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AN ACCREDITED CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES WITH THE EXPERTS

Addressing Disparities in Cancer Care and Incorporating Precision Medicine for Minority Populations

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Disparities in Cancer Care: Cervical Cancer/Gynecologic Malignancies



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Faculty Disclosures

Edith Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP, FRCP

Consultant: AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Genentech, Merck & Co., Inc., Pfizer Inc., Taiho Oncology, Inc.

Clinical Research: Amgen, Genentech

Rebecca Perkins, MD, MSc

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Planning Committee

The following planning committee members have nothing to disclose:

UNMC: Brenda Ram, CMP, CHCP

Bio Ascend: Chloe Dunnam; Lucja Grajkowska, PhD; Kraig Steubing

Learning Objectives

- Review racial difference in the outcomes in patients with cancer, including patients with both hematologic and solid tumors
- Evaluate sociodemographic, physician, and hospital factors that can help identify potentially modifiable patient and health care system factors that may underlie persistent racial disparities in receipt and quality of therapy
- Develop efforts to improve access to care, enhance diversity in the healthcare workforce, navigate minority cancer patients through the healthcare system, and enhance adherence to cancer-specific best practice

Cervical Cancer Prevention: Focus on Disparities

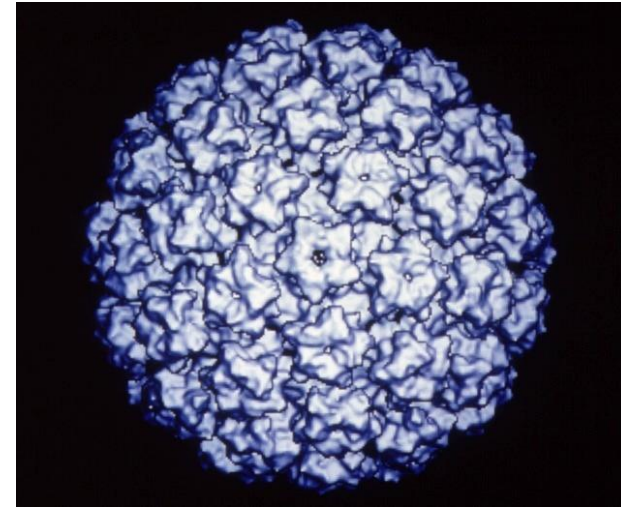
Rebecca B. Perkins MD, MSc
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Medical Center

Objectives

- 1) Understand etiology of cervical cancer
- 2) Understand the current state of cervical cancer disparities
- 3) Understand sources of disparities, screening/treatment
- 4) Call to action: prevent/reverse disparities in cervical cancer

What is HPV?

- A virus that infects human skin
- Transmitted easily by touching
- >80% of people are exposed during their lifetime
- Classified as a carcinogen



HPV

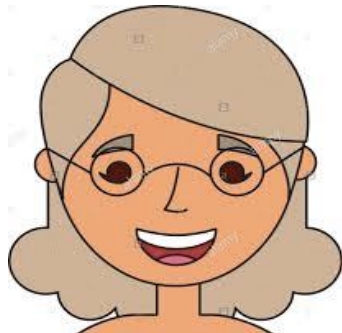
Cervical cancer prevention throughout the lifespan



- **Ages 9-20**
 - HPV vaccination

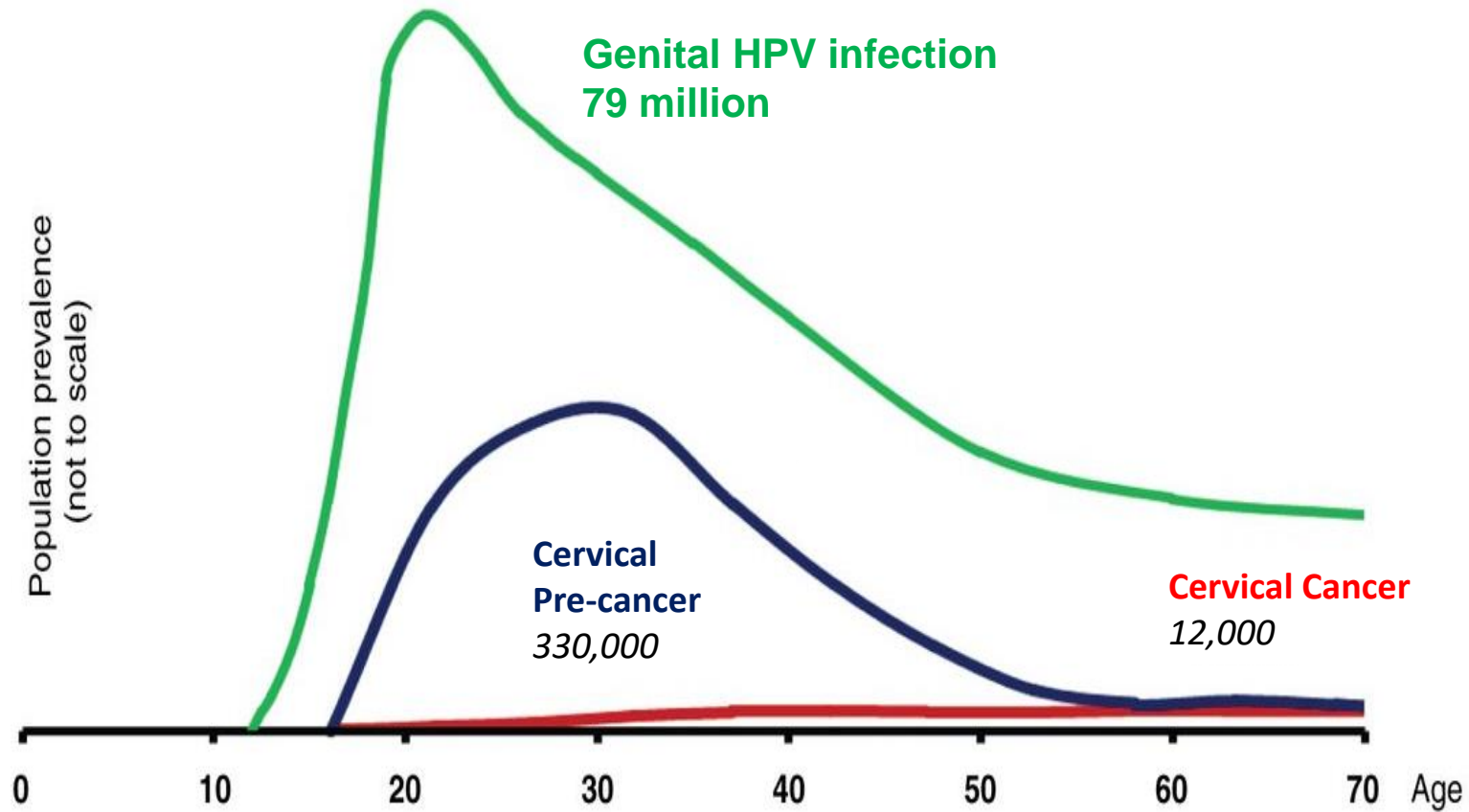


- **Ages 21-26**
 - Screening + catch-up vaccination

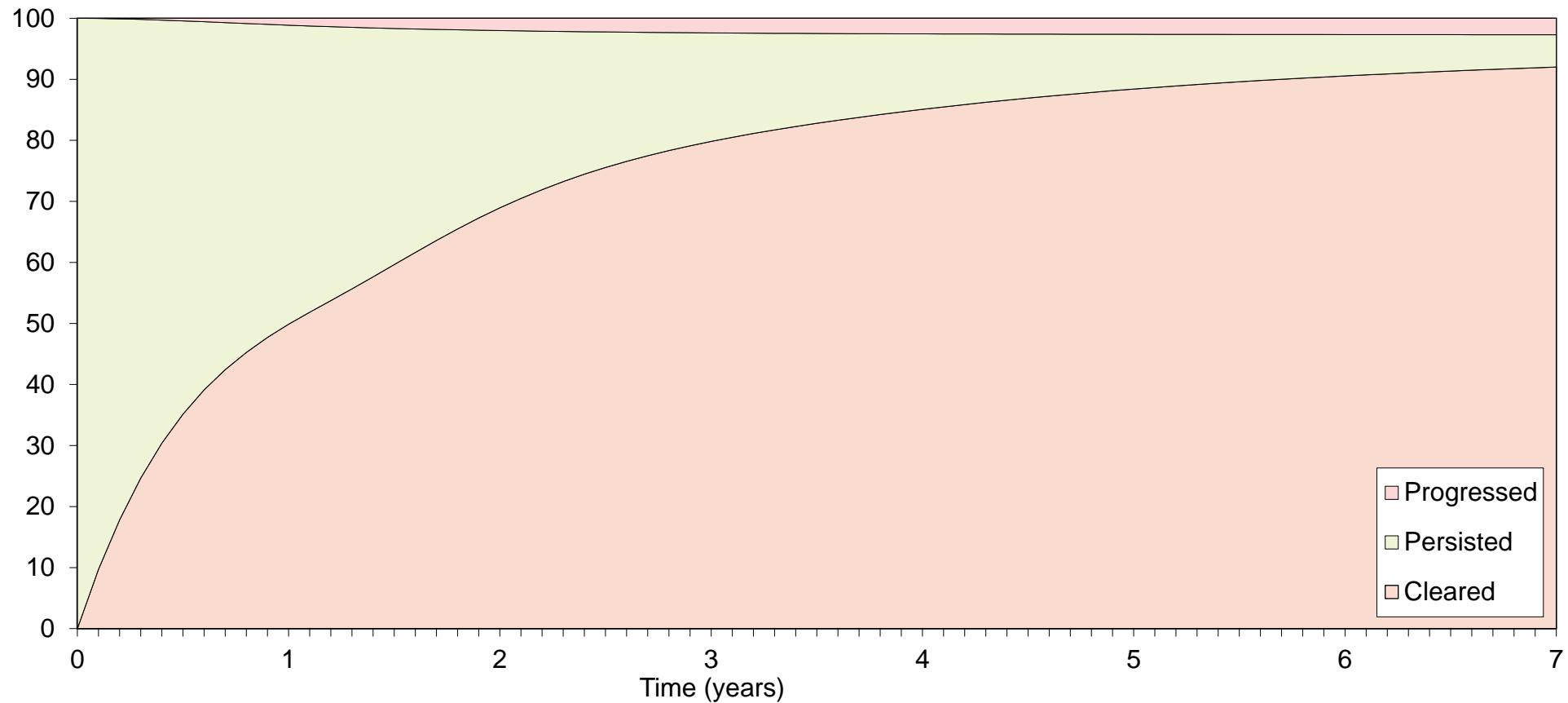


- **Ages 27-65**
 - Screening

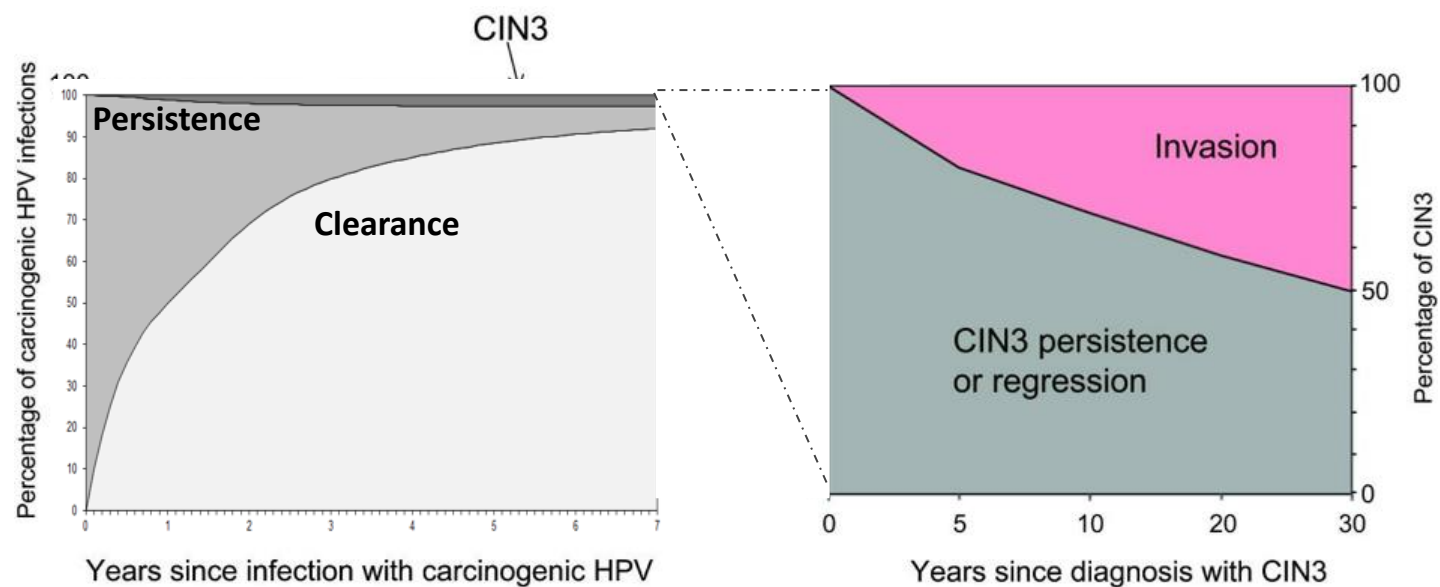
HPV infection occurs in young adulthood, cancers develop 10-30 years later



**Most HPV infections become undetectable in 1-3 years
those that persist cause precancer (CIN3+) over time**



Precancer and cancer increase markedly when infections persist for 5 years or more



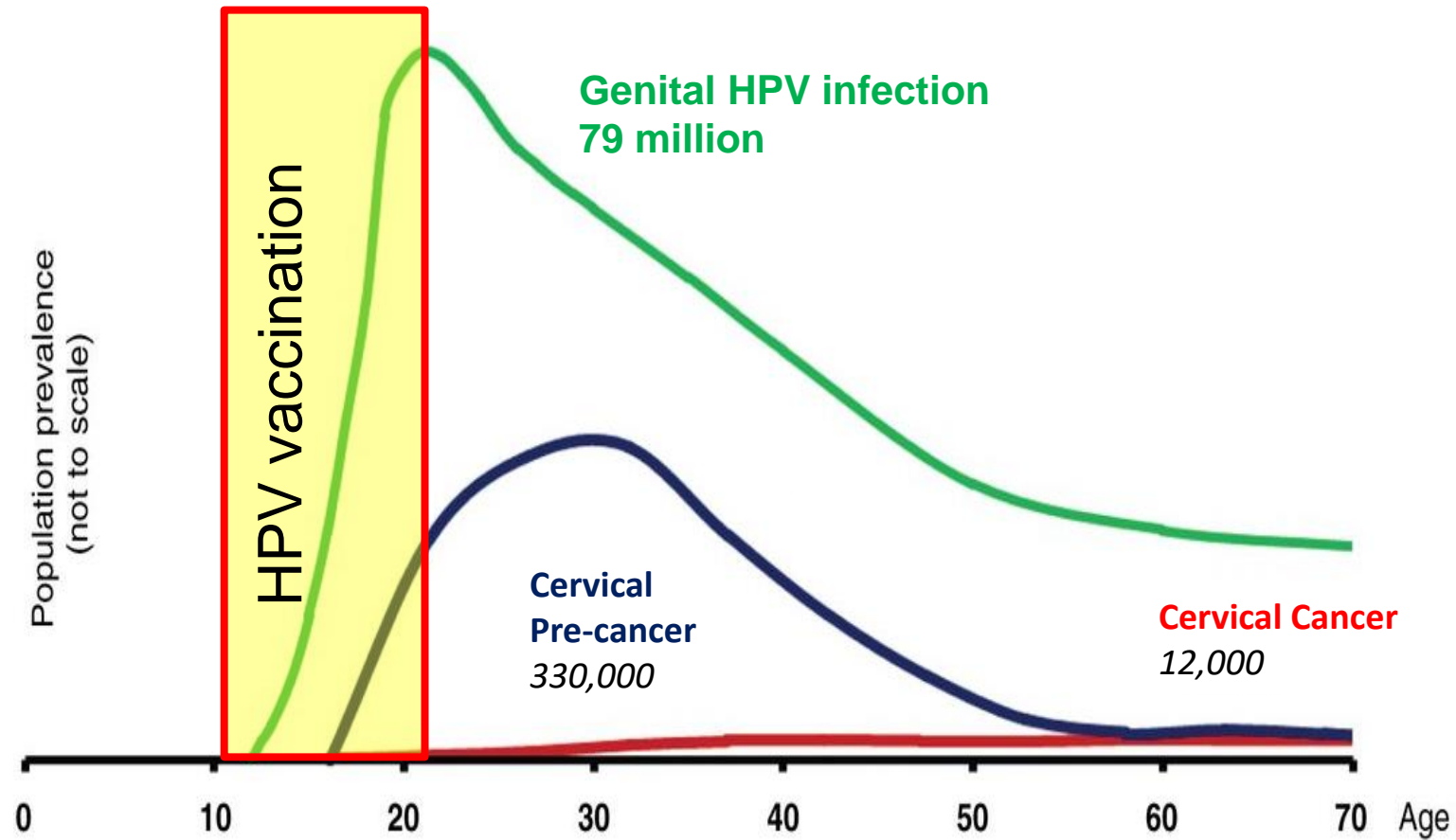
HPV cancer prevention has two phases

- 1) Vaccinating adolescents to prevent infections that can lead to cancer
- 2) Screening adults to detect and treat precancer before cancer develops
- 3) *Universal application of vaccination and screening can eliminate cervical cancer*

HPV vaccination: Current ACIP/AAP Recommendations

- HPV vaccine ***recommended*** for all adolescents ages 9 through age 26
- On-time vaccination is ages 9–12
- Catch-up vaccination ages 13-26
- ***Individual decision making*** for individuals age 27-45 (not routinely recommended due to limited benefit)

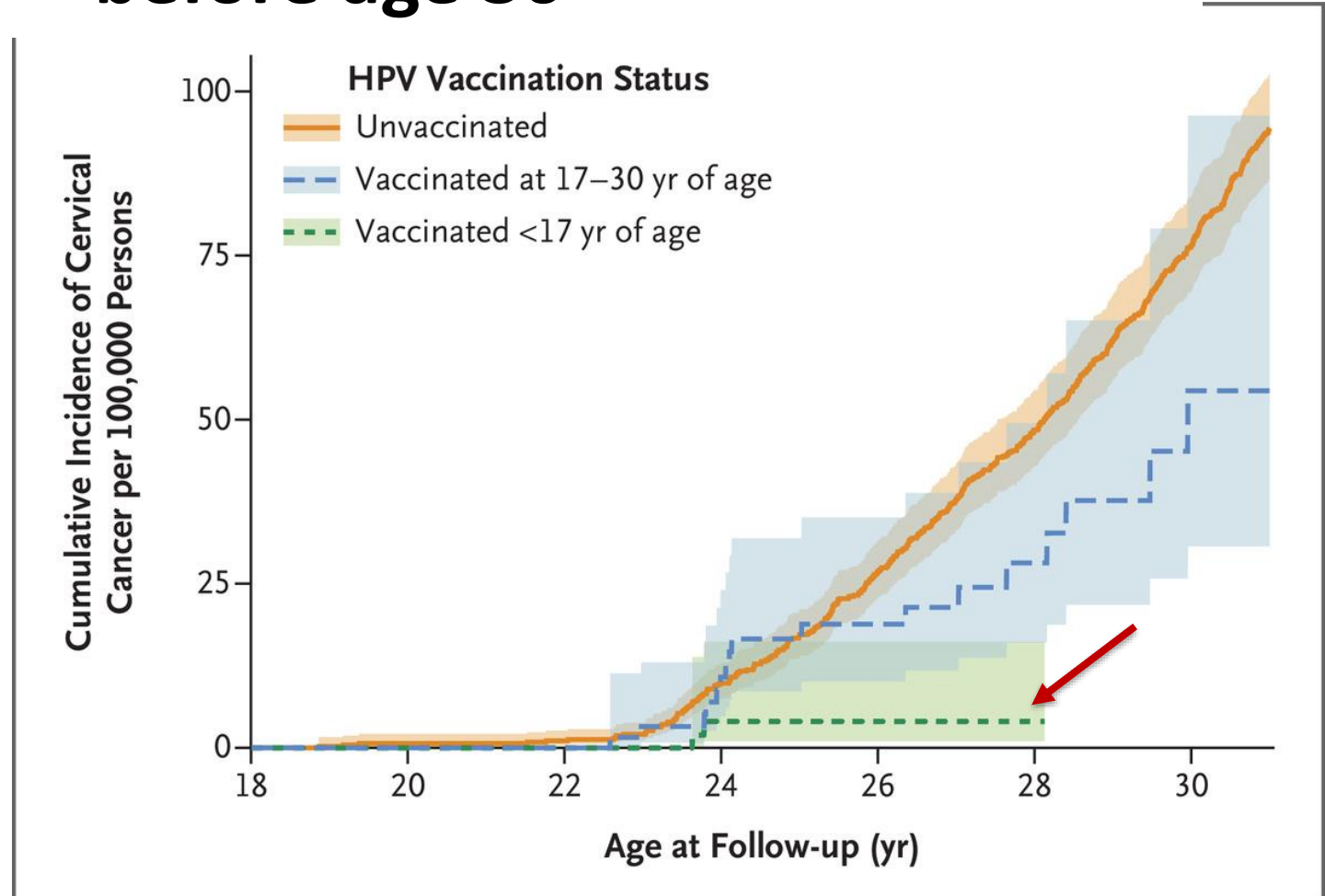
HPV Vaccination of Kids Eliminates HPV Infection and the Downstream Consequences



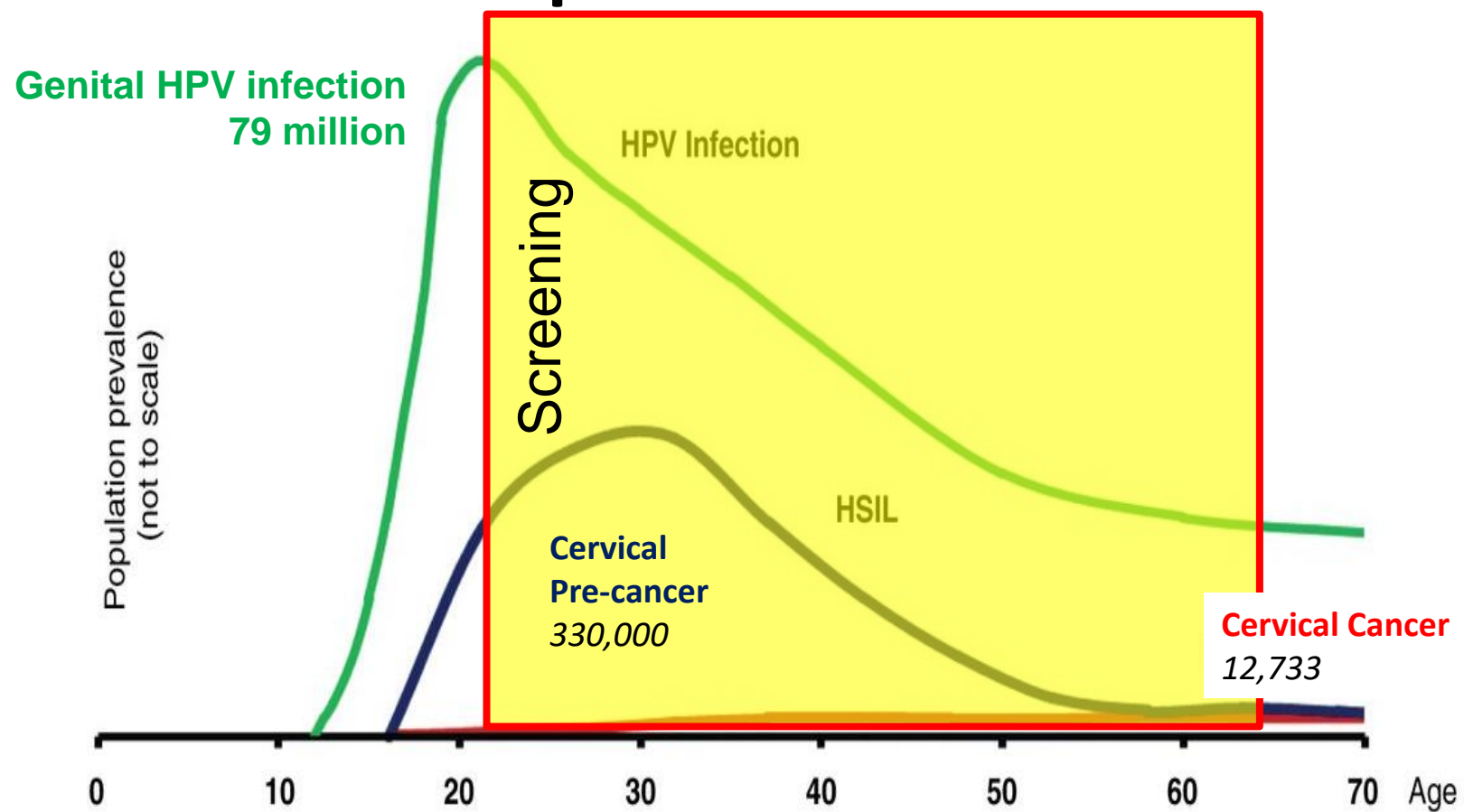
Source: Schiffman M et al., 2013

Near elimination of cervical cancer before age 30

- Girls vaccinated before age 17 were 88% less likely to develop cervical cancer
- Cervical cancer screening began at age 23, so this reduction was in addition to screening



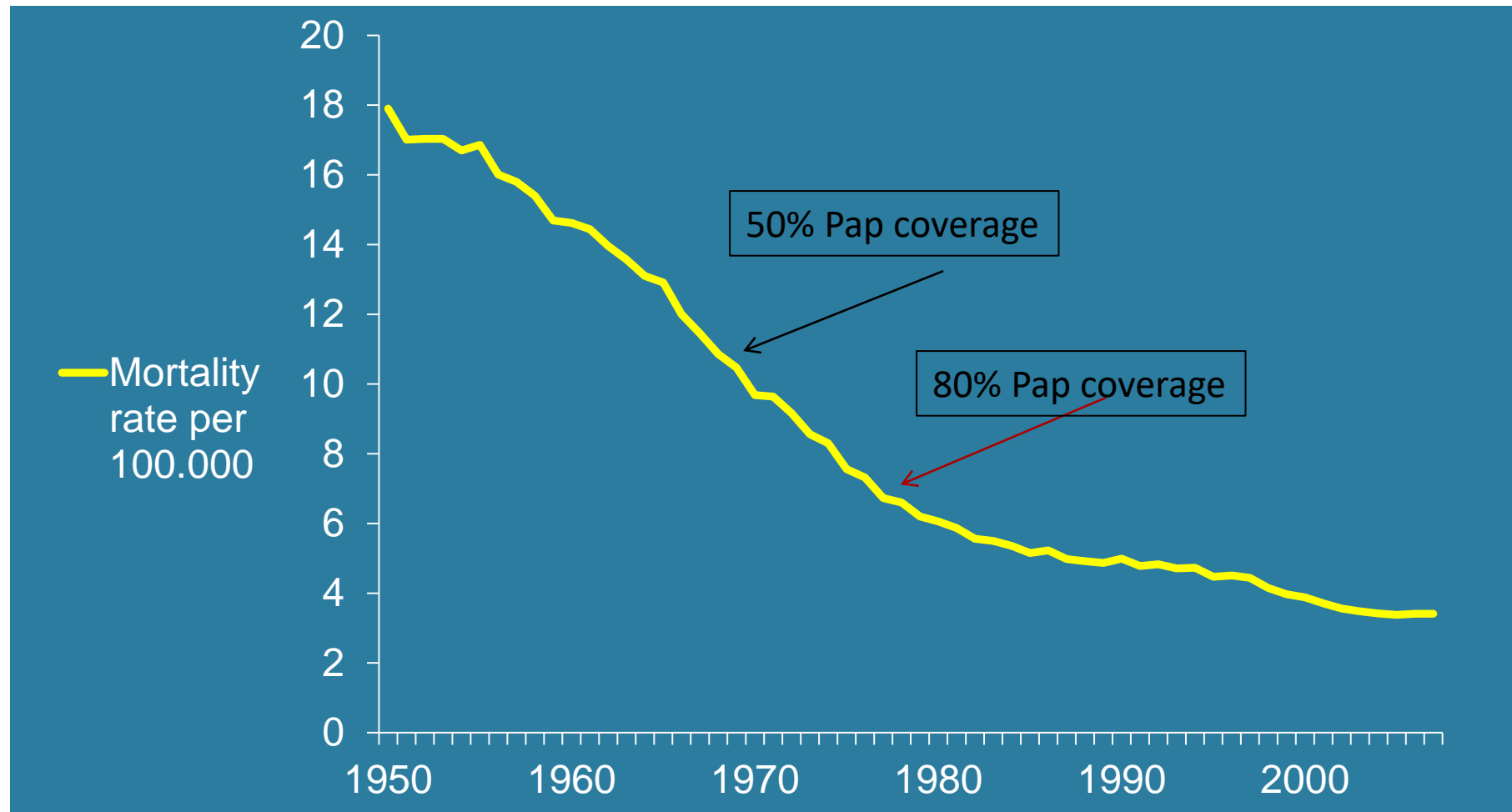
Screening and treatment of precancers prevents cancer



Source: Schiffman M et al., 2013

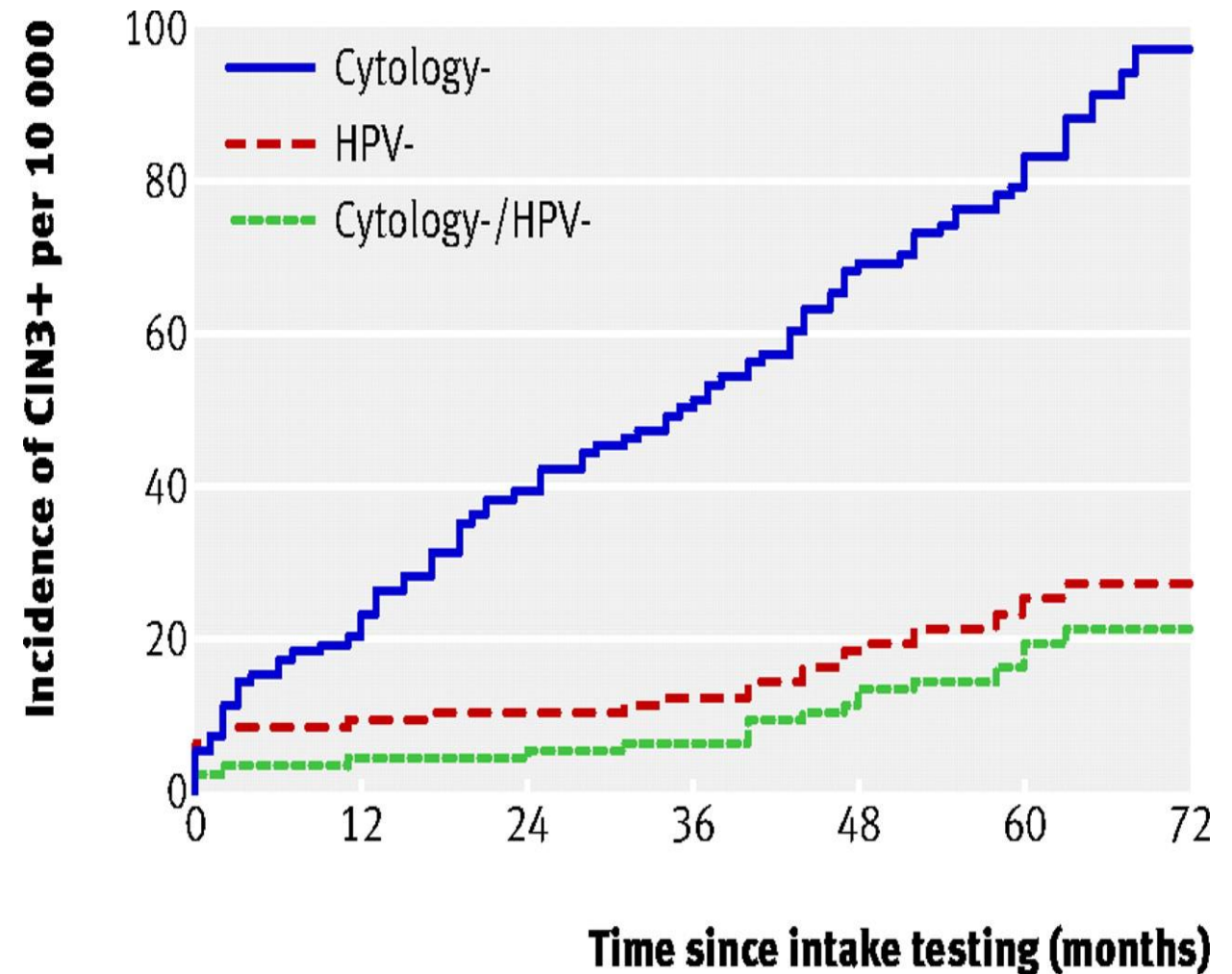
CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

Secondary Cancer Prevention for Potentially HPV-infected Individuals

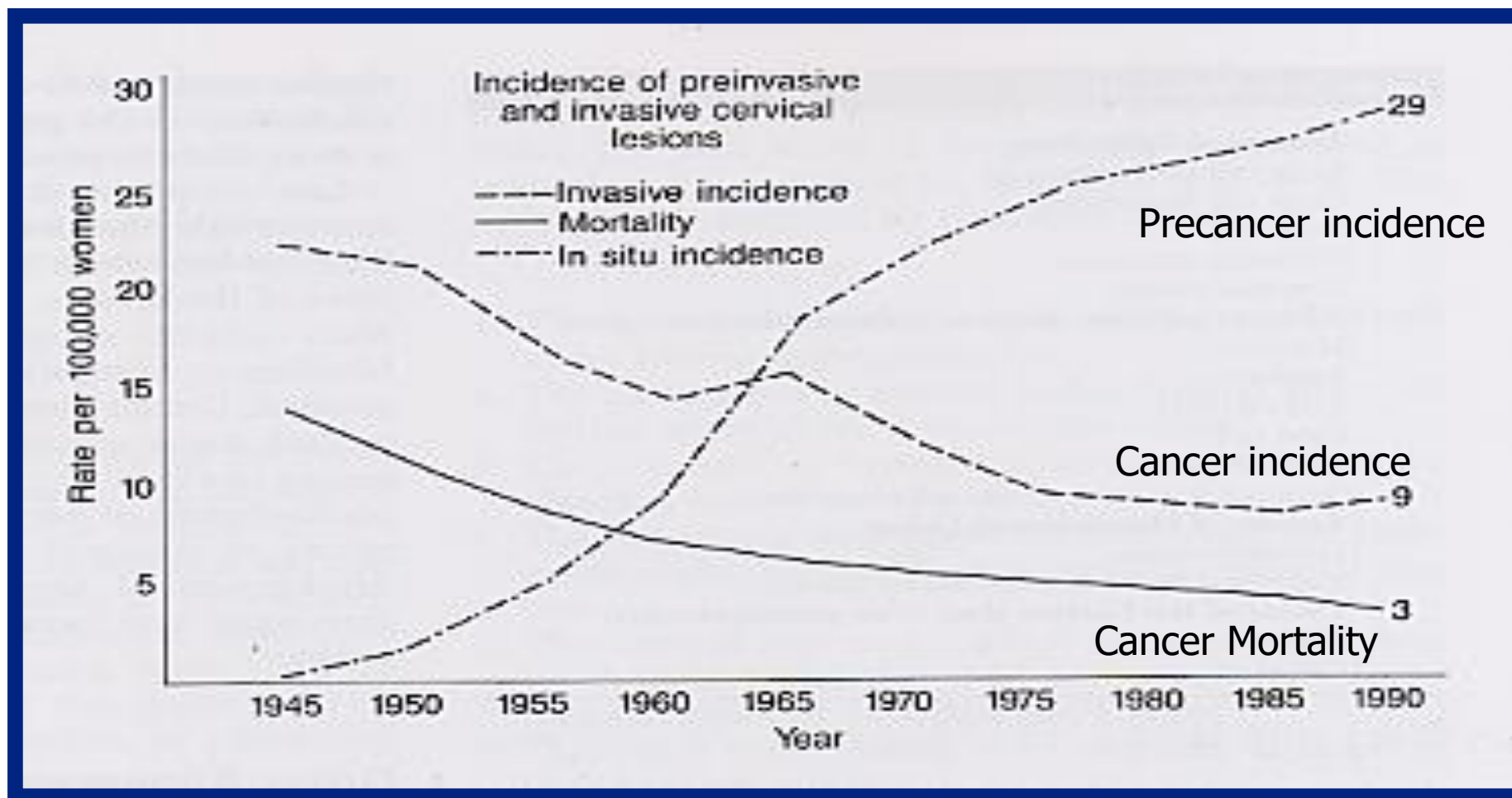


HPV testing detects more precancer (CIN3+) than Pap testing

- Pap testing is less sensitive than HPV testing
 - Detects 50-70% of CIN3+ vs >90%
- Cytology alone does not confer long-term protection against CIN3+ following a negative test
- HPV testing can further reduce cancer rates



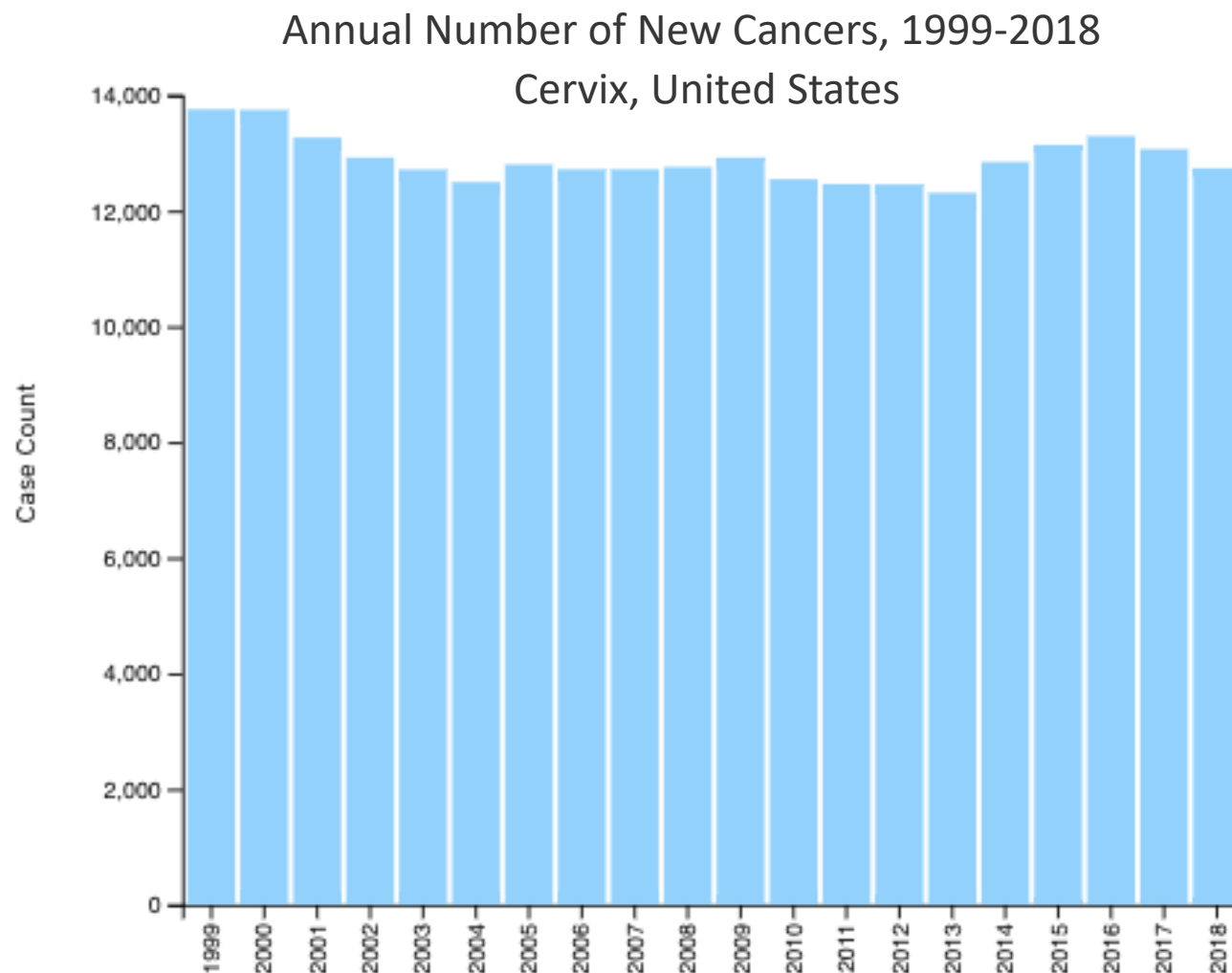
As Detection of Cervical Precancer Increases, Cancer Mortality Decreases



Despite knowing how to prevent cervical cancer...

- In **2018**, the latest year for which incidence data are available, in the **United States**,
- **12,733 new cases of Cervical Cancer**
- **4,138 deaths**

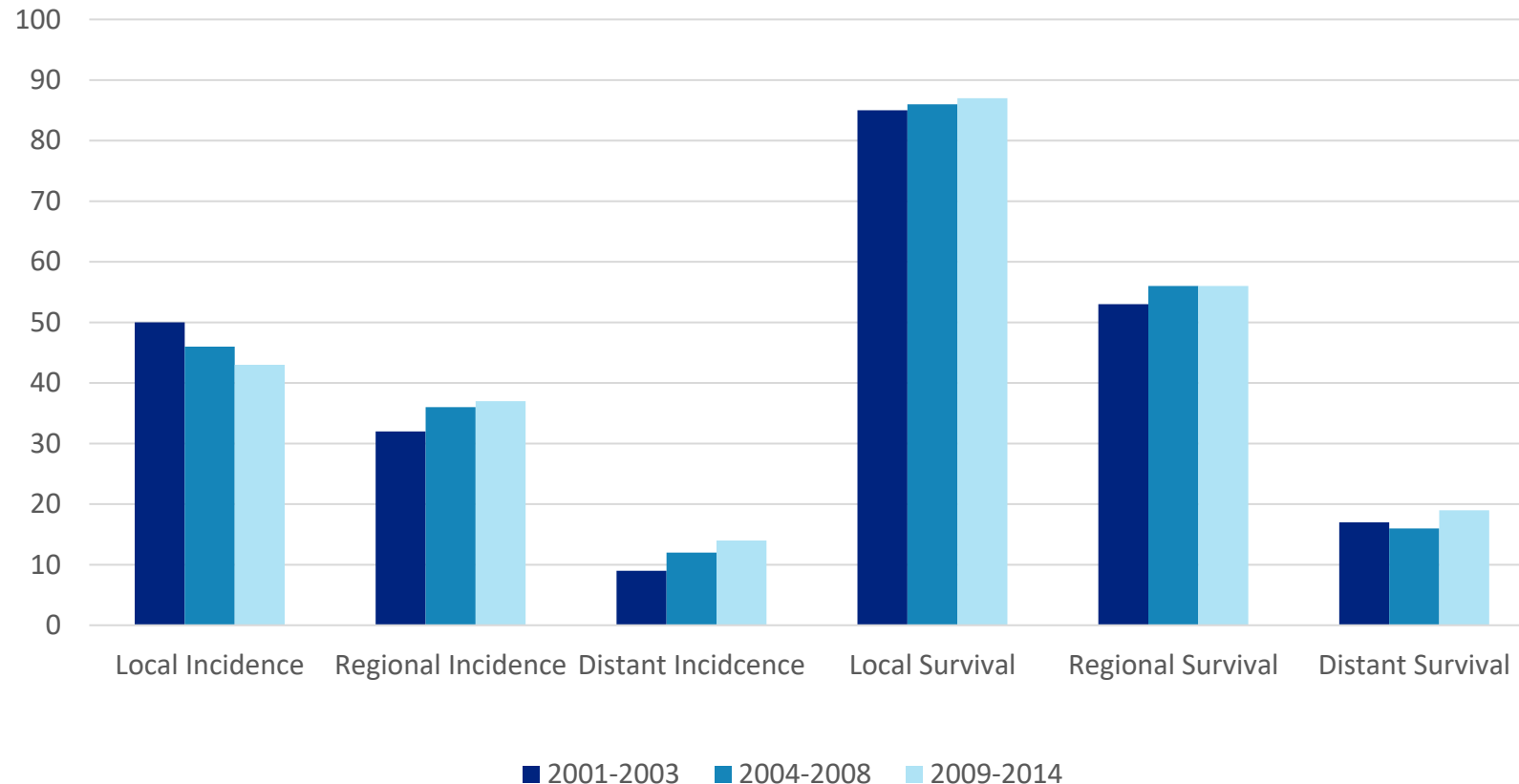
Cervical cancers have not decreased in more than two decades



Data source - U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2020 submission data (1999-2018): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>, released in June 2021.

Cancer being diagnosed at later stages, leading to lower overall survival in US despite improved survival for each stage

Overall survival decreased from 64% to 62% between 2003-2014



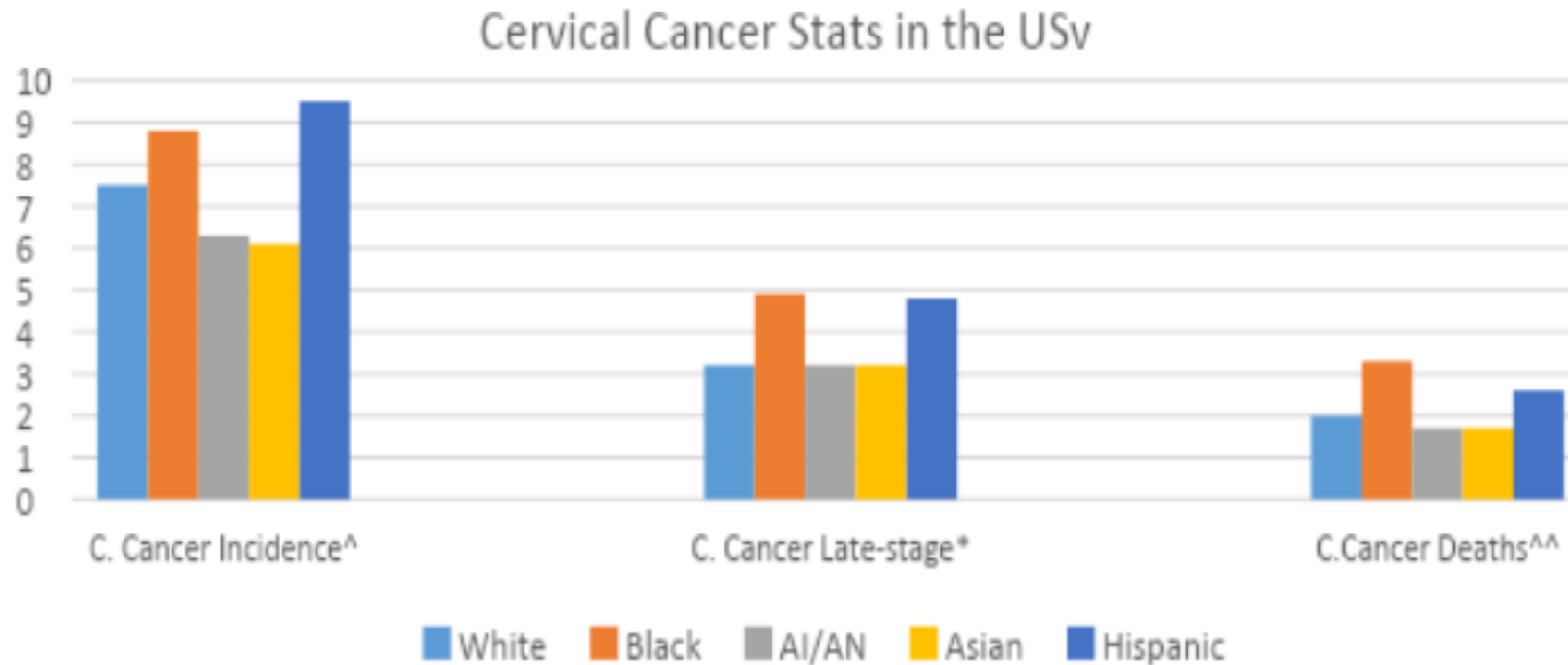
Data from 41 state-wide population-based [cancer registries](#) on 138,883 women diagnosed with cervical cancer during 2001–2014

Key topics for women's health in 2021 identified by Congress:

- (1) clinical practices related to rising maternal morbidity and mortality rates;
- (2) increasing rates of chronic debilitating conditions in women;
- (3) ***stagnant cervical cancer survival rates.***

There are also significant racial and ethnic disparities related to cervical cancer. For example, Black and Hispanic women in the U.S. are diagnosed more frequently than women of other races and ethnicities in the U.S. and are less likely to survive.

Racial/ethnic disparities in cervical cancer incidence, stage at diagnosis, and mortality



[^]Incidence: age-adjusted rate/100,000 women. 2013-2017

^{*}Late-stage incidence: age-adjusted rate/100,000. 2013-2017

^{^^}Deaths: age-adjusted rate/100,000. 2014-2018

<https://www.jsi.com/why-is-cervical-cancer-still-claiming-lives/>

Why does cervical cancer still occur?

Medical record review of 376 women with invasive cervical cancer: 3 US cancer registries; Michigan, New Jersey, Louisiana, 2013—2016

Among women who developed cervical cancer:

60% unscreened

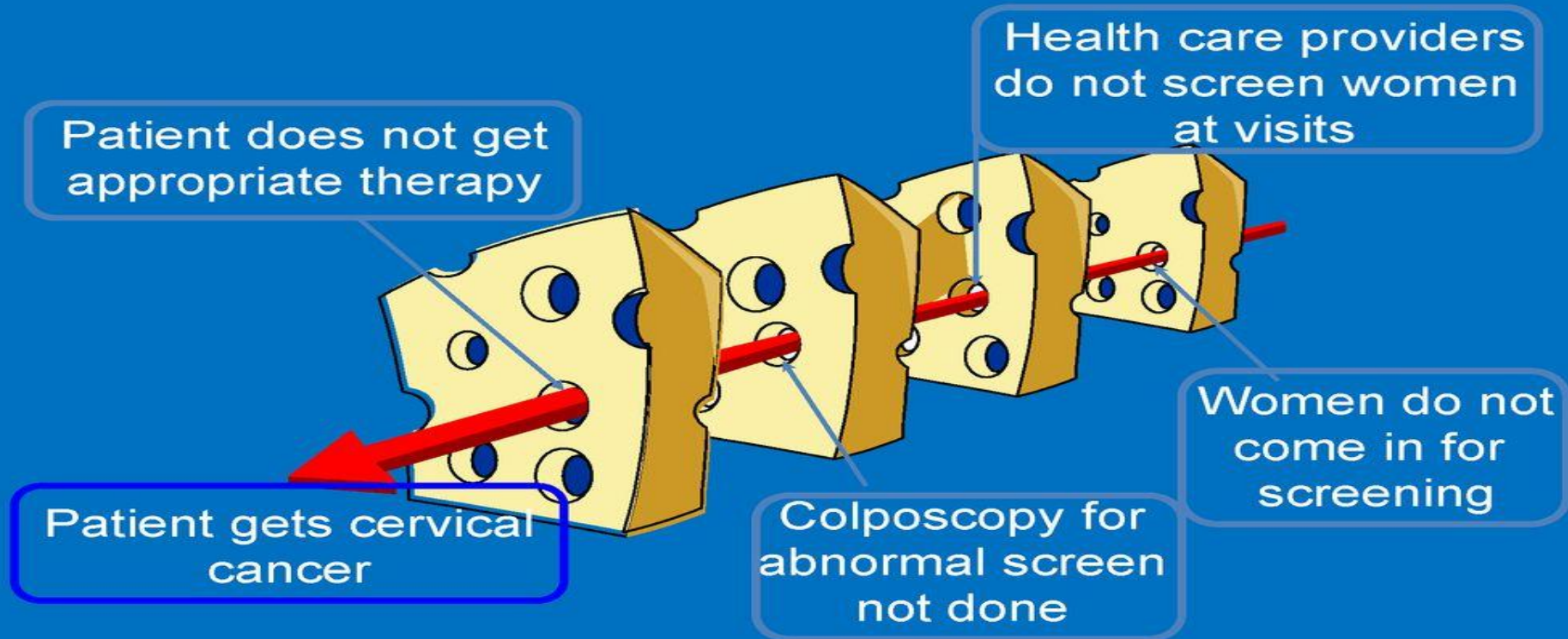
22% had inadequate follow-up after an abnormal test

15% missed by colposcopy

13% missed by screening*

3 of 4 unscreened women thought they were not at risk

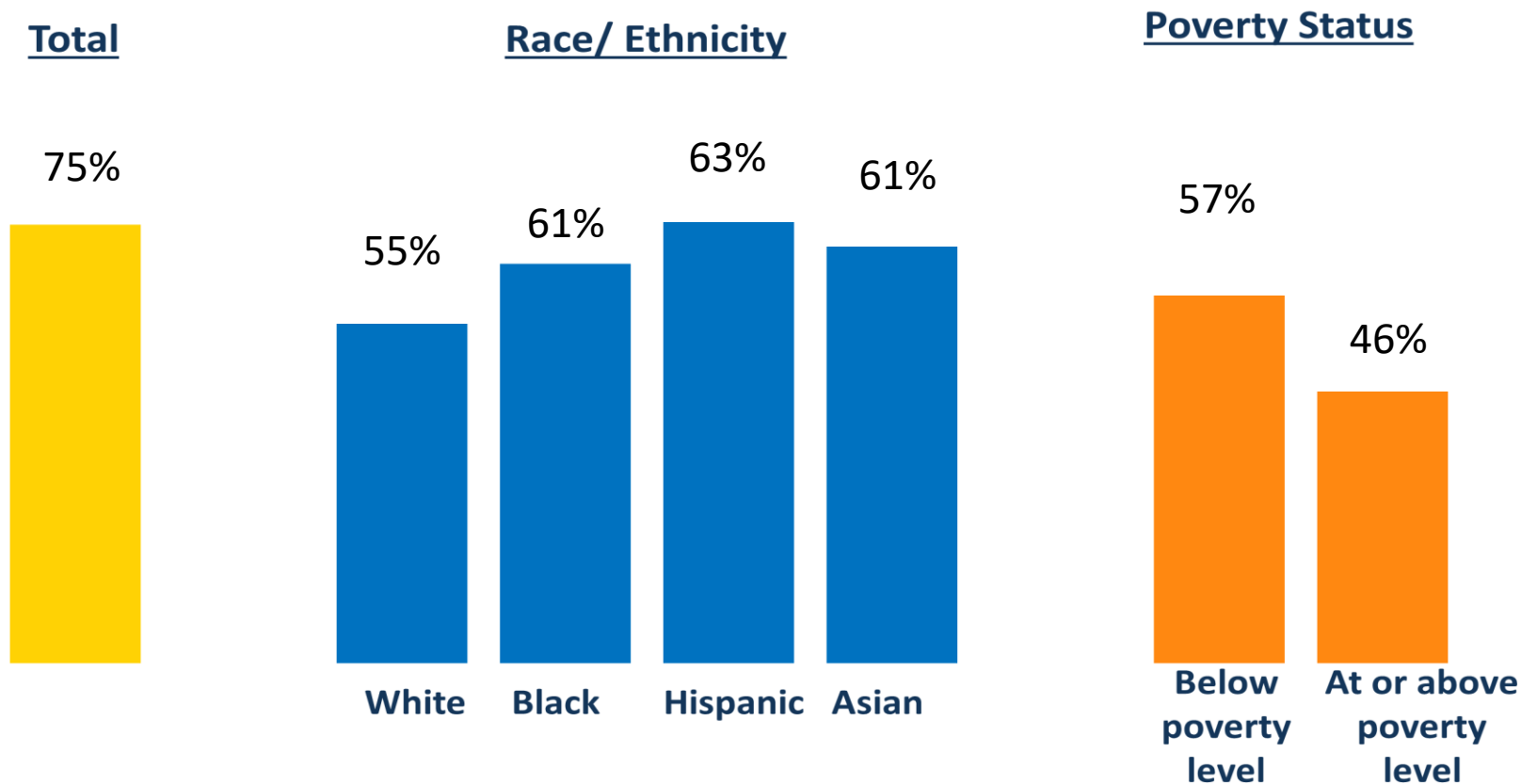
System Failures Leading to Cervical Cancer Diagnosis



Courtesy of Connie Trimble, MD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

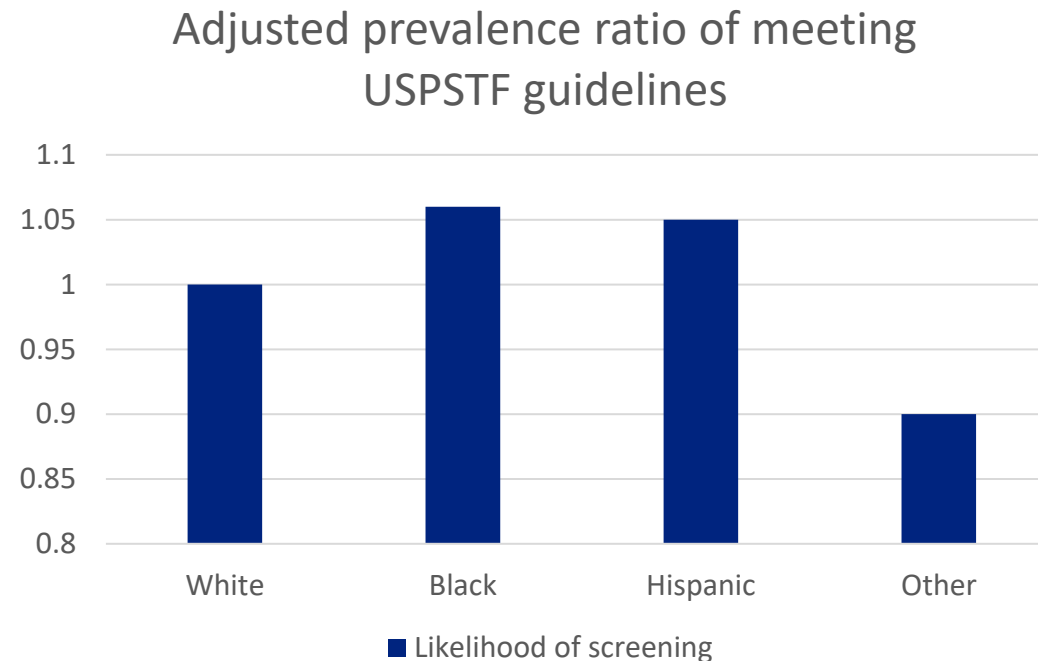
What factors drive observed disparities?

Racial/ethnic disparities *not* observed in HPV vaccination by race or poverty status



Racial/ethnic disparities *not* observed in cervical cancer screening or abnormal result follow-up

- ~ 80% of Black and White women report Pap test in the past 3 years or Pap+HPV test in the past 5 years
- *Higher* screening rates reported by Black and Hispanic compared to White women in 2018 BRFSS

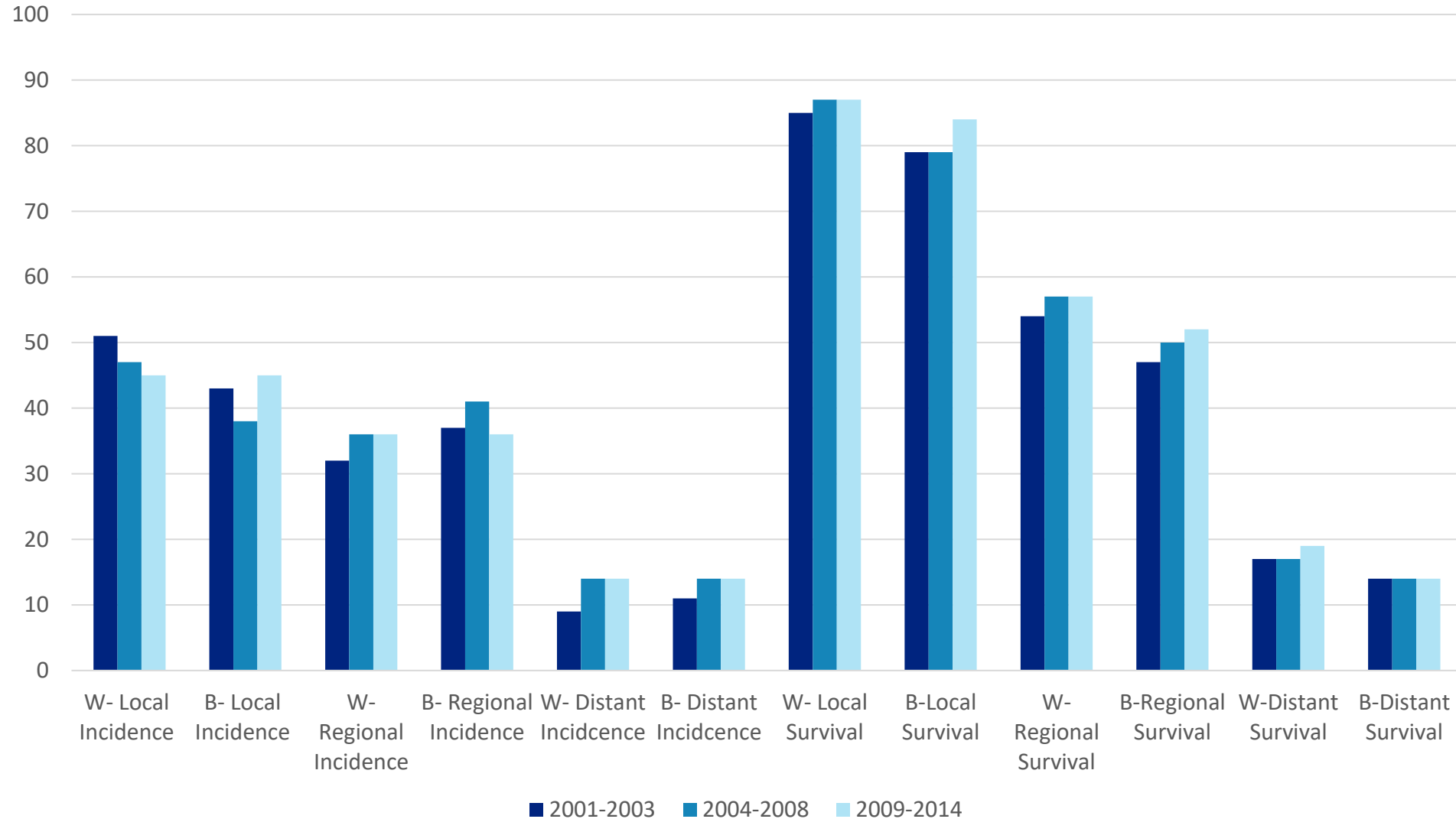


- Racial/ethnic differences not seen in follow-up after abnormal testing

Racial/ethnic disparities *observed* in treatment

- Delay of 7-11 days to treatment initiation among Black or Hispanic compared to white women after adjusting for other factors; no difference in outcomes or survival
- Fewer Black vs. white women received surgery for localized tumors (84% vs. 74%) or systemic therapy for distant tumors (65% vs 58%)
- Decreased use of brachytherapy independently associated with Black race, Medicaid/uninsured. Racial disparities in overall and disease-free survival disappeared when adjusting for receipt of brachytherapy

Racial Disparities *observed* in both stage at diagnosis and survival, Disparity in survival lessening over time



Drivers of disparities

Poverty

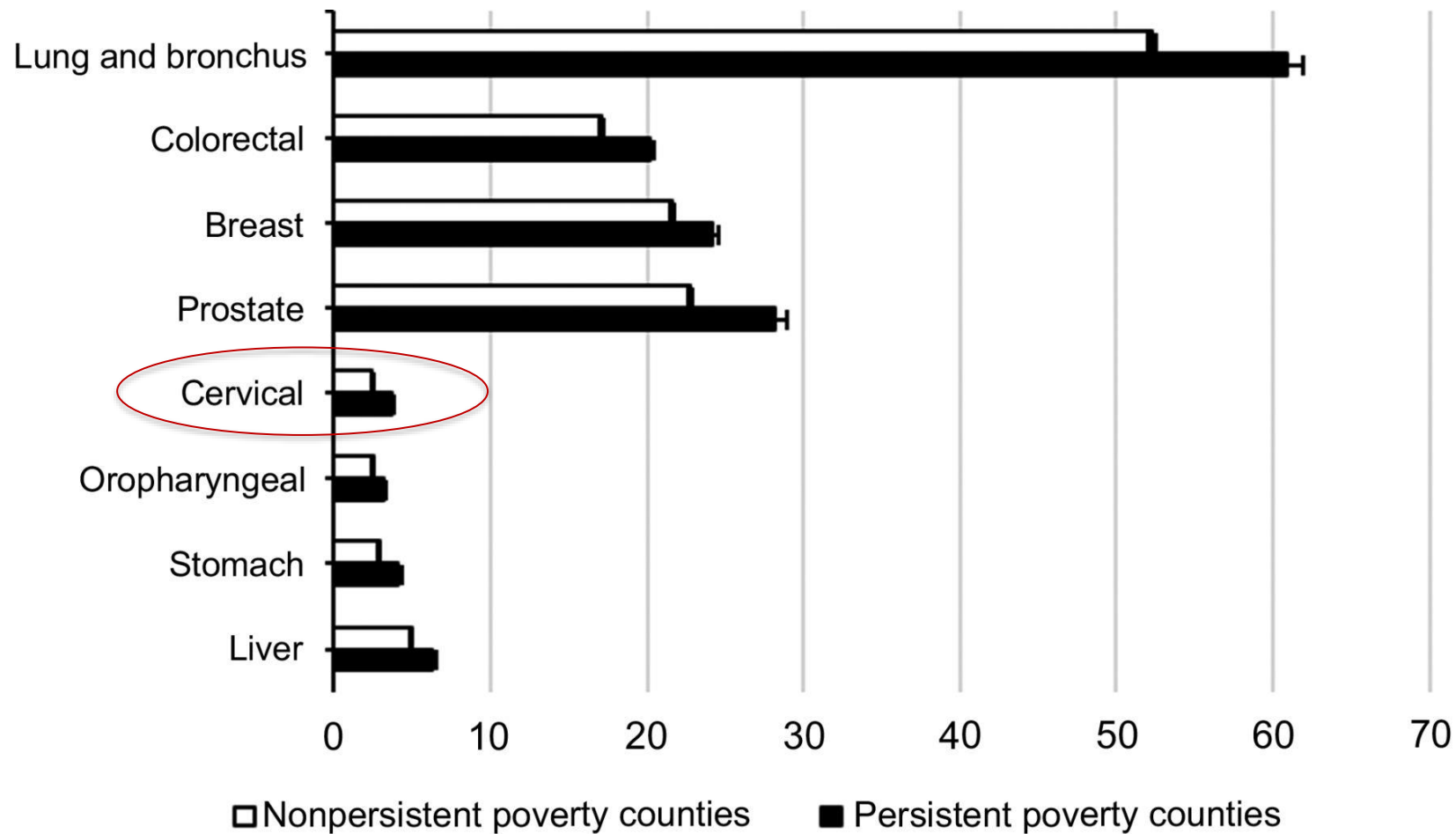
Rurality

Geography

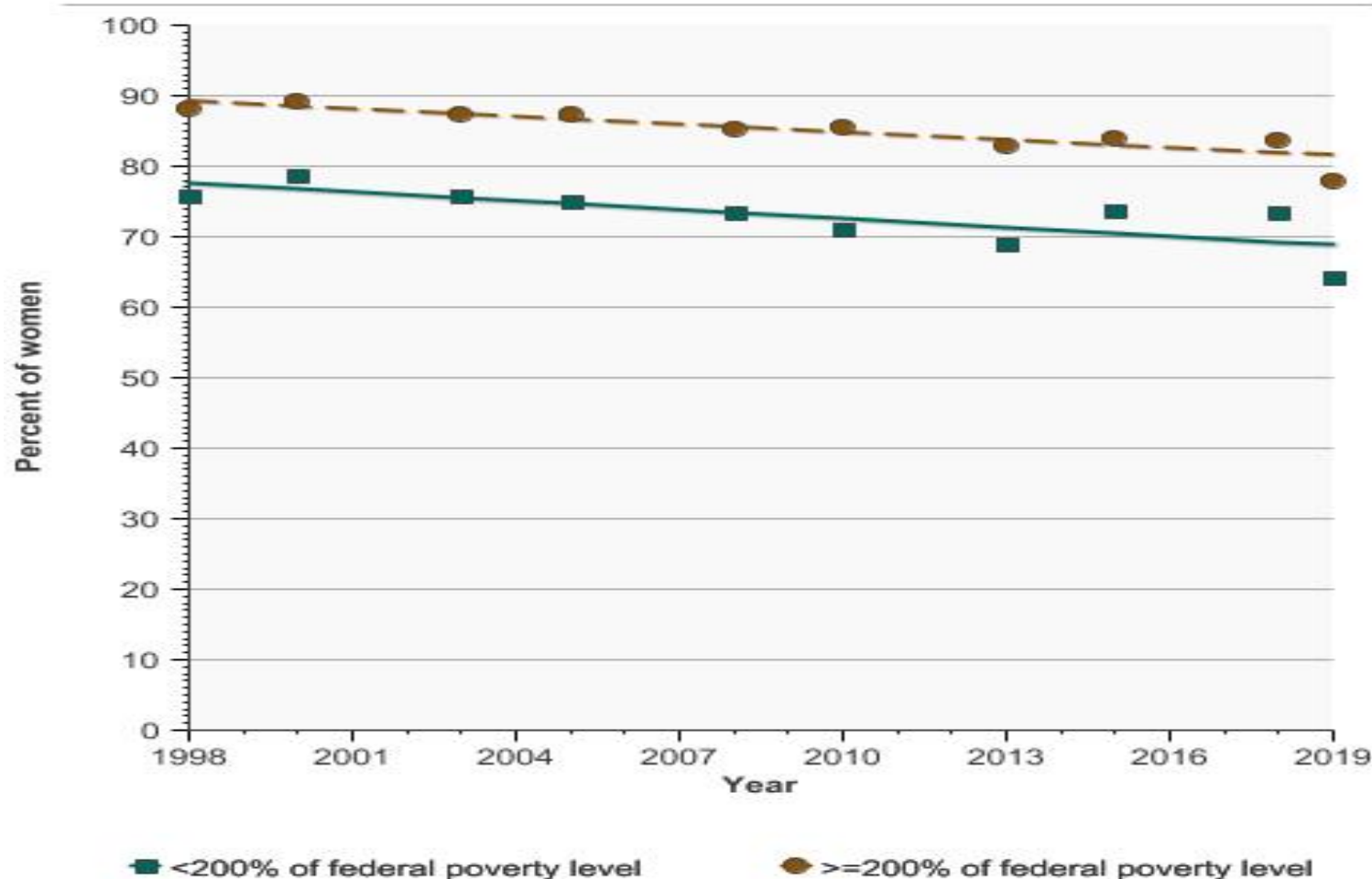
Social Determinants of Health



Age-adjusted cancer mortality rates for nonpersistent poverty versus persistent poverty **counties**, 2007–2011.



Percentage of females aged 21-65 years who were up-to-date with cervical cancer screening by poverty income level, 1998-2019

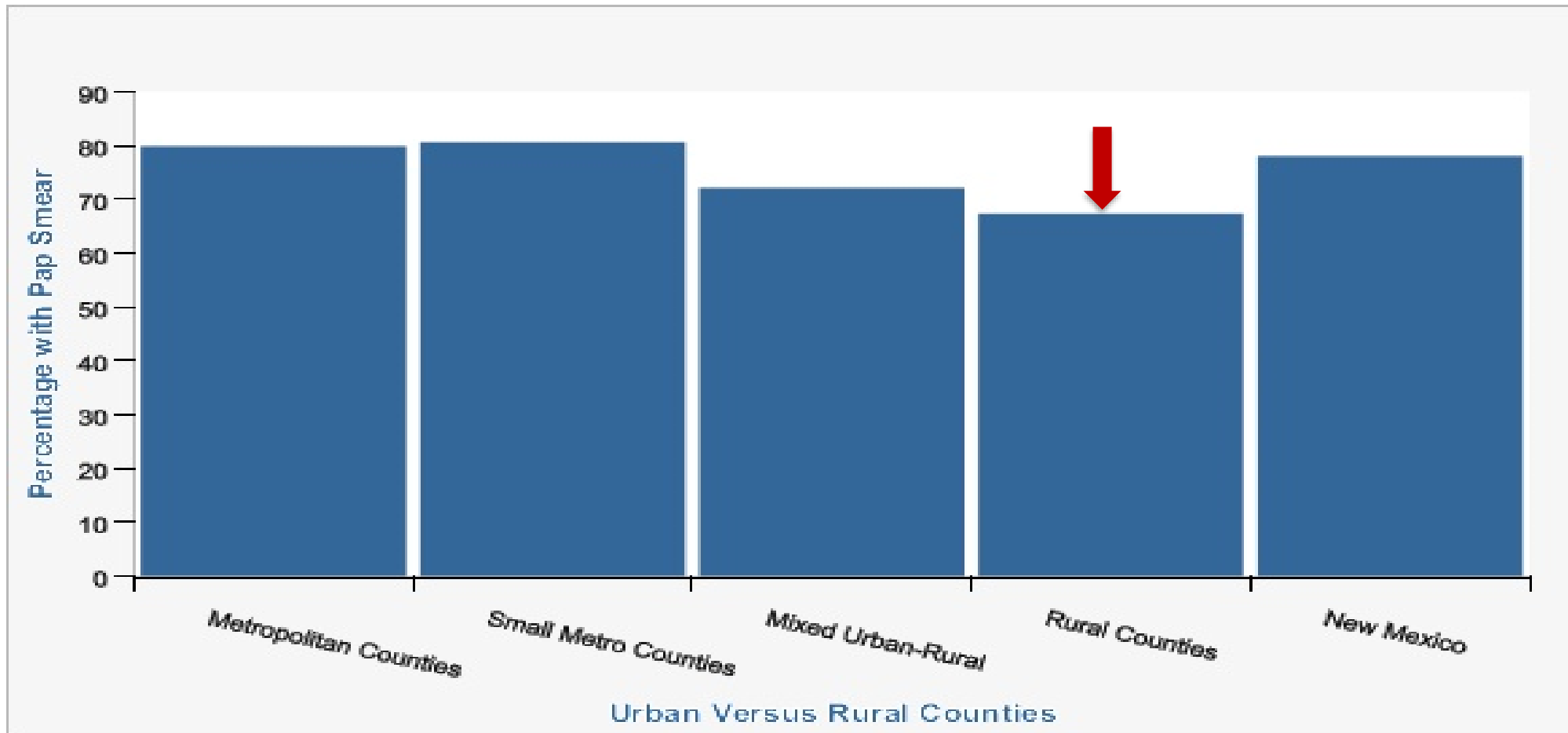


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Health Interview Survey.
Data are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population using age groups: 21-34, 35-44, 45-65.
For 2013 and before, up-to-date with cervical cancer screening was defined as having a Pap test within the past 3 years. For 2014-2018, up-to-date is defined as having a Pap test within the past 3 years for all women aged 21-65 years, with or without an HPV test in the past 5 years for women aged 30-65 years.

Income and insurance disparities in screening, follow-up, and stage at diagnosis; *account for observed racial/ethnic differences*

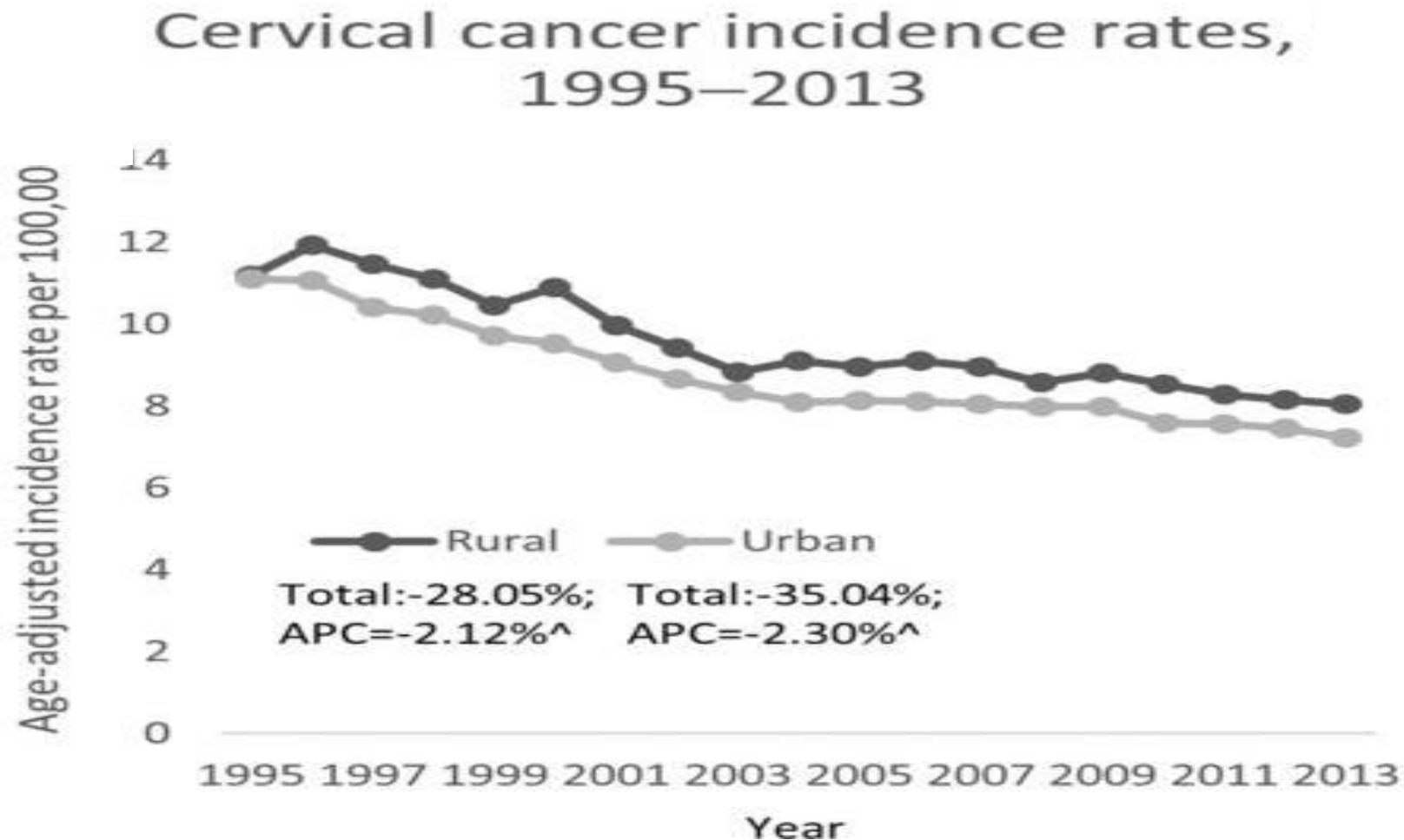
| | a. Screened (vs. Not Screened) (n=376) ^b | | | b. Adequate (vs. Inadequate) Follow-up Among Screened (n=122) ^c | | | c. Stage I (vs. Stage (n=349) | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|---------------------------|---|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| | No. ^d | uOR (95% CI) | aOR (95% CI) ^e | No. ^d | uOR (95% CI) | aOR (95% CI) ^e | No. ^d | uOR (95% CI) |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| < \$30,000 | 163 | Reference | Reference | 40 | Reference | Reference | 155 | Reference |
| ≥ \$90,000 | 67 | 5.74 | 3.62 | 38 | 4.18 | 3.96 | 61 | 2.20 |
| Insurance status | | | | | | | | |
| Not insured | 97 | Reference | Reference | 20 | Reference | Reference | 94 | Reference |
| Insured | 273 | 2.97 | 2.09 | 100 | 3.16 | 1.77 | 249 | 1.74 |
| Race/ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic white | 249 | Reference | Reference | 88 | Reference | | 229 | Reference |
| Other | 127 | 0.54 | 0.96 | 34 | 0.72 | | 120 | 0.72 |

Estimated Percentage of Women Ages 21-65 Years Who Have Had a Pap Test Within the Past Three Years by Urban and Rural Counties, New Mexico, 2016

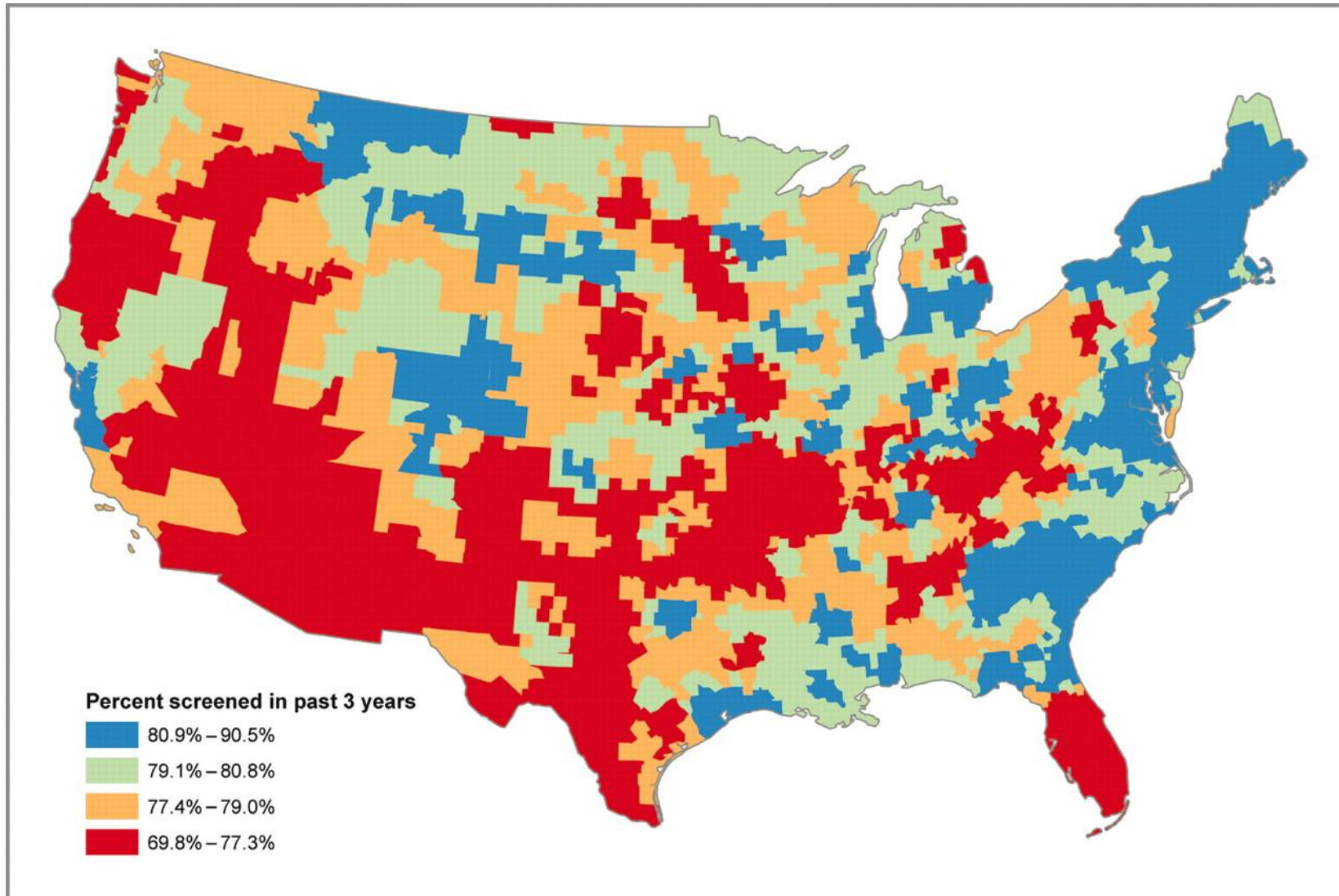


Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, together with New Mexico Department of Health, Injury and Behavioral Epidemiology Bureau.

Rural/Urban disparities in Cancer Rates

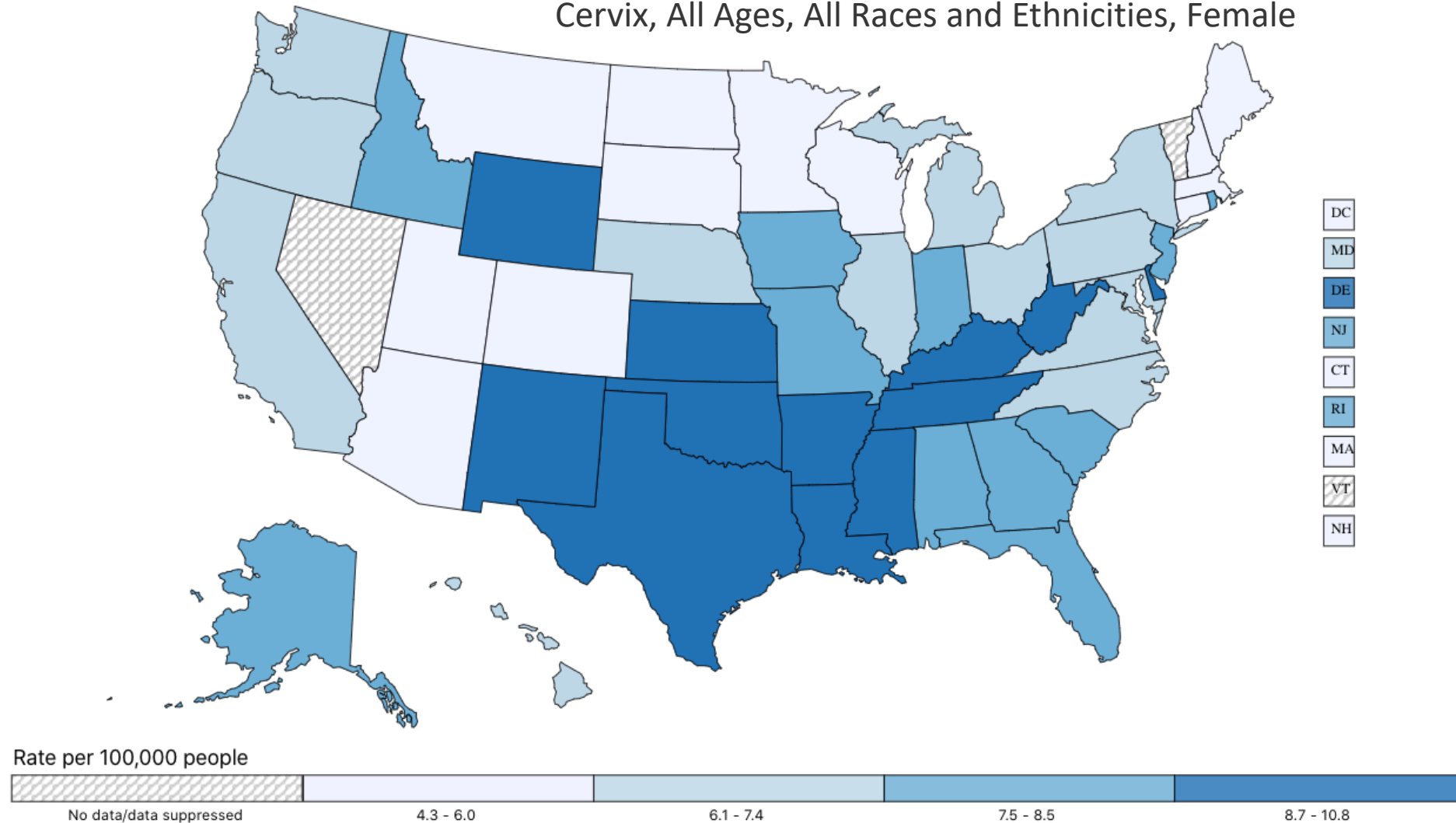


Geographic disparities in cervical cancer screening



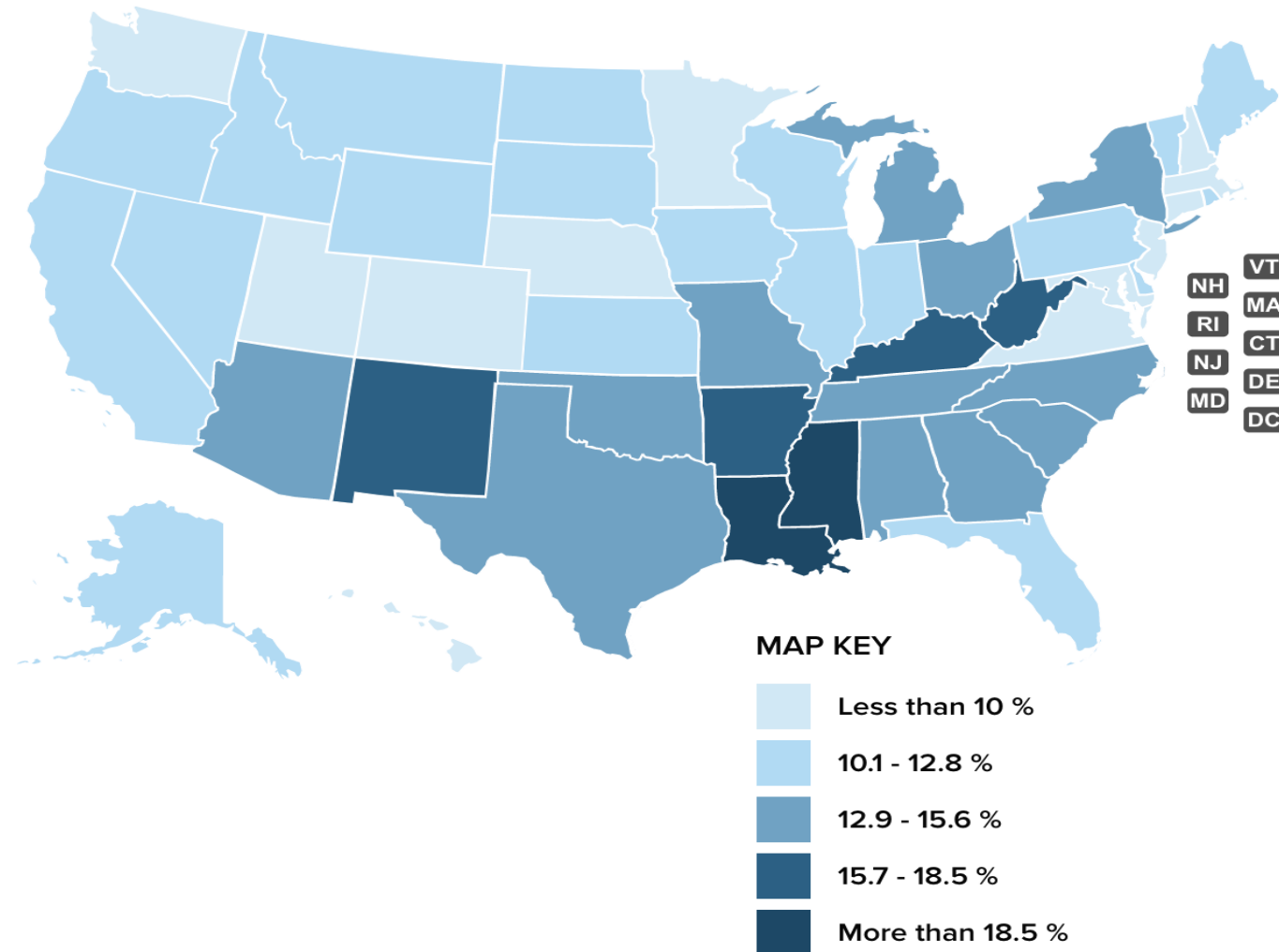
Geographic disparities in cervical cancer

Rate of New Cancers in the United States, 2018
Cervix, All Ages, All Races and Ethnicities, Female

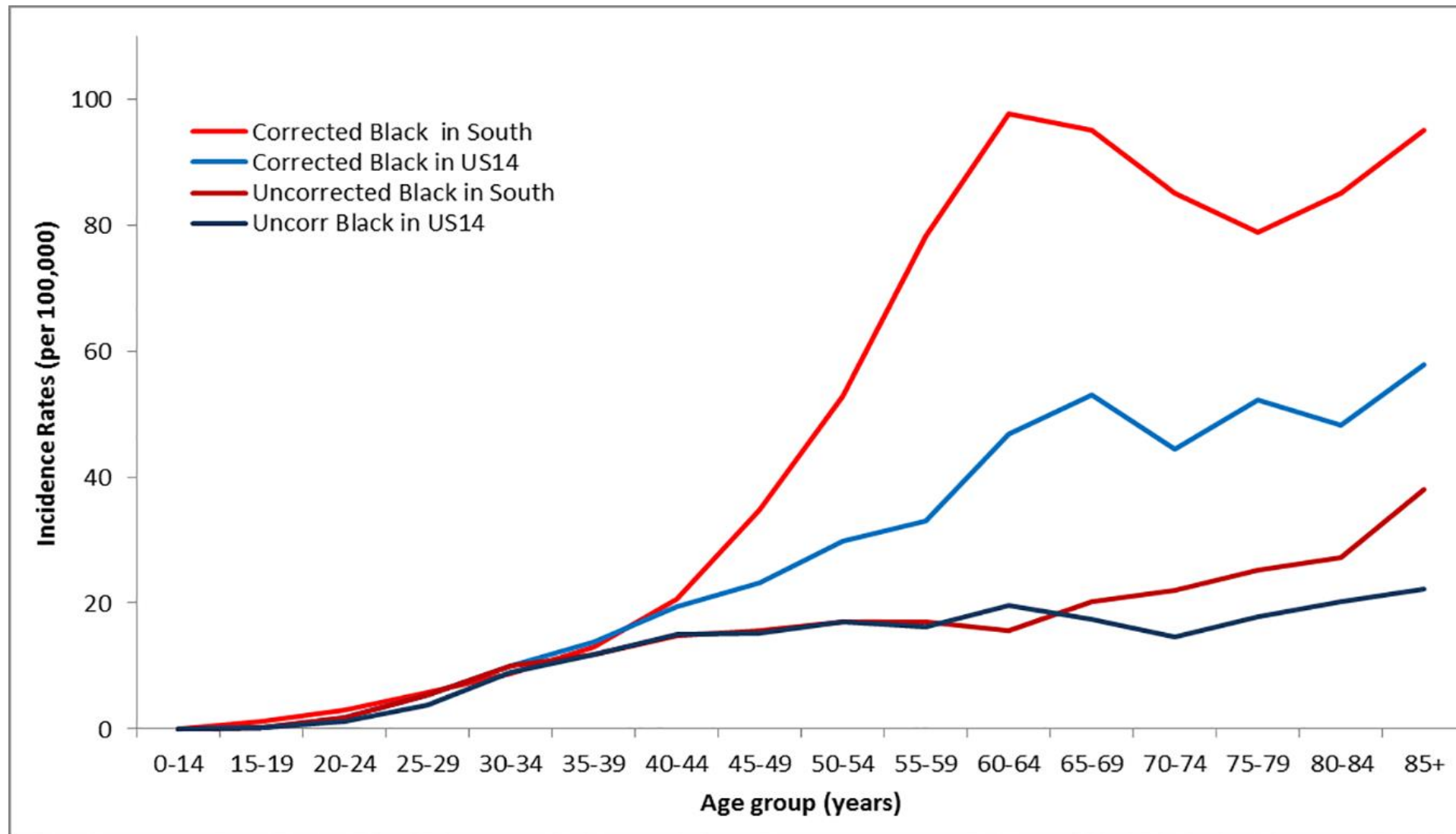


Geographic disparities in Poverty, US Census 2020

Overall Poverty - 2020



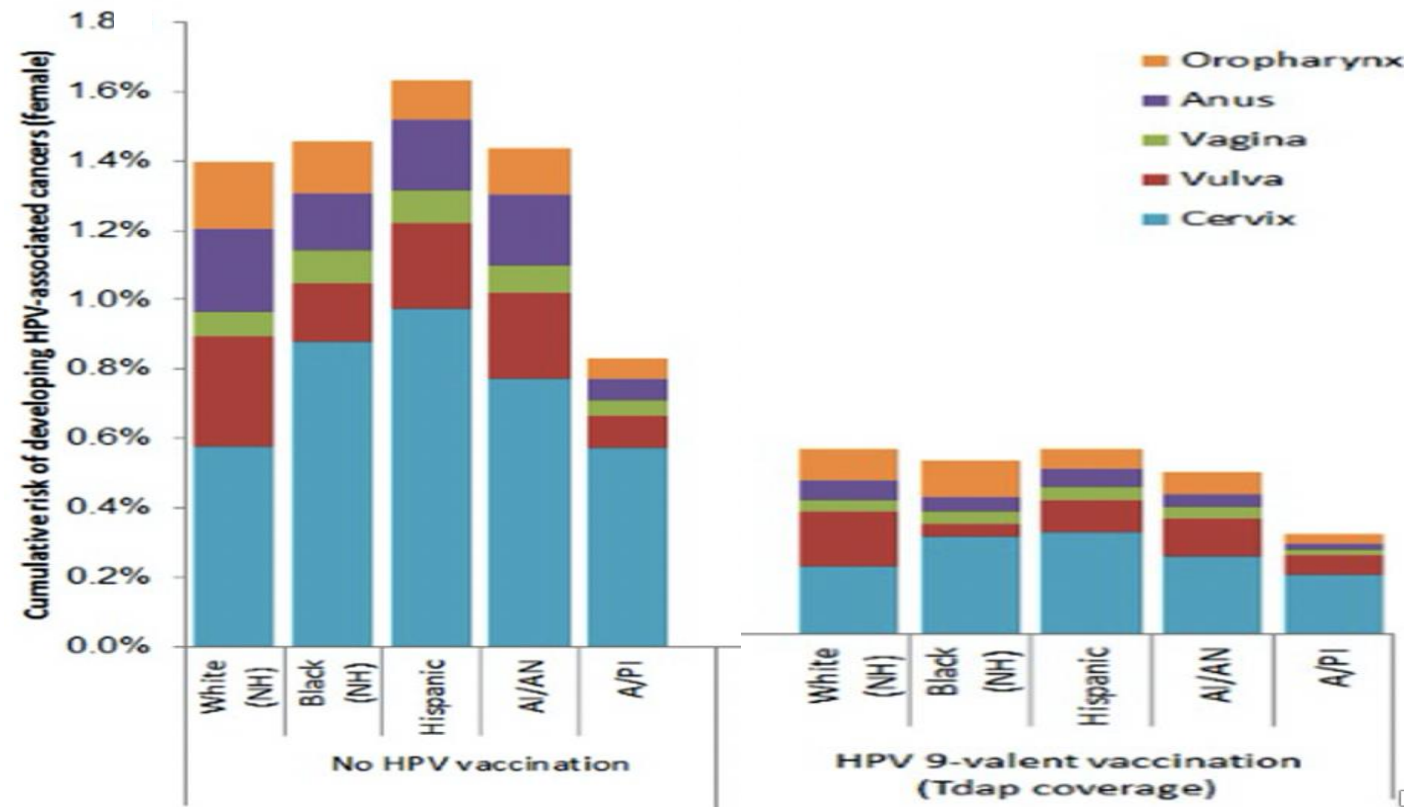
Racial and Geographic disparities co-exist



Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

1. HPV vaccination: can reduce disparities in cancer development

Projected
Cumulative lifetime
risk of developing a
human
papillomavirus
(HPV)-associated
cancer with current
HPV vaccination
coverage vs. 90%
coverage



Unvaccinated projected to have 9 times higher cancer rates than vaccinated

Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

2. Improve access

- Insurance
 - Lack of insurance highly correlated with lack of screening
 - 17% lower screening prevalence on 2018 BRFSS
 - ACA increased screening participation
- Regular source of healthcare
 - Lack of regular medical provider associated with lack of screening



Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

2. Improve screening participation and follow up

- Patient education
 - Individualized education (promotoras) increased cervical cancer screening in several trials
 - *But only effective if patient has insurance/financial coverage for services*
- Provider prompts
 - Electronic medical record alerts can be helpful
 - *More acceptable to Advanced Practice Providers (NPs, PAs) than to physicians*



Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

2. Improve screening participation and follow up

Patient navigation

- Increases both screening and follow-up in several studies/RCTs
- Increased colposcopy attendance from 50% to 70%



Nelson, JGIM, 2020, PMID: 32700218; Falk, J Cancer Education, 2020, PMID: 33150556; Fernandez-Esquer, Women Health, 2020, PMID: 32990199; Kuroki, Am J Obstet Gynecol, 2021 PMID: 33316278; Luckett, J Women's Health, 2015, PMID: 26173000

Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

2. Improve screening participation and follow up

HPV self-sampling


- Similar detection to clinician collected samples (using PCR-based tests)
- Improved screening uptake in underscreened individuals
- Currently part of national screening programs in Australia and UK



Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

3. Improve access to treatment

CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

ACS Communication |  Free Access

Charting the future of cancer health disparities research: A position statement from the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Cancer Society, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the National Cancer Institute

Blase N. Polite MD, MPP , Lucile L. Adams-Campbell PhD, Otis W. Brawley MD, Nina Bickell MD, John M. Carethers MD, Christopher R. Flowers MD, Margaret Foti PhD, MD (hc), ... [See all authors](#) ▾

First published: 24 July 2017 | <https://doi-org.ezproxy.bu.edu/10.3322/caac.21404> | Citations: 25

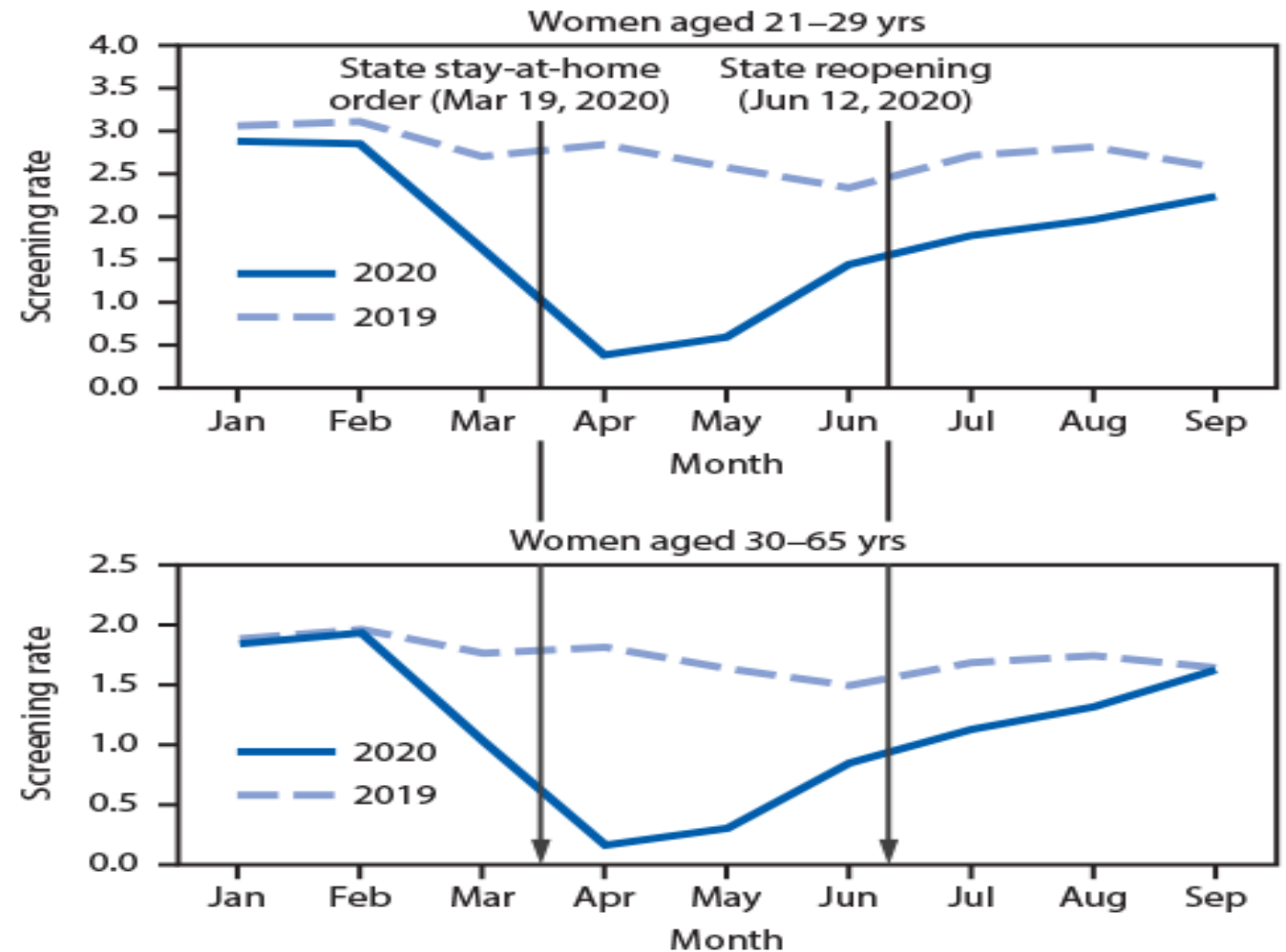
Goal: *to ensure that cancer research benefits all populations and patients regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, SES, or the communities in which they live.*

Call to action: decrease cancer disparities

4. Reverse care disruptions due to COVID

Highest priority groups:

- Prior abnormal results
- Screened with Pap alone
- Very overdue for screening
 - >4 years after pap
 - >6 years after HPV test or co-test



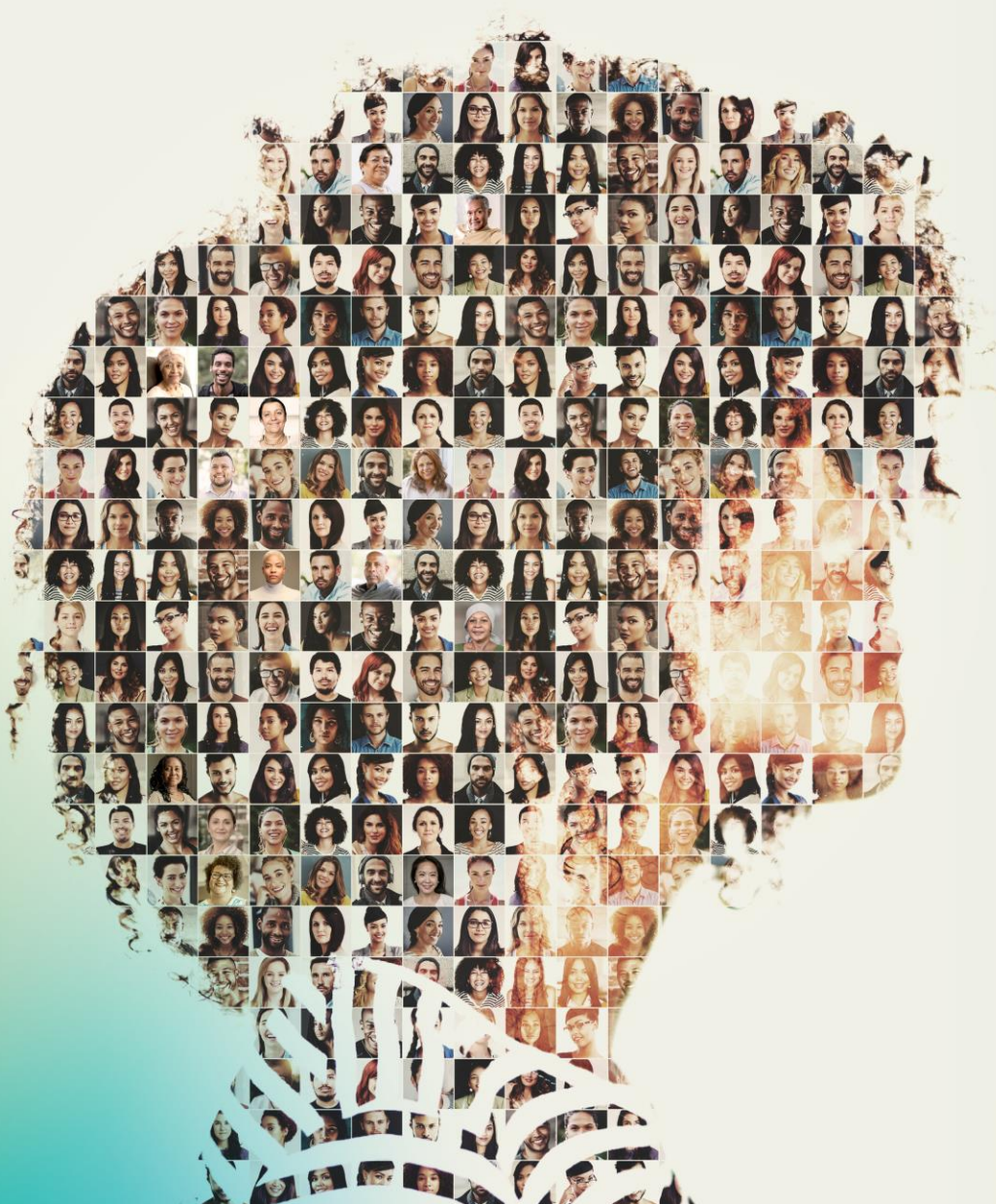
Summary

The primary drivers of cervical cancer disparities are inequitable access to screening, follow-up, and cancer treatments



Promising steps to reduce disparities are:

- Continue to expand insurance coverage and access to primary care
- Patient education, outreach and navigation
- HPV self-sampling
- Improved research on cancer treatments and equitable access to advanced cancer treatments



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