

Publication Summary



Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics

For invitations between 1 November 2012 and 31 October 2014

Publication date – 04 August 2015



About this release

This is a release from Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland of the bowel screening statistics for the period 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2014 including uptake, laboratory and clinical outcomes.

Key points

For the two-year period November 2012 to October 2014:

- The number of bowel screening participants exceeded one million for the first time.
- Uptake was 57.6%, an increase of 1.5 percentage points compared with the two-year period November 2011 to October 2013. Uptake for females was 60.3% and for males was 54.7%. The Healthcare Improvement Scotland standard for bowel screening uptake is 60%.
- Uptake was lower in areas of higher deprivation. Uptake in the most deprived group was 45.4% compared to 66.4% in the least deprived group.
- Two percent of those returning their screening kit received a positive test result. Of those with a positive test result 6.9% had a bowel cancer.
- More than half of screen detected cancers (61.7%) were diagnosed at the earliest two stages. The earlier a cancer is detected the greater the chances are of successful treatment.

Background

The Scottish Bowel Screening Programme commenced a phased roll out in June 2007 and by December 2009 all NHS Boards in Scotland were participating in the Programme.

This publication relates to men and women registered with a Community Health Index (CHI) number aged between 50-74 years who are invited to participate and to be screened every two years. Eligible people are posted a screening kit which is completed at home and involves collecting two samples from each of three separate bowel movements. The kit is

then returned to the central screening centre in Dundee and tested for hidden traces of blood in the stool. From 1st April 2013 those over the age of 74 can now self-refer and opt into bowel screening.

In February 2012 the Scottish Government formally launched the Detect Cancer Early Programme with the aim of increasing the early detection of cancer by 25%. The target concentrates on breast, colorectal (bowel) and lung cancers. Part of this initiative has been focussing on raising awareness of bowel screening.

The publication report summarises the [Key Performance Indicators](#) (KPIs) which are a series of measures used to monitor and evaluate the [Scottish Bowel Screening Programme](#).

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

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Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/