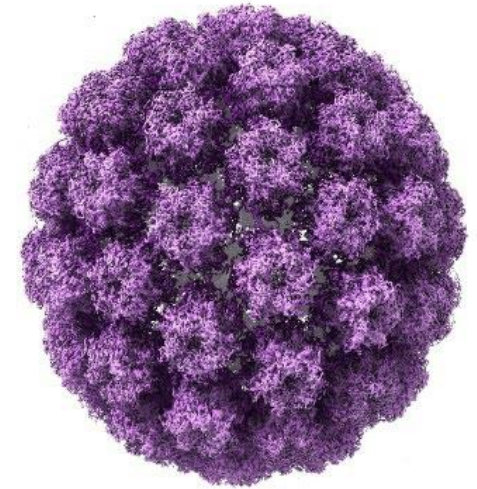


Current Numbers: HPV disease prevalence and incidence across the AFRO region

Dr. Nosheen Safdar
WHO AFRO

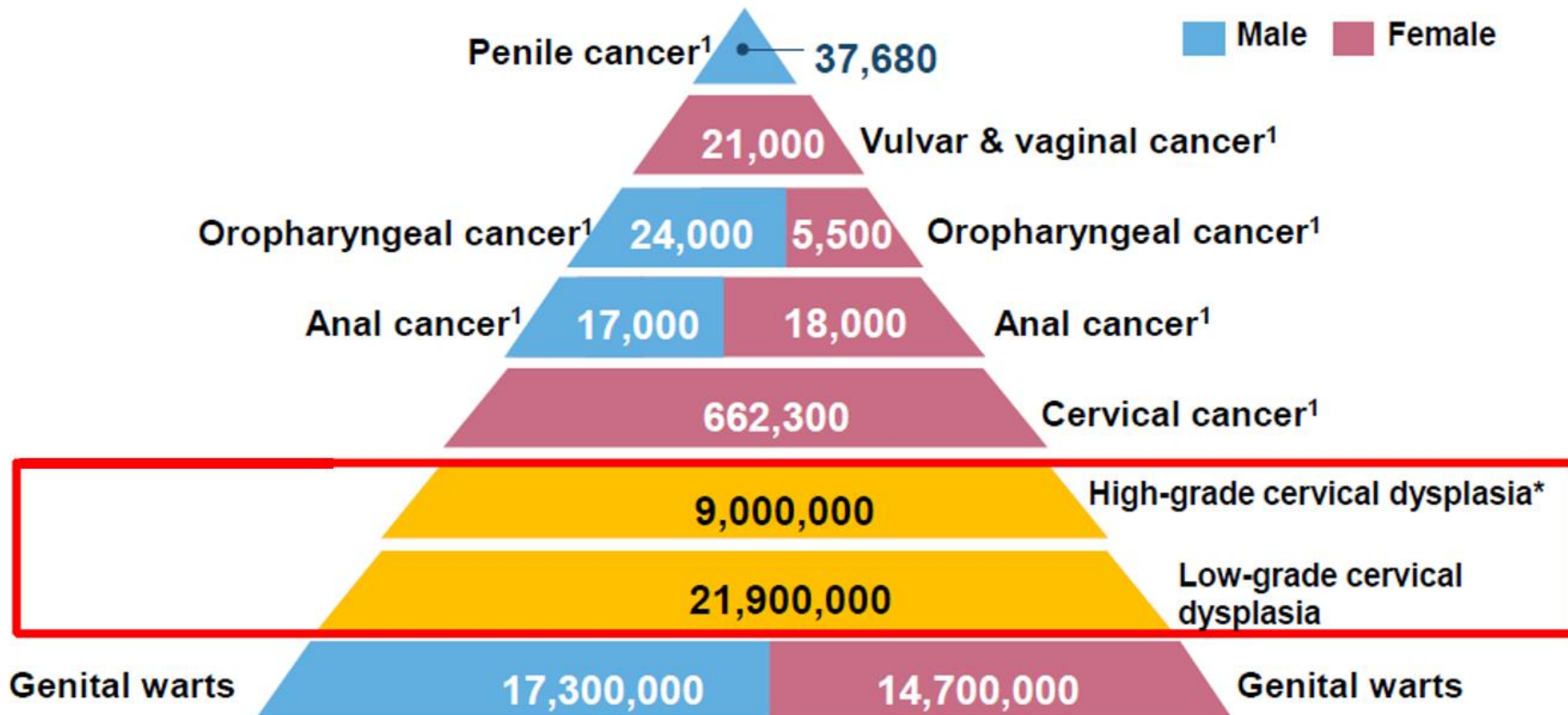
Introduction

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a family of ~200 related viruses.
- Most infections clear naturally, but high-risk HPV types can persist and cause genital warts or cancers.
- Persistent infection with these high-risk types drives cervical cancer and contributes to cancers of the vulva, vagina, anus, penis, and throat.
- Globally (2019): HPV caused $\approx 620,000$ new cancer cases in women and $\approx 70,000$ in men.
- Cervical cancer ranked as the 4th leading cause of cancer incidence and deaths in women in 2022, about 660,000 new cases and 350,000 deaths worldwide.
- > 90% of HPV-related cancers in women are cervical cancers.



Worldwide HPV-Related Disease Burden: 607,000 Cancer Cases in Men and Women

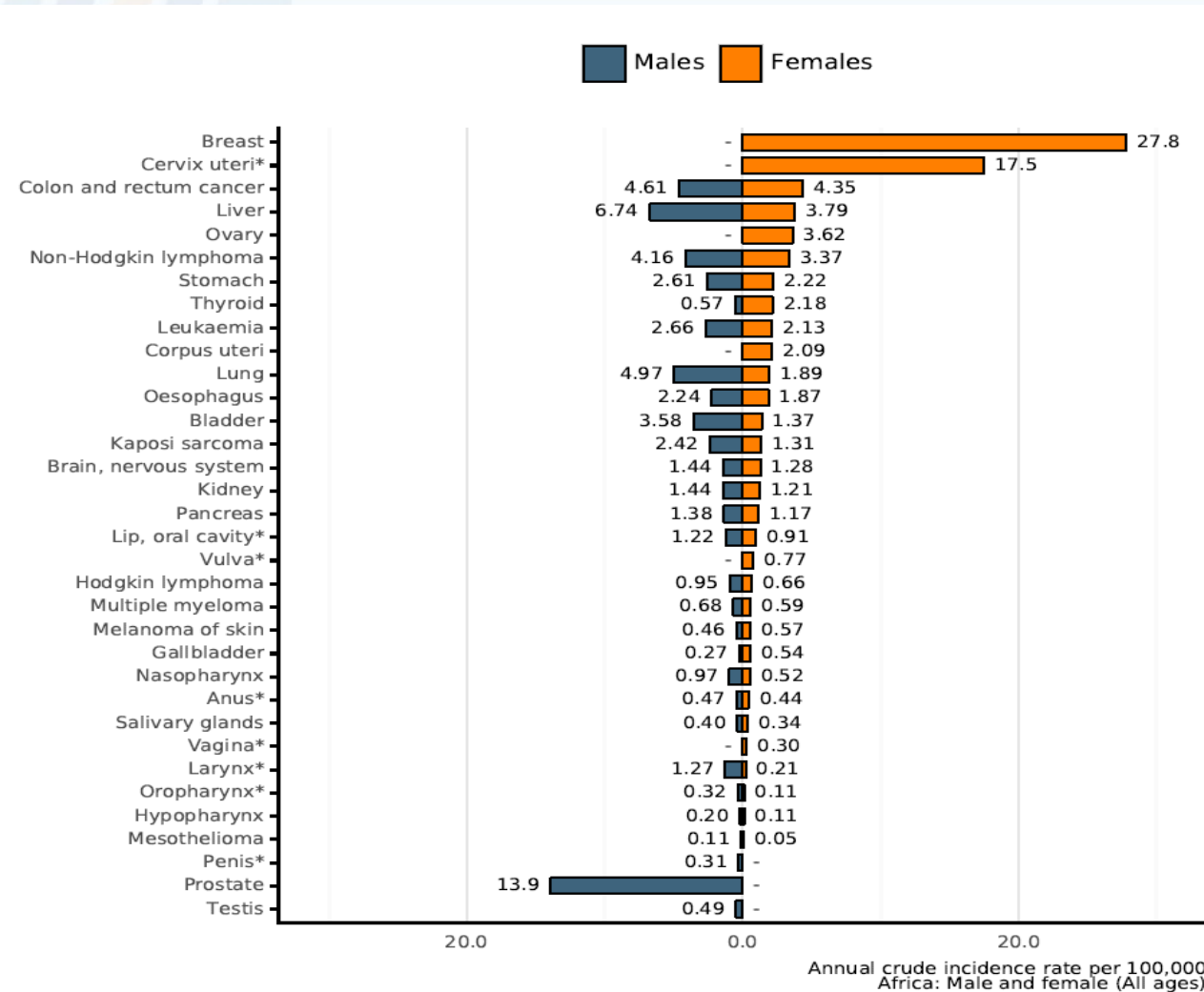
4.2% of all cancers attributable to HPV



IARC Globocan

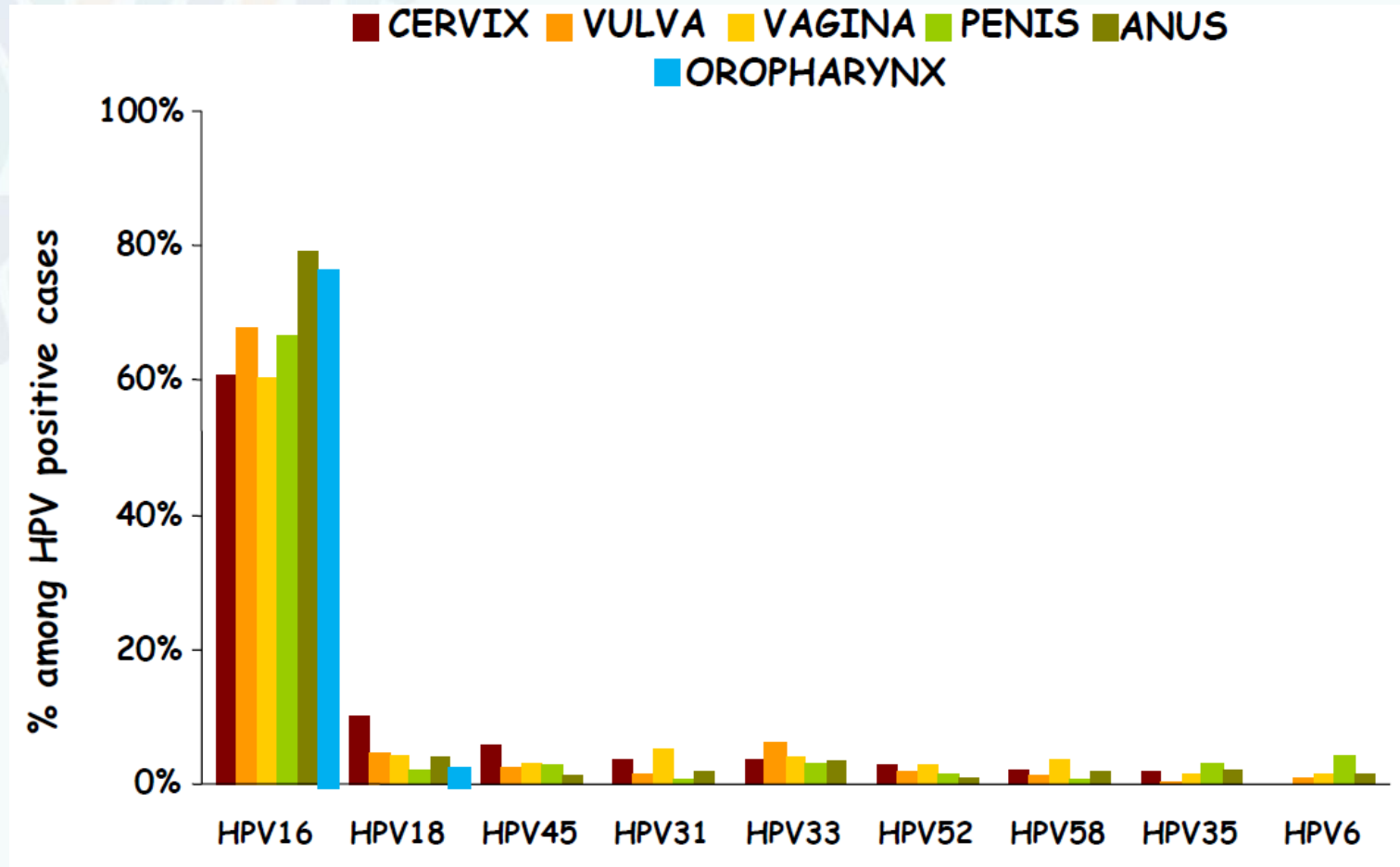
<https://gco.iarc.who.int/today/en>

Comparison of HPV related cancers incidence to other cancers in men and women of all ages in Africa



de Martel C, Georges D, Bray F, Ferlay J, Clifford GM 2020. Global burden of cancer attributable to infections in 2018: a worldwide incidence analysis. *Lancet Glob Health*. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214109X19304887?via%3Dihub>

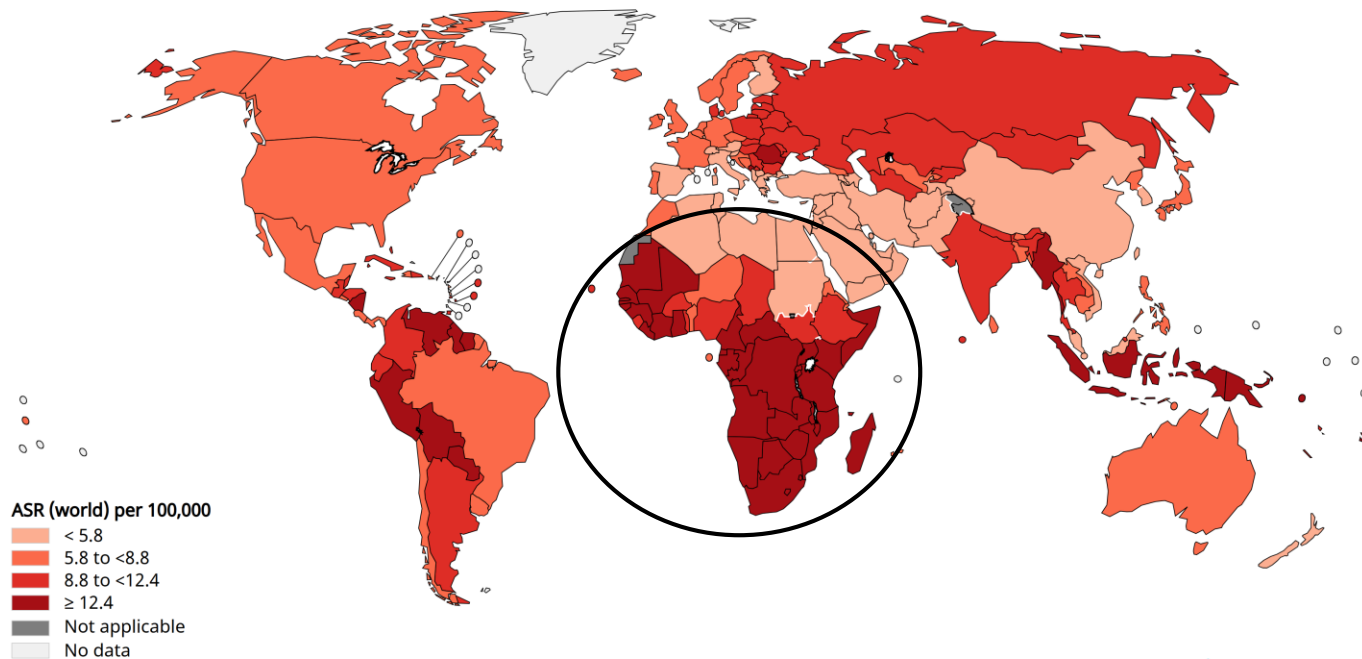
Relative Contribution of the different types of cancers



De Sanjose et al 2010 Lancet Oncol. 2010;11:1048-56 Forman et al Vaccine 2012

Cancers attributable to HPV infections

Age-standardized rates (worldwide) per 100 000 individual in 2020 attributable to infections (HPV), by country

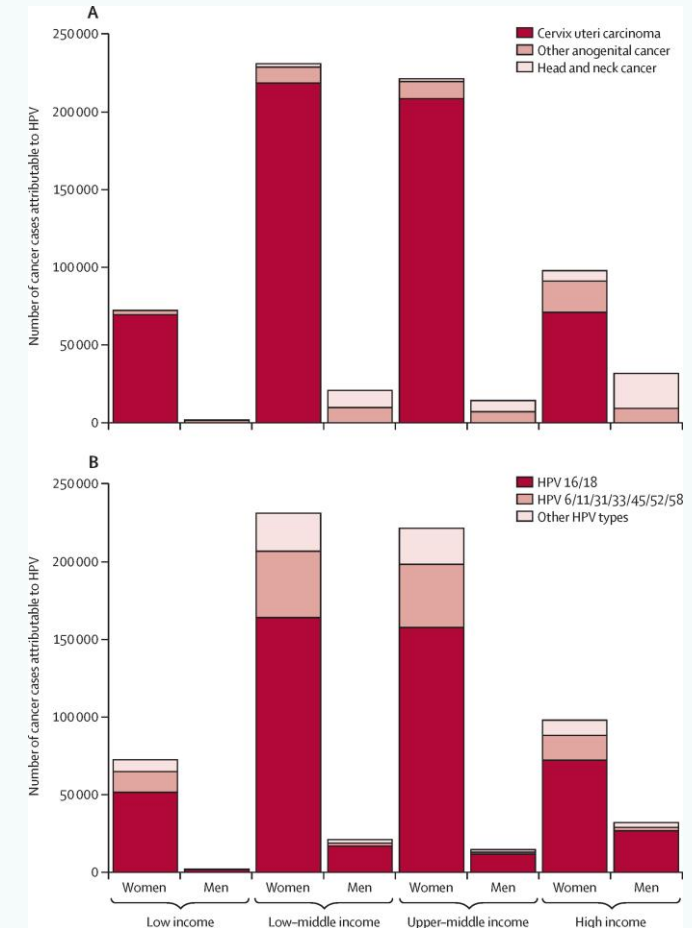


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Data source: Methodology described in "Global burden of cancer attributable to infections in 2018: a worldwide incidence analysis. Lancet Glob Health. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214109X19304887?via%3Dihub>

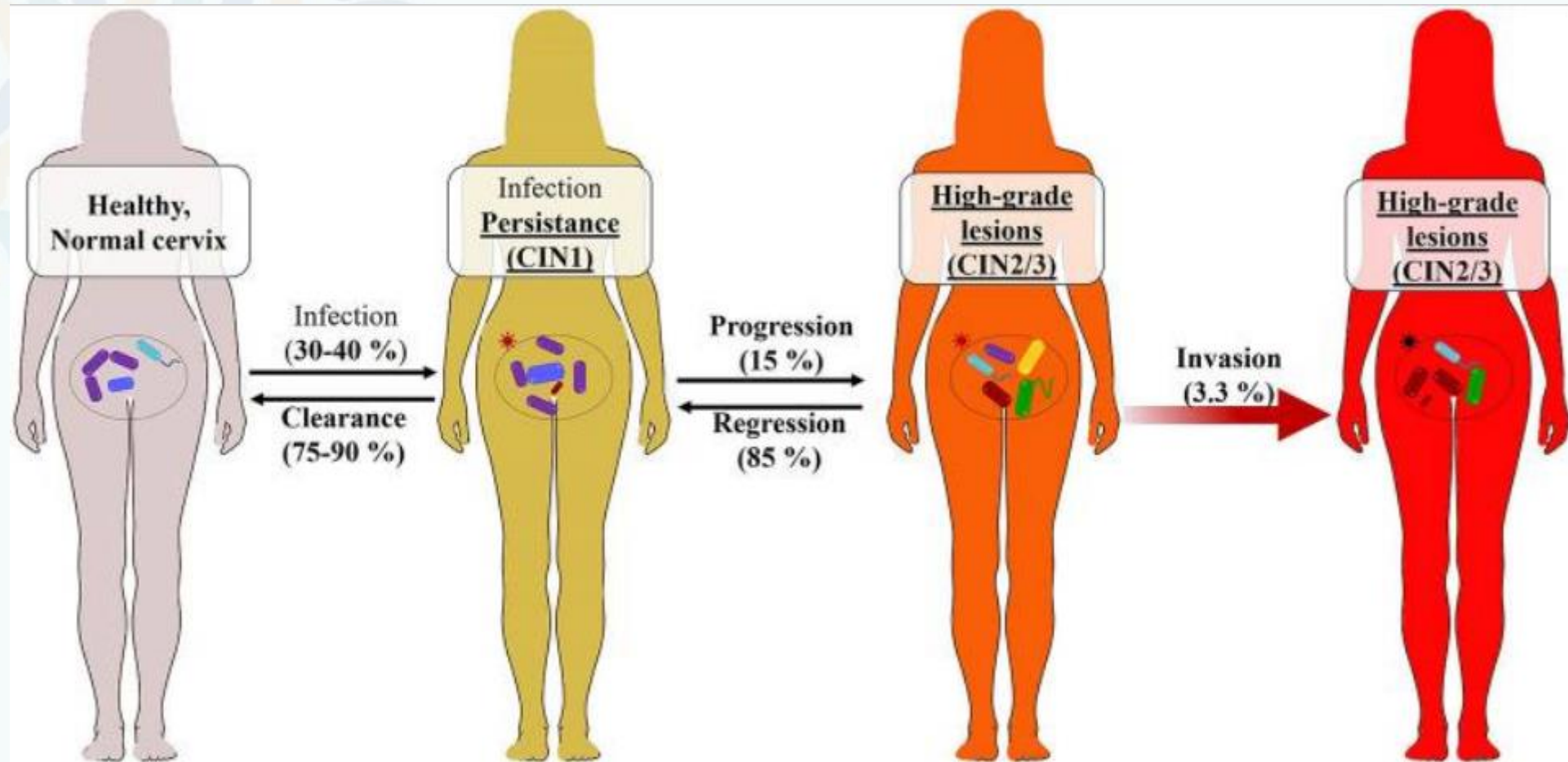
Graph production: IARC (<http://www.iarc.fr/>)
World Health Organization

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de Martel C, Georges D, Bray F, Ferlay J, Clifford GM 2020. Global burden of cancer attributable to infections in 2018: a worldwide incidence analysis. Lancet Glob Health. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214109X19304887?via%3Dihub>

Infection to cervical cancer progression in women



<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2020.552028/full>

Cervical cancer burden is disproportionately high in the WHO African Region

Cervical cancer incidence remains high across the world but this burden is disproportionately high in the WHO African Region.

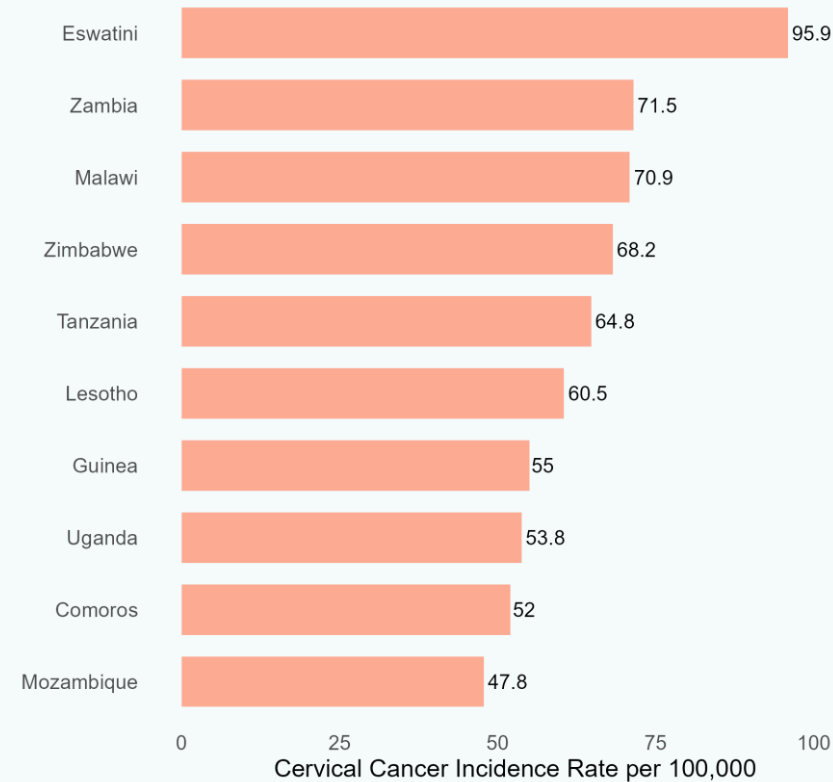
Average Cervical Cancer Incidence by WHO Region (2022)



Source: Global Cancer Observatory (GCO)

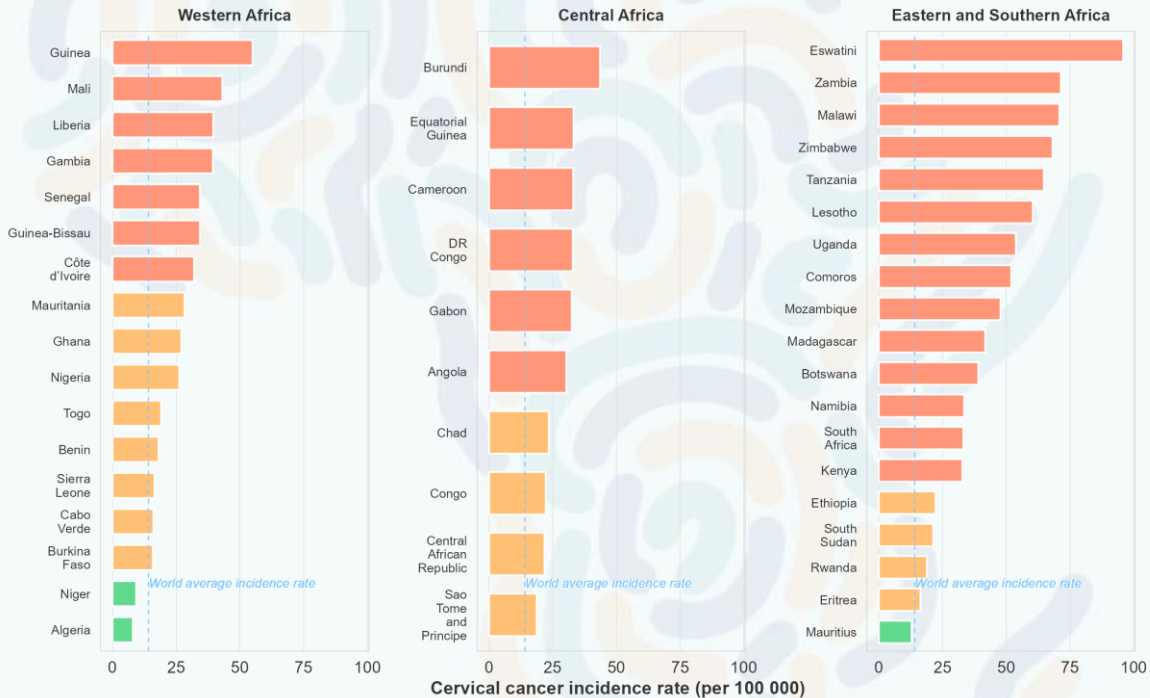
Cervical Cancer Incidence rates are adjusted for age, enabling comparison between countries (per 100,000).

Top 10 Countries with Highest Cervical Cancer Incidence Rate

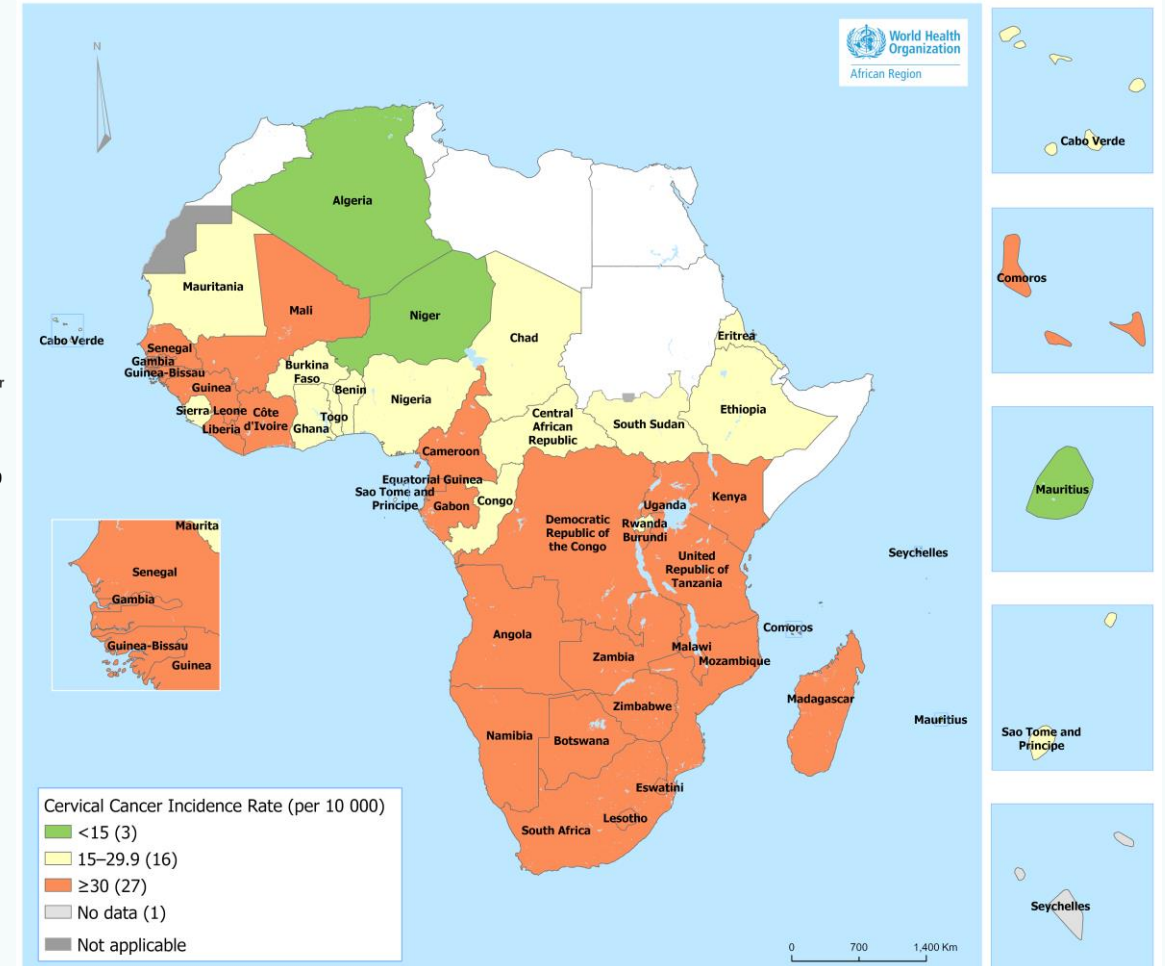


Cervical cancer burden is disproportionately high in the WHO African Region- especially Eastern and Southern Africa

Cervical Cancer Incidence Rate by WHO Subregion (2022)



Cervical Cancer Incidence rates are adjusted for age, enabling comparison between countries (per 100,000).



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Source: Global Cancer Observatory (GCO)
Map production date: September 16, 2025, by DPC
Regional office for Africa, World Health Organization
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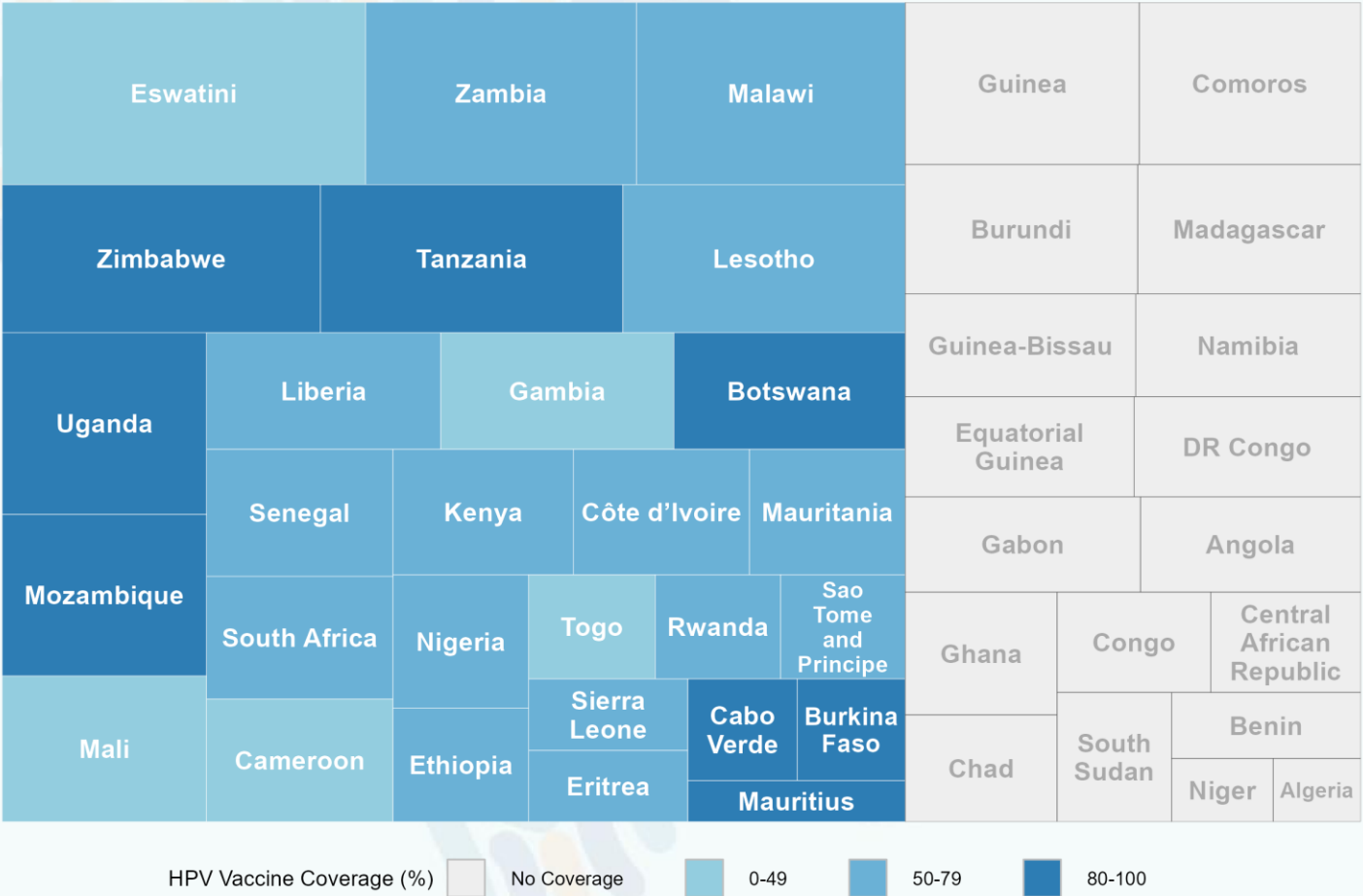
HPV's true horror: an infection so common, yet a cancer so cruel and needless.

- CURE: **NONE**
- PREVENTION: **POSSIBLE**
- VACCINE: **AVAILABLE**

When prevention exists, suffering is unforgivable

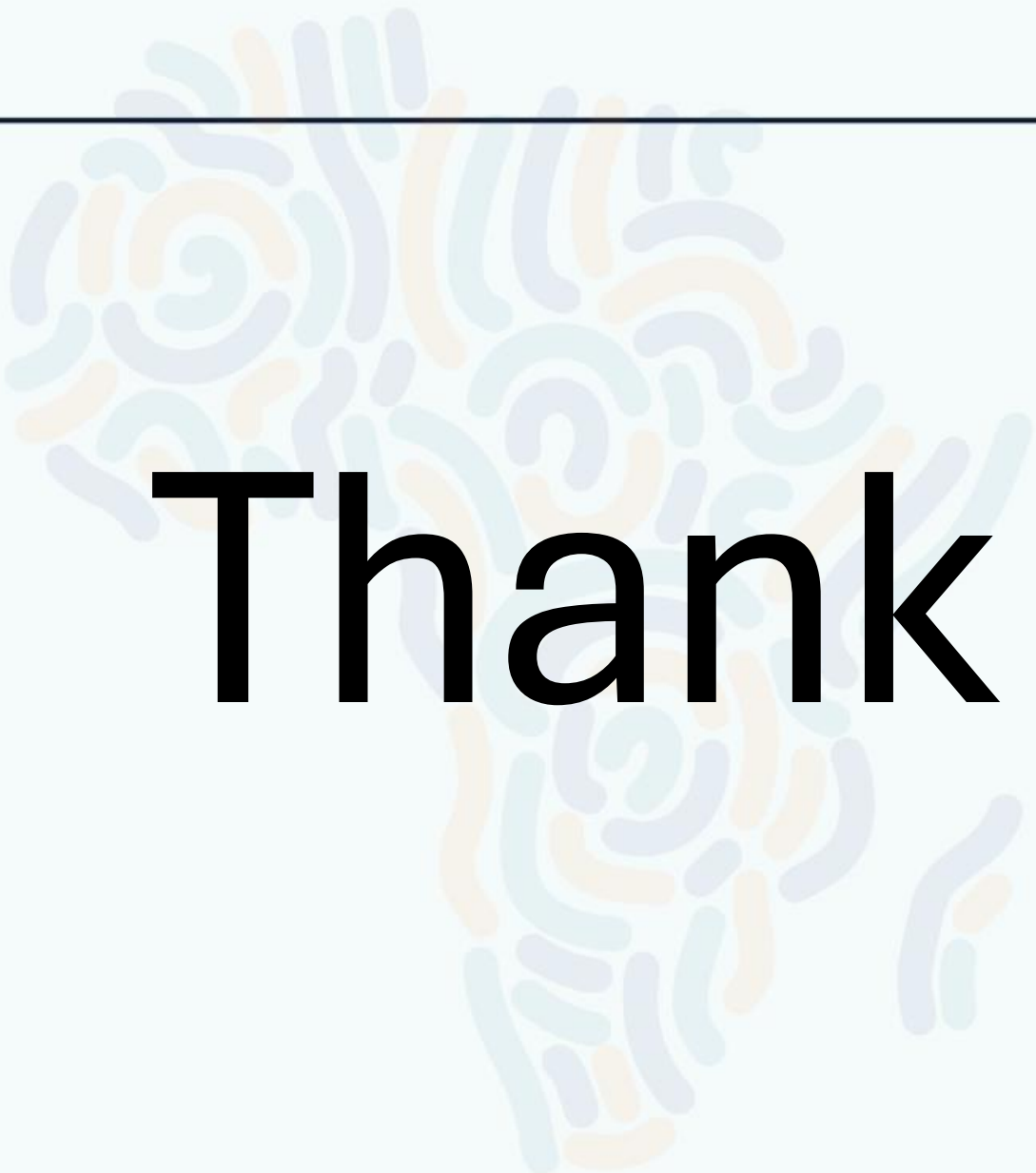
Cervical cancer incidence & HPV programme coverage in Africa Region

Box size: incidence rate (per 100 000) · Box colour: HPV vaccine programme coverage (%)



- Box size reflects cervical cancer incidence
- darker shades of blue correspond to higher HPV vaccine coverage.
- Grey boxes on the right side of the plot show countries that have not yet introduced HPV vaccines.

Sources: WHO immunization data & Global Cancer Observatory



Thank you