ECONOMIST IMPACT

Bridging the Equity Gap

Cancer Care for Women in Peru

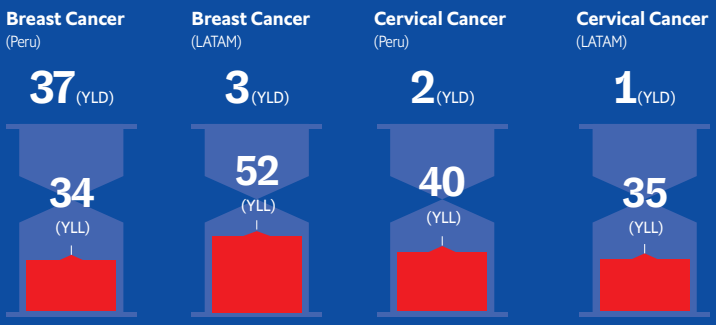
Cervical cancer is a major concern in Peru, with 4,270 new cases and 2,288 deaths reported in 2022.[1] Barriers like geographic, socio demographic and individual factors limit screening, with only 51% of women screened within 2020-2022.[2]

> **"Healthcare must be reimagined with interculturality at its core, including respect for indigenous identities, languages and traditions."**
>
> Rosalía Adela Clemente Tacza, President of the Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Artesanas, Indígenas, Nativas y Asalariadas del Perú

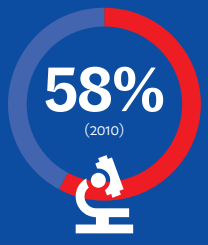
Detection

Disability Caused by Cancer (For every 10,000 people)[3]

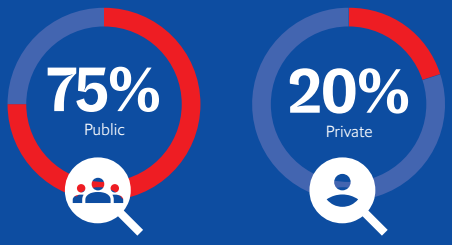
Cancer's impact goes beyond diagnosis—it affects quality of life and life expectancy. Years Lived with Disability (YLD) measure the time people spend coping with the disease, while Years of Potential Life Lost (YLL) reflect lives cut short. The toll of breast and cervical cancer places **emotional, social and economic strain** on families, communities and healthcare systems, highlighting the urgent need for prevention and support.



Breast Cancer Identified at Stage III or Higher[4]



Identification of Advance Stage Cancer Cases: Private v Public Health System[5]



Financial Burden (US$)

Out-of-pocket healthcare costs as a % of total health spending[6]

27%
(2021)

Out-of-pocket healthcare costs per person[7]

$112
(2021)

% of people spending at least 10% of their income on healthcare costs[8]

8%
(2015)

Average Monthly Wages (US$, 2023)

Men ■ Women

15-24 years[9]

$581.69 ■ $497.12

25-54 years[10]

$1,035.53 ■ $855.49

55-64 years[11]

$1,128.30 ■ $959.20

65+ years[12]

$999.37 ■ $954.79

Per Capita Economic Cost Attributable to Cancer (US$, 2024)[13]

$1,093

Challenges

1. **Late-Stage Diagnosis:** Many cancer cases are detected too late, limiting treatment options and increasing the risk of early death.
2. **Financial Strain:** The high cost of cancer care places a heavy burden on families, often forcing difficult choices between health and financial stability.
3. **Barriers to Screening:** Limited access to early detection means many women miss the chance for timely treatment, worsening health outcomes.

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12. Ibid.
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Note: The values were adjusted from 2017 International Dollars (INT$) to 2024 U.S. Dollars (USD) using the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the inflation benchmark, with CPI values of 245.12 for 2017 and an estimated 315.22 for 2024. The adjustment was calculated using the formula: Adjusted Value = Original Value × (CPI_2024 / CPI_2017), where CPI_2024/CPI_2017 represents the inflation factor of approximately 1.286.

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