In 2018, 19 of the top 20 countries with the highest cervical cancer burden were in sub-Saharan Africa. Eswatini had the highest incidence rate of cervical cancer in 2018, followed by Malawi.

Nearly all cases are caused by two strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV): HPV-16 and HPV-18, both of which account for about 70% of all cervical cancer cases.

This type of cancer is highly preventable, but poor access to prevention, screening and treatment contributes to 90% of the deaths.