

Scottish Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme Statistics

Year ending 31 March 2016

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About this release

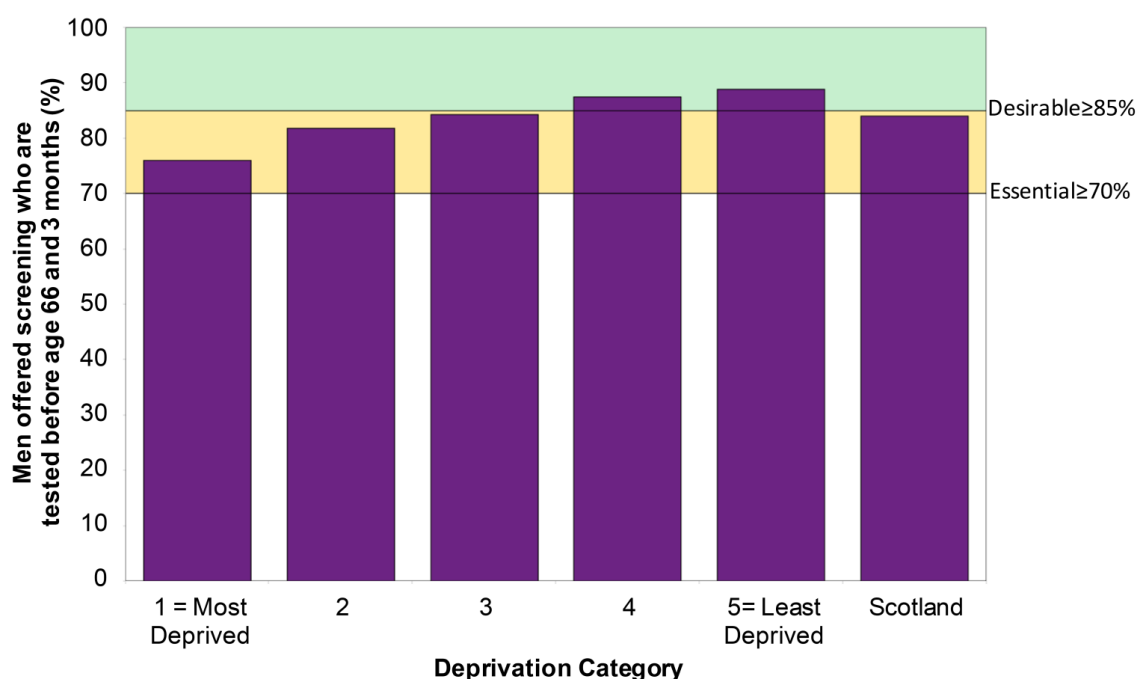
This publication from Information Services Division provides an update on the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme for men aged 65 in Scotland. The release includes data on the Key Performance Indicators for the programme for the first time.

Main Points

Key Performance Indicator results year ending 31 March 2016

- Uptake of the screening programme was high with 84% of men in Scotland tested before age 66 and 3 months, well above the essential target of 70%. All NHS Boards achieved an uptake rate of 80% or higher.
- Uptake of screening was lower in the most deprived areas. The essential target of 70% uptake was met in all deprivation quintiles.

Percentage of men offered screening who are tested before age 66 and 3 months by deprivation, Scotland; men who turned 66 in year ending 31 March 2016



- 72% of men referred to vascular specialist services for assessment were seen within two weeks, slightly below the essential target of 75%.
- 28% of the men assessed by vascular specialist services as appropriate for aneurysm repair surgery were operated on by a vascular specialist within eight weeks. This was substantially below the essential target of 60%.
- Since the programme began in June 2012, the 30-day mortality rate following planned open aneurysm repair surgery was 2.5% and following Endovascular Aneurysm Repair (EVAR) was 0%. These met the essential and desirable targets.
- The screening programme in Scotland met or exceeded the essential target in 10 of the 12 performance indicators.

Screening tests and results to 31 March 2016

- Since the programme began over 87,500 of men eligible for screening have been tested and over 1,300 (1.5%) men had an aneurysm detected. In addition, over 4,000 men self-referred into the programme and were tested.

Background

An Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) is a swelling of the aorta, the main artery in the body, as it passes through the abdomen. The condition is most common in men aged 65 and over and usually there are no symptoms. Large aneurysms are uncommon but can be very serious. As the wall of the aorta stretches, it becomes weaker, and it can rupture (burst). If the aneurysm ruptures, this leads to life-threatening internal bleeding and, in 8 out of 10 cases, death.

The Scottish AAA screening programme aims to reduce deaths associated with the risk of aneurysm rupture in men aged 65 and over by identifying aneurysms early so that they can be monitored or treated. Men aged 65 are invited to attend AAA screening and men aged over 65 can self-refer into the screening programme.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) and the accompanying [data tables](#). [Guidance and definitions](#) for the Key Performance Indicators are also available from the [Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm Screening](#) section of our website. The next release of this publication will be in March 2018.

ISD and Official Stats

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD 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 Official Statistics. [Further information about our statistics](#).