

Scottish Cervical Screening Programme Statistics 2015-16



Annual update to 31 March 2016

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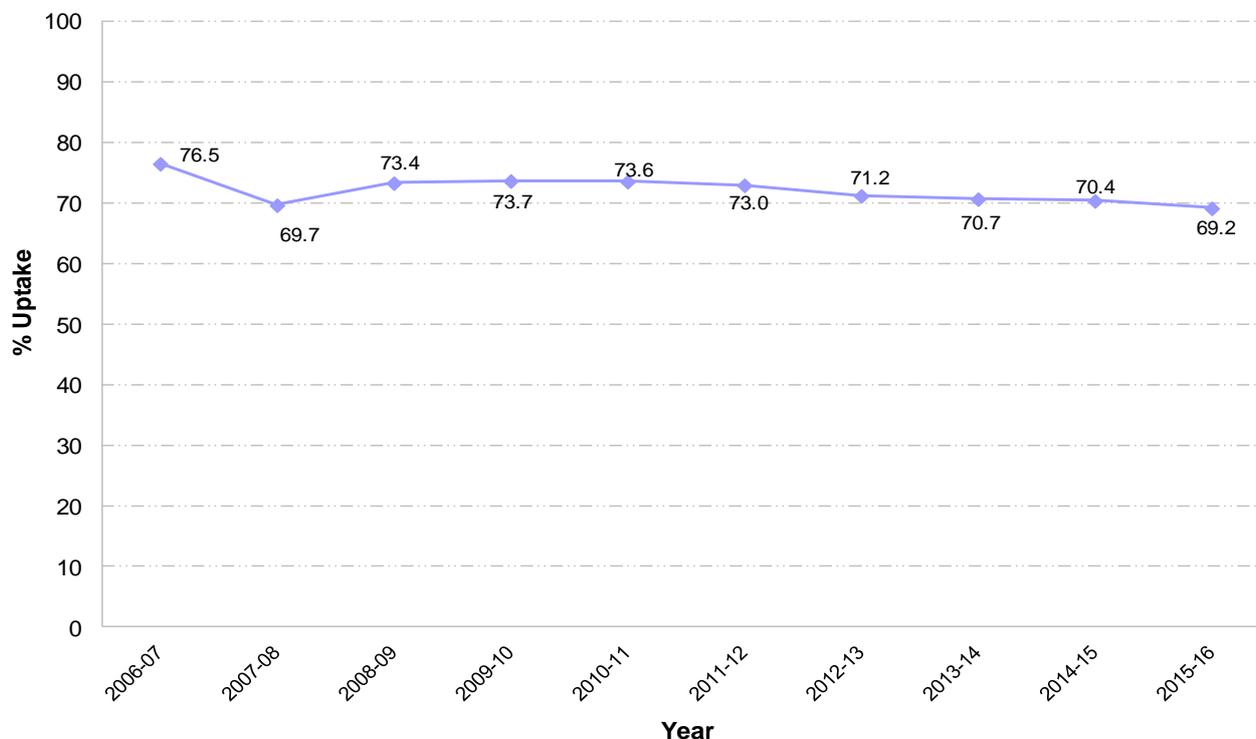
About this release

This publication by the Information Services Division provides annual and quarterly cervical screening statistics. The report includes uptake by age group and NHS Board, laboratory turnaround times, number of cervical screening tests and results of tests by NHS Board and laboratory.

Main Points

- Of those eligible, 69.2% of women in Scotland took up the invitation for cervical screening in the previous 3.5 years at 31 March 2016.

Figure 1. Percentage uptake of cervical screening, females in Scotland aged 20-60¹ with a previous screening test in the last 3.5 years², 1 Apr 2006 to 31 Mar 2016



1. Based on the Scottish Cervical Call Recall System population denominator (excludes medically ineligible women).
2. Cervical screening year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

- In 2015-16, 399,150 cervical screening tests were processed, a slight increase of 0.4% compared to 2014-15. Of all tests processed, 97.5% were of satisfactory quality eg there were enough cells in the sample.
- Of the satisfactory quality tests, 90.8% had a negative (normal) result, 7.9% had a low grade cell change and the remaining 1.2% had high grade cell changes.

Background

For the period reported, cervical screening was routinely offered to women aged 20-60 in Scotland every three years. The screening is to identify cell changes in the cervix which could develop to be cancerous. Cervical screening has been shown to reduce cervical cancer incidence and mortality. Changes in cells identified at an early stage can be easily treated and treatment is usually very effective.

Abnormal results are reported in two different ways:

- Low grade or borderline cell changes (also called low grade dyskaryosis)
- High grade cell changes which are moderate or severe (also called high grade dyskaryosis).

Dyskaryosis is a medical term to describe cell changes which could develop to be cancerous.

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government announced that from 6 June 2016 [changes to the age range and frequency of screening](#) offered by the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme would be implemented. As a result, cervical screening is now routinely offered every three years to women aged between 25 and 49 years of age and every five years to women aged between 50 and 64. Women on non-routine screening (where screening results have shown changes that require further investigation/follow-up) will be invited up to age 70 years.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Scottish Cervical Screening Programme Statistics Publication](#) or on the [cervical screening section](#) of the ISD website.

ISD and Official Statistics

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