Evidence-based, resource-appropriate interventions for cancer prevention and control exist across the cancer continuum in each country, from prevention of risk factors to early detection, treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care.

Figure 3. Tobacco use, the cause of the largest number of preventable cancers worldwide, can be substantially reduced through raising excise tax on tobacco products, smoke-free air laws, public health warnings on tobacco packaging, and restrictions on promotion and advertising of tobacco products.

Effective treatment modes (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, immunotherapy) have been developed for several cancers, including cancers of the breast, colon and rectum, and cervix, and for many childhood cancers. Effective treatment of esophageal and stomach cancers, such as oesophageal and biliary cancer (see 27, Health Previews). The hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human papillomavirus (HPV) infections that cause liver cancer (HBV) and cervical and other genital and oropharyngeal cancers (HPV), can be prevented through vaccination (see 29, Vaccinates). Indoor and outdoor air pollution can be reduced through use of clean stoves, cleaner fuels, and proper ventilation, and air quality guidelines and policies. Protection from harmful sun exposure could reduce the risk of skin cancer. Cancer-causing occupational exposures could be prevented through improved workplace safety. Addressing cancer risk factors can also have a shared impact on other non-communicable diseases.

Regular screening for cervical, colorectal, breast, and lung cancers allows detection of these diseases at an early stage, when treatments are more successful and the chance for survival and cure is high. Pap testing for cervical cancer and colorectal cancer can be done through visual inspection with acetic acid, as of June 2017.

Figure 4. Mortality from childhood cancer has decreased in many high-income countries due to treatment advances, but similar progress is lacking in lower-resource countries. Regular screening for cervical, colorectal, breast, and lung cancers allows detection of these diseases at an early stage, when treatments are more successful and the chance for survival and cure is high. Pap testing for cervical cancer and colorectal cancer can be done through visual inspection with acetic acid, as of June 2017.

If 70% of all eligible girls were vaccinated, an estimated 178,000 cervical cancer deaths could be avoided annually worldwide.

LIMITED

Genetic testing and counseling

Screening for high-risk cancers

Disproportionately high rates of cervical cancer in lower-HDI countries are almost entirely due to lack of screening.

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TAKING ACTION

THE CANCER CONTINUUM

An Overview of Interventions and Potential for Impact

Resource-appropriate, broad application of known interventions in each country can substantially reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with cancer.