

# 12 Cancer of the cervix

## Summary

Relative survival after diagnosis of cancer of the cervix was high compared with most other cancer sites. For the period 1992–1997, relative survival one year after diagnosis of cancer of the cervix was 89.0% and after five years was 74.6% (Table 12.1). Relative survival ten years after diagnosis was 68.4% in 1987–1991, the most recent period for which ten-year relative survival data are available (Figure 12.2; Table 12.2).

Relative survival after a diagnosis of cancer of the cervix increased significantly between 1982–1986 and 1992–1997 for five-year relative survival, from 69.6% to 74.6% (Figure 12.2; Table 12.2).

Five-year relative survival after diagnosis of cancer of the cervix decreased as age increased. Five-year relative survival was highest for females aged 20–29 years, at 90.2%. This decreased steadily to 36.0% for females aged 80–89 years (Figure 12.3; Table 12.1).

For individual age groups, there was a significant increase in five-year relative survival between 1982–1986 and 1992–1997 for females aged 30–39, 40–49 and 60–69 years—by 5.1 percentage points, 6.0 percentage points and 7.2 percentage points, respectively (Figure 12.3; Table 12.3).

**Table 12.1: Cancer of the cervix: number of new cases and deaths, and five-year relative survival proportions, by age at diagnosis, Australia, 1992–1997**

Age	New cases	Deaths	5-year relative survival (%)
0–19 years	7	1	*
20–29 years	335	33	90.2
30–39 years	1,325	166	88.1
40–49 years	1,332	249	82.2
50–59 years	876	264	71.1
60–69 years	889	349	65.4
70–79 years	691	405	48.8
80–89 years	305	229	36.0
90–99 years	43	36	39.9
<b>All ages</b>	<b>5,803</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>74.6</b>

\* Interpretation difficult due to statistical instability. The instability in this age/sex/site group may be due to the survival model's handling a combination of small number of cases/deaths and or unstable background survival patterns resulting in invalid estimates. These results are therefore not presented here.

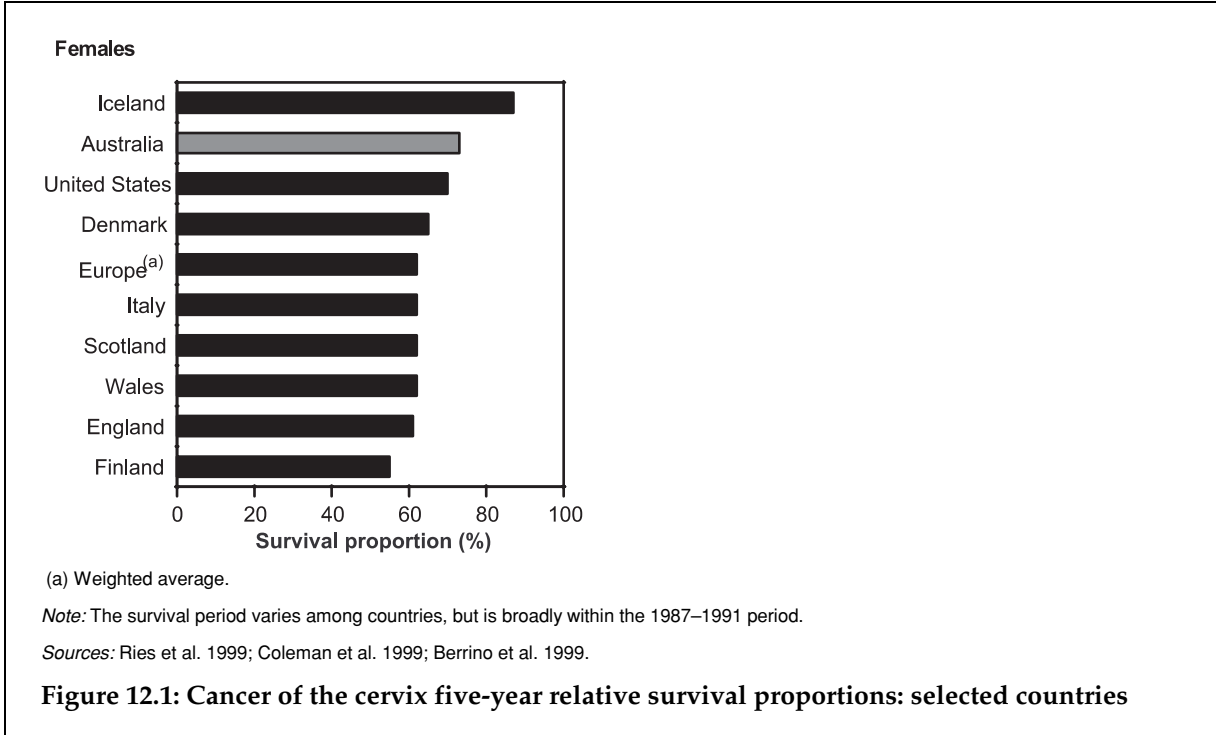
# Incidence and mortality

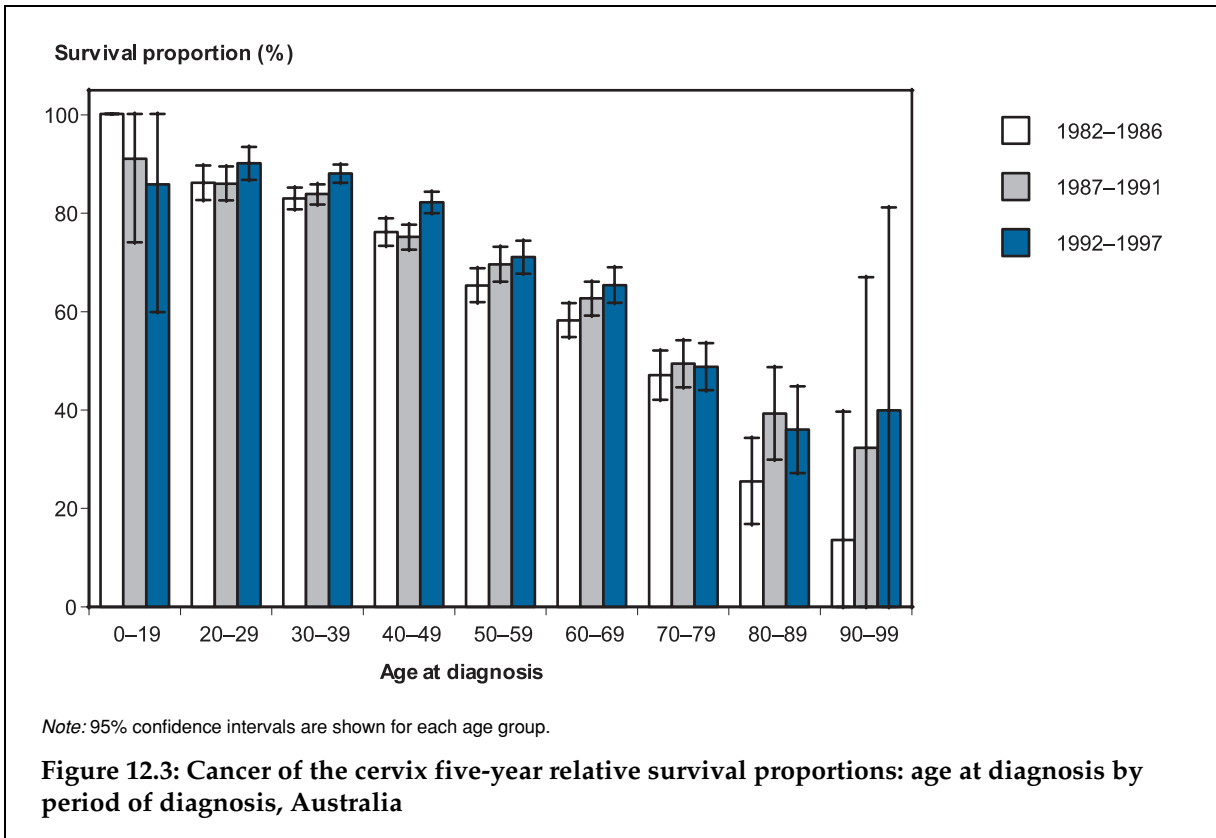
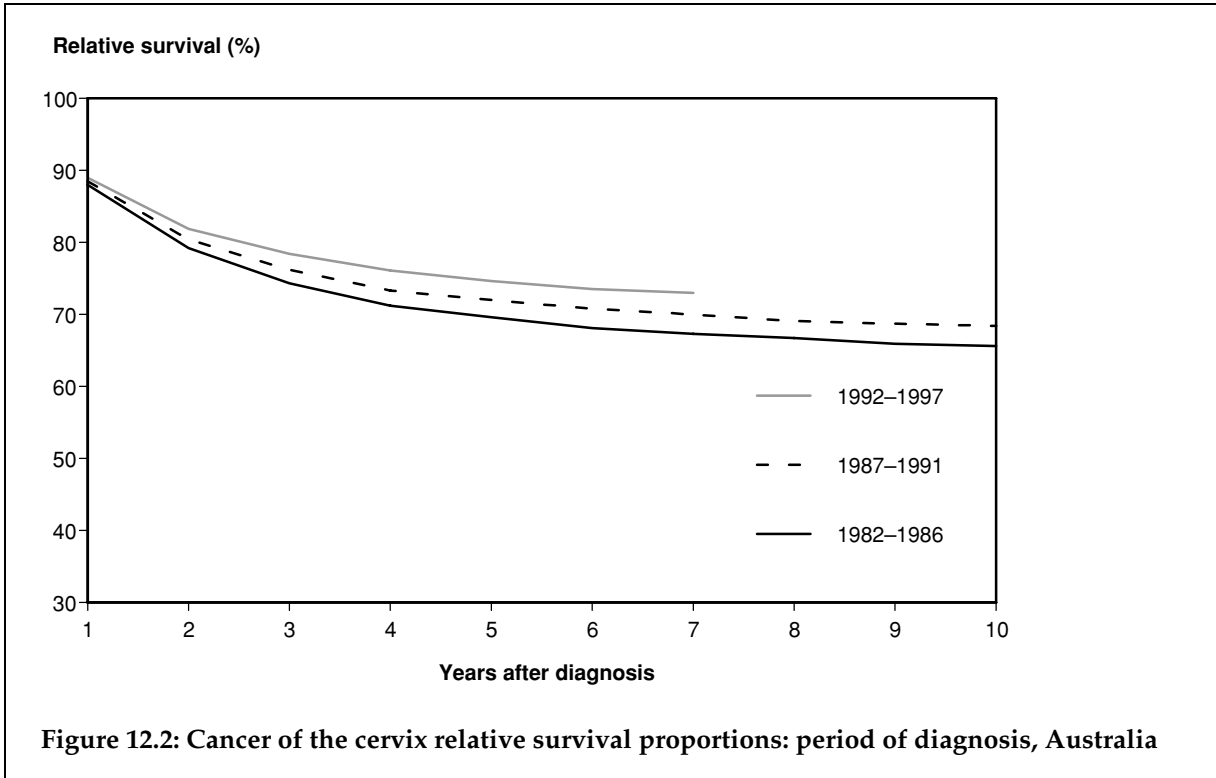
In 1997, there were 795 new cases of cancer of the cervix diagnosed. There were 291 deaths in 1997 due to cancer of the cervix. It is estimated that in 1997 there were about 3,700 years of life lost in females before the age of 75 due to cancer of the cervix.

For the six-year period 1992–1997, age-standardised incidence and mortality rates for female cancer of the cervix decreased, with incidence falling by 6.3% per annum and mortality falling by 4.2% per annum.

# International comparisons

Five-year relative survival after diagnosis of cancer of the cervix was high when compared with other countries for which relative survival data were available. During 1987–1991, relative survival in Australia was ranked second in this comparison after Iceland (14 percentage points lower). However, it was similar to that of the United States and slightly higher than that of the remaining countries which ranged between 55% and 65% (Figure 12.1; Table 12.4).





# Relative survival by subtypes

## Squamous cell carcinoma

Squamous cell carcinomas of the cervix diagnosed in 1992–1997 have a five-year relative survival proportion of 74.5%. This is similar to the cervical cancer relative survival proportion, for which five-year relative survival is 74.6%.

Five-year relative survival proportions from squamous cell carcinomas decreased as age at diagnosis increased. In 1992–1997, five-year relative survival was highest for females aged 20–29 at 90.8%. Relative survival fell to 38.4% for females aged 80–89 years (Table 12.5).

## Adenocarcinoma

During 1992–1997, five-year relative survival after diagnosis of adenocarcinoma of the cervix was 76.4%. This was similar to that of cervical cancer and squamous cell carcinomas, where five-year relative survival was 74.6% and 74.5% respectively (Figure 12.4).

Five-year relative survival proportions for adenocarcinoma by age follow a similar pattern to that of squamous cell carcinomas. Five-year relative survival after diagnosis of adenocarcinoma was highest for females aged 20–29 years at 88.7%, decreasing to 43.4% for females aged 80–89 years (Table 12.6).

