

# The Prevalence of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Its Impact on Cervical Dysplasia in the Northwest Territories —component II

## Introduction

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted virus. Almost all cervical cancer cases are the result of HPV infection. HPV is a very common infection, but only certain high risk strains are associated with an increased risk of cancer.

## Objectives

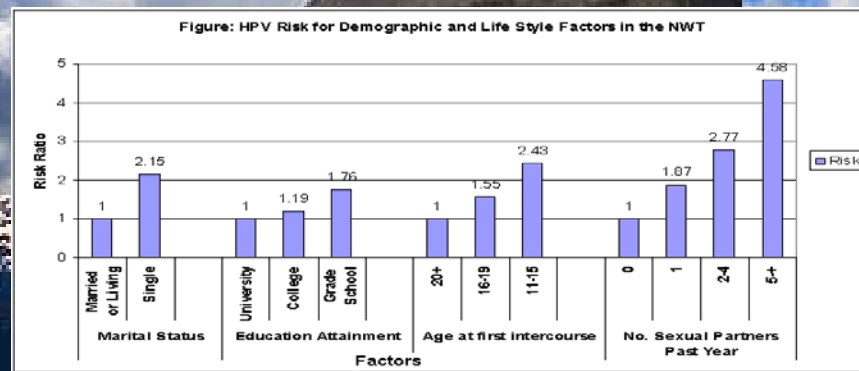
This study was to find out the overall burden of HPV. We also wanted to understand which life style put women at greater risk for HPV infection. The information can be used to develop effective prevention and screening programs in the Northwest Territories (NWT)

## Methods

Between February 2009 and March 2010 in the NWT, women who agreed to answer a questionnaire during their routine Pap testing were included in the study. The collection of bio-samples was incorporated into the Pap testing. A sample was collected and shipped to the DynaLife Medical Laboratory for Pap test. The remaining specimens were shipped to the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg for HPV typing. Pap test results, HPV types and questionnaire information were linked for analysis

## Results and Conclusions

- A total of 1279 samples with questionnaire, Pap test results, and/or HPV typing were available.
- 17.6% of participants had an HPV infection; moreover, 14.2% had a high risk HPV infection.
- About 4.7% of the Pap test results were abnormal.
- Aboriginal women had a higher HPV infection rate than non-Aboriginals; but the HPV infection rates were similar among First Nation, Inuit, and Métis.
- High risk HPV infection risks were associated with early onset of sexual activities, single marital status, high number of sexual partners, and less education.



## HPV Study Partners:

