Cervical screening FAQs

Where do the data come from?
Recent analyses are based on the Scottish Cervical Call Recall System (SCCRS), a new national IT system which was introduced in May 2007. Any data previous to May 2007 were collected from laboratories using ISD(D) forms 4 and 1Q [http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/1679.html](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/1679.html)

What is the latest year of complete cervical screening data?
Cervical Screening data is based on financial year. For the current complete year, please see the introduction contained in the Statistical Publication Notice (SPN) on the ISD Cervical Screening page [www.isdscotland.org/cervical_screening](http://www.isdscotland.org/cervical_screening)

Which months make up individual quarters?
Quarter 1: 1st April - 30th June
Quarter 2: 1st July - 31st September
Quarter 3: 1st October - 31st December
Quarter 4: 1st January - 31st March.

Why do you report in periods of 3.5 years and 5.5 years?
Eligible women are invited to attend cervical screening once every 3 years. Uptake is therefore based on women attending in the previous 3.5 years, with the additional 0.5 year to ensure that all data for women who have attended for screening within that 3 year time period, have been reported.

Cervical screening uptake data is also reported based on a 5.5 year period. The main reason for this is to reference against indicators from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF); a voluntary source of potential income for general practices across the UK. The indicator in question (CS1) measures the percentage of patients aged from 21 to 60 whose notes record that a cervical smear has been performed in the last 5 years. As above, the 0.5 is to ensure that data on all women who have attended within the previous 5 years have been reported. For further information please visit [www.isdscotland.org/QOF](http://www.isdscotland.org/QOF)

The uptake data for 5.5 years is also used to compare against other cervical screening programmes within the UK.

When will the next publication be?
The Scottish Cervical Screening Programme statistics are published by ISD Scotland on an annual basis, normally at the end of August.

What do all the cervical screening terms mean?
A glossary of terms used on the ISD cervical screening pages is provided at the bottom of the ISD Cervical Screening page [www.isdscotland.org/cervical_screening](http://www.isdscotland.org/cervical_screening)

Where can I get cervical screening data covering other countries within the United Kingdom?
Data for England is collated by [The Information Centre for Health and Social Care](http://www.icnics.org.uk)
Data for Wales is collated by [Public Health Wales](http://www.pubhealthwales.wales.nhs.uk)
Data for Northern Ireland is collated by the [Public Health Agency](http://www.phni.hosp.nhs.uk)