Purpose

- Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide.
- Belize has among the highest cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates of Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- This study evaluates the policies, infrastructure, and workforce of the cervical cancer management system in Belize to inform the strengthening of sustainable screening and treatment programs.

Methods

- In 2018, health facility assessments were conducted across the 6 districts of Belize at the national pathology facility and 12 public facilities identified by Ministry of Health officials as critical to cervical cancer control.
- We used a standardized instrument to assess human and infrastructure resource availability and existing policies related to cervical cancer screening services.
- Results were analyzed at district and national levels using descriptive statistics.

Results

Figure 1. Human Resources

Screening Workforce Outreach Workforce

Figure 2. Screening Availability

Figure 3. Service Distribution Across Districts

Figure 4. Pathology Equipment / Supplies Status

Conclusions

- Public sector cervical cancer management services differ between districts of Belize, with tertiary service availability concentrated in the largest district.
- Screening, outreach, and pathology are limited by human resources, training, equipment, and supplies.
- This insight into Belize’s capacity pinpoints health system components for future investment.

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