

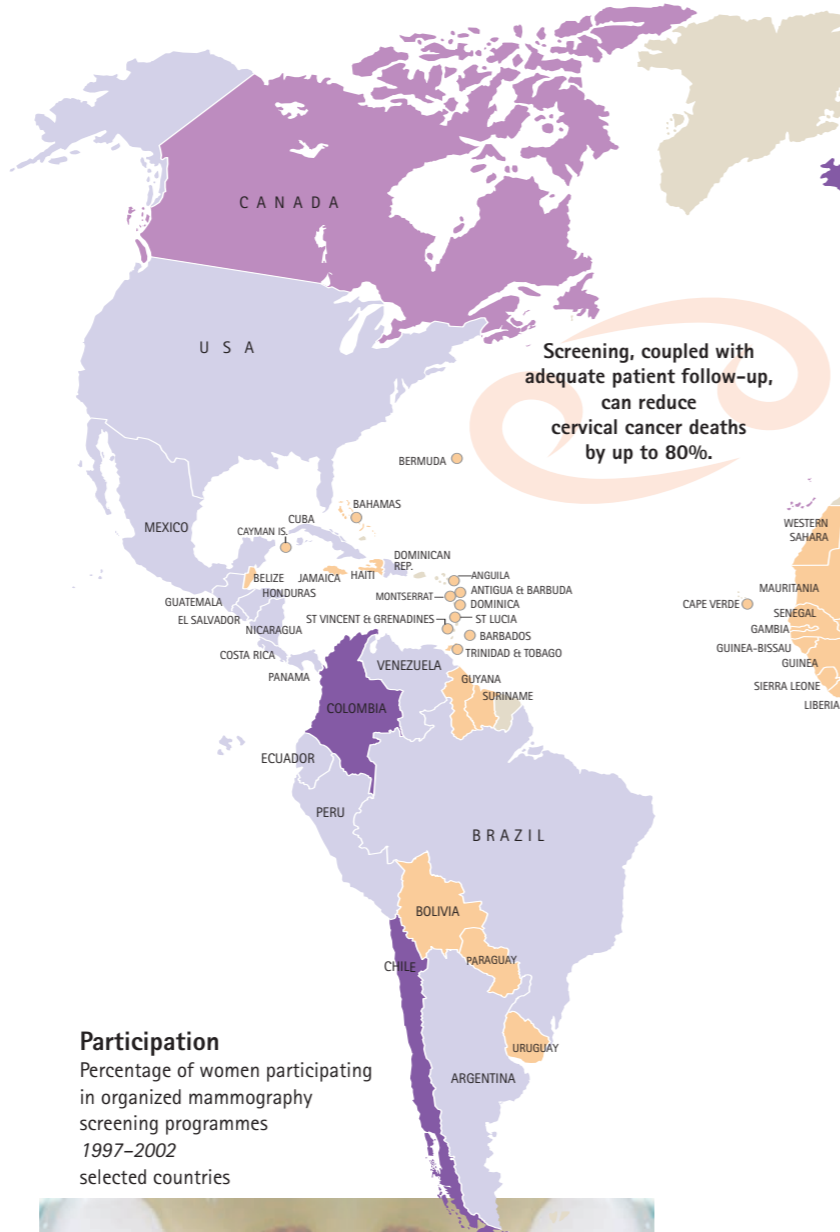
Early detection

"A man too busy to take care of his health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools."
Spanish proverb

Early detection of cancer includes two core components, education and screening. Educational efforts must promote public awareness of the early signs of certain cancers (oral cavity, larynx, colon, rectum, skin, breast, cervix, urinary bladder and prostate) as well as proper follow-up with healthcare providers if these symptoms present. This is particularly important in developing countries, where insufficient resources limit the availability of screening programmes.

The burden of cancer in the population, availability of effective treatment and evidence of benefits and cost-effectiveness, all determine whether screening recommendations become national policies. Most developed and medium-resource countries have programmes and/or national policies for cervical cancer screening (cytology tests) and breast cancer screening (mammography), but few have the same for colorectal cancer screening – faecal occult blood test (FOBT), sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy. Recommendations for early prostate cancer detection (PSA testing), lung cancer screening (spiral CT) and a low-cost approach towards cervical cancer screening (visual inspection for lesions after applying acetic acid or Lugol's iodine) are pending the results of current investigations.

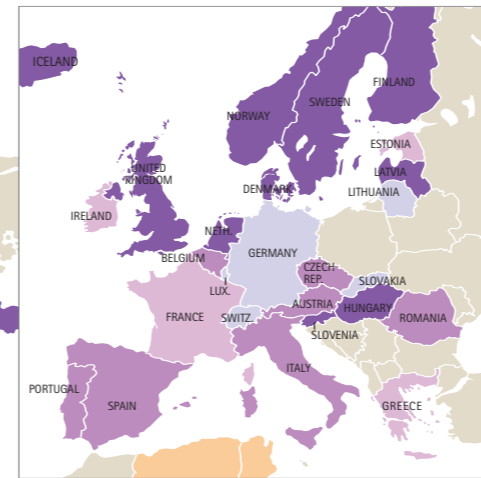
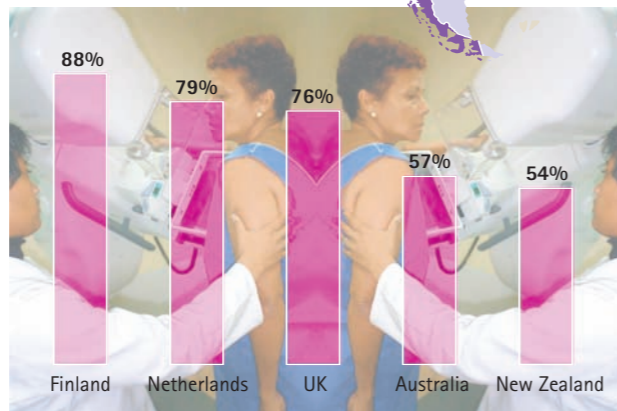
Early detection can help reduce cancer mortality, yet this depends largely upon proper diagnostic and treatment follow-up, the health service infrastructure of each country and target population compliance.



Screening, coupled with adequate patient follow-up, can reduce cervical cancer deaths by up to 80%.

Participation

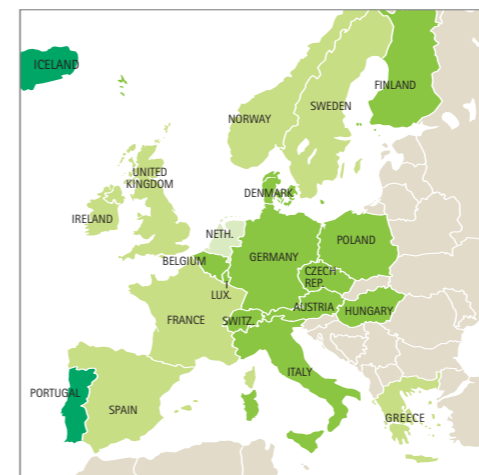
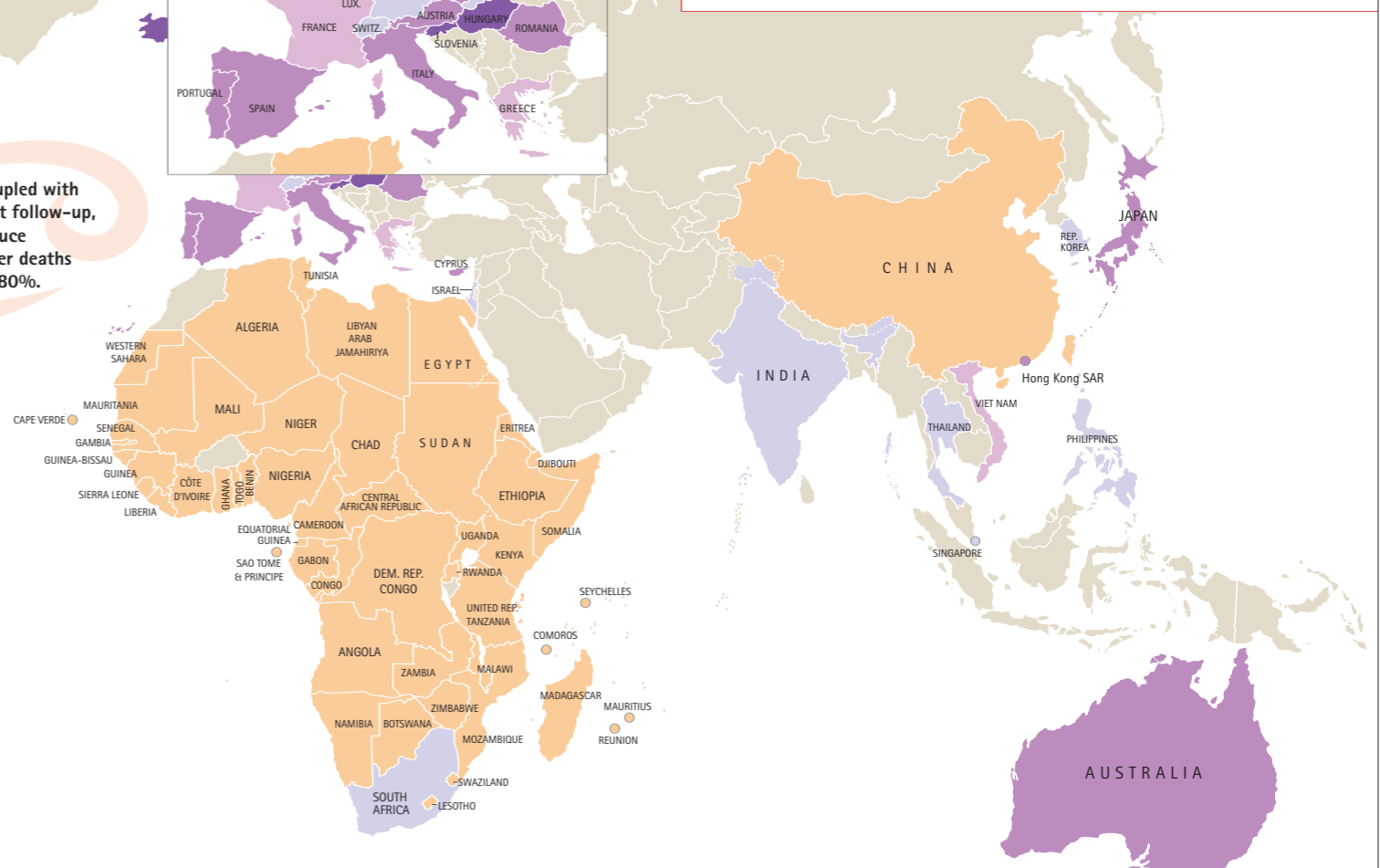
Percentage of women participating in organized mammography screening programmes 1997–2002 selected countries



Status of cervical cancer screening

Cervical cancer screening programmes 2004

- national screening programme
- sub-national screening programme
- pilot screening programme
- public health policy only (no population-based screening programme)
- no programme or policy
- no data



Public awareness

Percentage of the population aware of the existence of a screening procedure for colorectal cancer 2004
Europe average: 51%

- 70% and above
- 50% – 69%
- 20% – 49%
- below 20%
- no data

