About this Release

Annual and quarterly cervical screening statistics including uptake by age group and NHS Board, average reporting and laboratory turnaround times, number of cervical screening tests processed and results of tests, all reported by NHS Board/laboratory.

Key Points

Figure 1. Percentage uptake rates of females in Scotland aged 20-60 with a record of a previous screening test taken within last 3.5 years, by NHS Board of Residence

1. Based on the Scottish Cervical Call Recall System (SCCRS) population denominator (excluding medically ineligible women)
2. NHS Highland does not include the Argyll & Bute area and figures for NHS Glasgow do not include the Clyde area.
3. Cervical screening year runs from 1st April to 31st March.
Of all eligible women, approximately 74% have taken up the invitation to screening within the last 3.5 years.

Just over 390,000 cervical screening tests were processed within the programme which is an increase of approximately 4% in the last 3 years since 2007-08.

Of all tests processed, just over 97% were of satisfactory quality. Of satisfactory results, 90.8% had a negative result, 7.9% had a low grade cell change and the remaining 1.3% had high grade cell changes.

Background
The national cervical screening programme was introduced in Scotland in 1988 with the aim of reducing the incidence of invasive cancer of the cervix. It is routinely offered to eligible women aged 20-60 every three years and is used to identify cell changes which could develop to be cancerous in women who otherwise have no symptoms; at this stage, any changes can be easily treated and treatment is usually very effective. Cervical Screening has been shown to reduce cervical cancer incidence and further mortality.

In May 2007, following a review of local call recall arrangements in Scotland, a new national IT system, the Scottish Cervical Call Recall System (SCCRS), was introduced. Cervical screening data are currently collected by each of the laboratories in Scotland and retained on SCCRS. SCCRS collects information relating to each step as a woman moves through her screening episode. More information on SCCRS can be found here.

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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
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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

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 www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/