REGISTRY-BASED ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF CERVICAL SCREENING IN SWEDEN

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Objectives
Comprehensive, nationwide monitoring and evaluation of screening efforts through registry-based review of key indicators is necessary for program optimization, especially as new tests and strategies are introduced.

Materials and methods
All cytological and histopathological test results and invitations in Sweden are exported to the National Cervical Screening Registry. Organized, population-based screening is regionally implemented. Women ages 23-50 and 50-60 are invited every 3 and 5 years, respectively. Quality indicators were calculated by age, region, and calendar period.

Results
In 2014, there were 662,348 cervical smears in Sweden, of which, 93% were taken in the recommended age-range and 69% were organized, invitational smears. The screening test coverage for women ages 23-60 was 81%. The coverage has remained steady for the past 10 years but varies greatly between and within counties over-time. Among women ages 23-25, test coverage has increased dramatically during the past 6 years and is now 91%. The proportion of women with cytological high-grade cervical lesions that had been followed-up with biopsy within 1 year was 97%. Major variations in cervical cancer incidence between countries were observed with a statistically significant increase in 1 county and decreases in 2 counties.

Conclusions
Registry-based analyses of key quality indicators provide a basis for prioritizing improvements of the organized cervical screening program.