analysis, using Epi info and Stata 7.0
- Analysis variables: age, marital status, education, having received a local health unit (LHU) letter recommending the test, and having received physician advice to be tested

Results 2: The influence of LHU letters and physician advice

37% of interviewees had received a letter from the ASL and 64% had received physician advice to have a Pap smear



Women who had not gotten letters and who reported not receiving physician advice were significantly more likely to have never been tested (p<0.0001)

Conclusions

- Although data are self-reported, results suggest that many women in Campania have never undergone Pap testing for cervical cancer
- Efforts targeting younger, single, and less-educated women are needed
- Both letters and physician advice appeared effective in increasing coverage and should be more widely implemented
- Planned activities include:
 - Perform routine monitoring and evaluations using local screening data bases and PASSI
 - Disseminate and publicize survey results
 - Conduct advertising campaign aimed at improving coverage