

Breast & Cervical Cancer

Nunavut, 1999-2011[†]

Quick facts: Breast

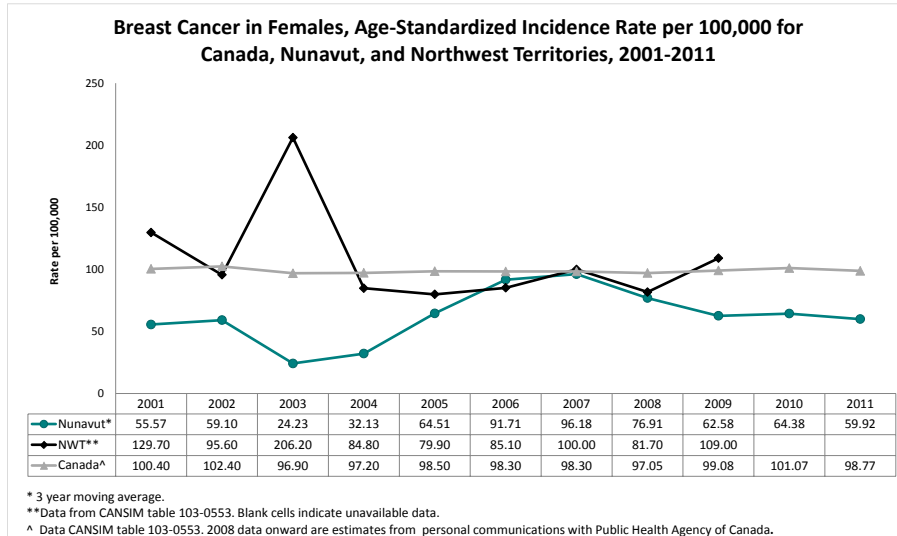
- Average of 5 cases per year
- Average age at diagnosis 53 years
- 8% mortality within 1 year of diagnosis

Quick facts: Cervix

- Average of 1 case per year
- Average age at diagnosis 43 years
- 8% mortality within 1 year of diagnosis

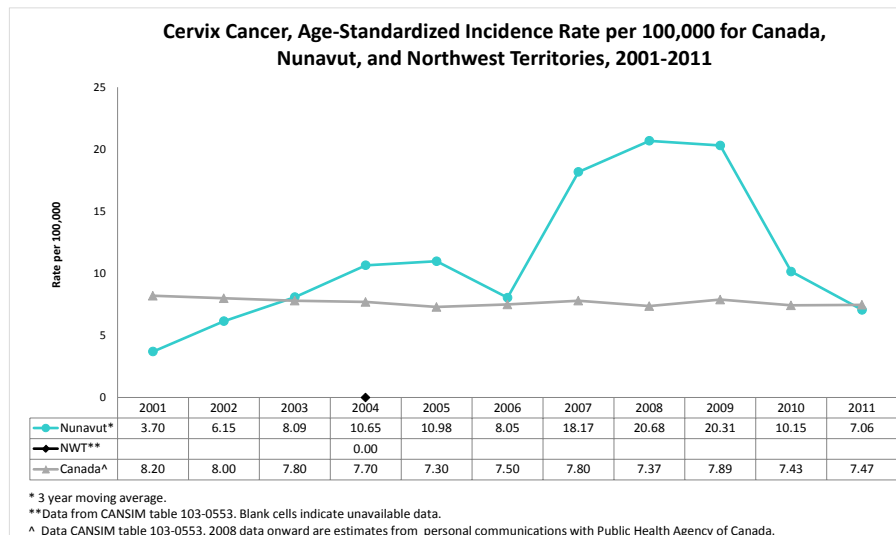
1. What are breast cancer rates in Nunavut and how do we compare to the rest of Canada?

- For cancers that primarily affect women, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer amongst female Nunavummiut with 63 cases¹ diagnosed between 1999 and 2011.
- Lifestyle risk factors include: alcohol use.
- Protective factors include: (1) pregnancy and (2) breastfeeding.
- The Nunavut breast cancer rate is below national and NWT rates; this difference is not significant².



2. What are cervical cancer rates in Nunavut and how do we compare to the rest of Canada?

- For cancers that primarily affect women, cervical cancer is the second highest cancer amongst female Nunavummiut with 16 cases diagnosed between 1999 and 2011.
- Lifestyle risk factors include: (1) not having HPV vaccine and (2) smoking.
- The Nunavut cervical cancer rate exceeds the Canadian rate, but not significantly².



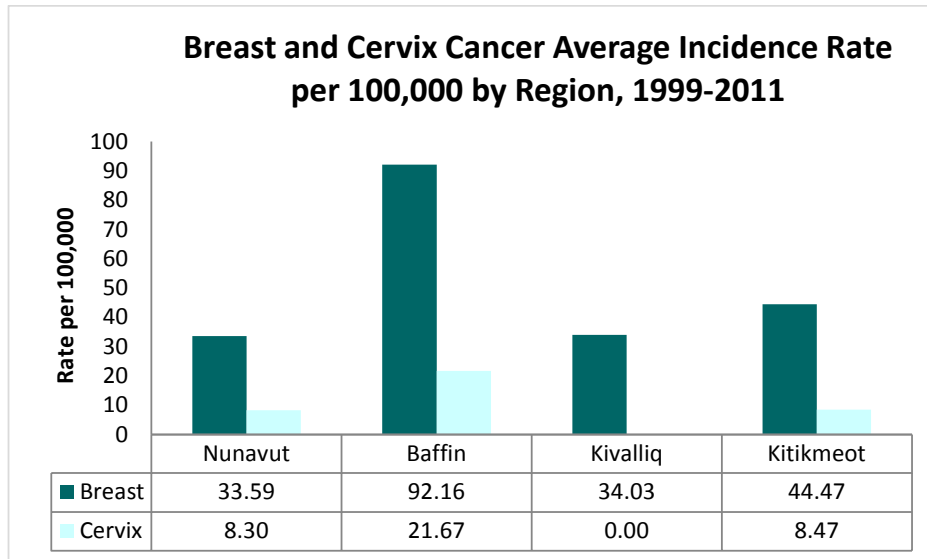
[†]2011 data are preliminary

¹ There was 1 male breast cancer case that was excluded from this report

² Statistical Significance was determined by confidence interval overlap method, contact Population Health Information for more information.

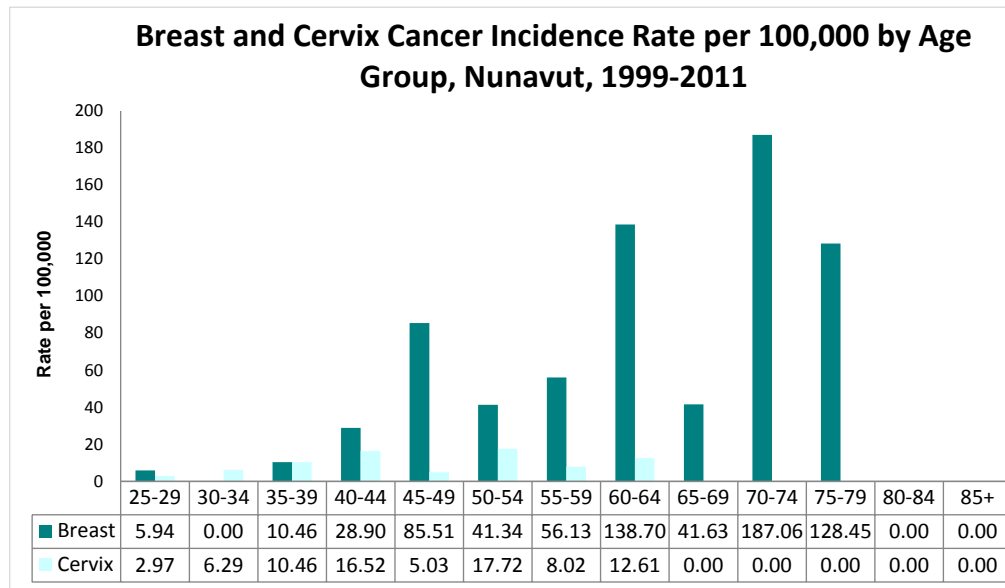
3. Are there regional differences in breast and cervical cancer rates across Nunavut?

- Baffin had the highest breast cancer rate followed by Kitikmeot. Baffin had the highest proportion of cases (47%) followed by Kivalliq (28%) and Kitikmeot (25%).
- Baffin had the highest cervical cancer rate followed by the Kitikmeot. Baffin had the highest proportion of cases (81%) with the rest of cases in Kitikmeot (19%).



4. Are there age-related trends in breast and cervical cancer incidence in Nunavut?

- An age-related trend cannot be established for breast cancer. For cervical cancer, there are too few cases for trending.



5. What mortality data is available for breast and cervical cancer?

- Death clearance data is obtained from Statistics Canada and is available for years 1999-2008. For Nunavummiut diagnosed with:
 - Breast cancer: 8% died within one year of diagnosis.
 - Cervical cancer: 8% died within one year of diagnosis.



¹2011 data are preliminary

²There was 1 male breast cancer case that was excluded from this report

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