Scottish Breast Screening Programme Statistics

Annual update to 31 March 2019

A National Statistics statistical release for Scotland

Publication date: 21 April 2020

About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland provides an update of breast screening statistics to 31 March 2019. It includes NHS Breast Screening Programme performance standards, attendance figures, cancer detection rates, biopsy results and screening outcomes. Previously published data have not been revised.

Main Points

NHS Breast Screening key points for the three-year period 2016/17 – 2018/19;

- 546,379 women aged 50 - 70 attended a routine breast screen appointment which equates to around 7 in 10 women (72.2%) taking up the invitation for screening.
- Women from more deprived areas are less likely to attend for breast screening, with under 6 in 10 women (59.5%) from the most deprived areas going for screening compared with almost 8 in 10 (79.7%) women living in the least deprived areas, a difference of over twenty percentage points. This pattern is reflected in other screening programmes.

Breast screening percentage uptake by deprivation category, Scotland: 2016/17 - 2018/19 combined
• The uptake rate has increased from 71.2% in 2015/16 – 2017/18 to 72.2% in 2016/17 – 2018/19, a level not seen since 2012/13 - 2014/15, 72.5%. The uptake rate has been falling consistently since 2009/10 - 2011/12 when it was 74.9%.
• Two NHS Boards did not meet the minimum acceptable uptake standard of 70%; NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (66.7%) and NHS Lanarkshire (69.7%). However, all mainland NHS Boards have improved uptake when compared against the previous three-year period.
• The invasive cancer detection rate for women aged 53 - 70 years who have previously been screened within five years of their last attendance was 7.0 per 1,000 women screened. This is a slight increase from the previous three-year period 2015/16 – 2017/18 (6.8 per 1,000 women screened).

Background
The Scottish Breast Screening Programme (SBSP) is part of a UK-wide programme of free mammographic screening for breast cancer, which was set up in 1988 with the aim of reducing deaths from breast cancer. There has been full national coverage of the SBSP from 1991 and since then more than 4.1 million screening episodes and in excess of 32,500 breast cancers diagnosed.

Within Scotland, data are collected by each of the six screening centres (which are supported by 19 mobile units) and retained on the SBSP Information System. Currently, all women aged between 50 and 70 are invited for a routine breast screening examination every 3 years.

The definitions of the breast screening acceptable and achievable performance measures can be found within Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s breast screening standards.

More information on the SBSP dataset can be found on our Data sources page.

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Further Information
Data from this publication are available from the publication page on our website. For more information on breast screening see the breast screening section of our website. For related topics, please see the cancer pages on the PHS website.

The next release of this publication is scheduled for 20 April 2021. However, given the current pause on breast screening due to the coronavirus outbreak (www.nhsinform.scot/screeningupdate), this proposed date may be affected.

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Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further information about our statistics.