Information Services Division

Publication Summary

Scottish Cervical Screening Programme Statistics 2011-12
Annual update to 31st March 2012
Publication date – 28th August 2012

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. This publication includes data to 31st March 2012.

Key Points

• Of all eligible women, 73% took up the invitation to be screened in the previous 3.5 years.
• Just under 409,000 cervical screening tests were processed within the programme which is an increase of approximately 9% in the last 4 years since 2007-08.
• Of all tests processed, over 97% were of satisfactory quality. Of satisfactory results, 90.9% had a negative result, 7.8% had a low grade cell change and the remaining 1.3% had high grade cell changes.

Figure 1. Percentage uptake rates of females in Scotland aged 20-601 with a record of a previous screening test taken within the last 3.5 years, by NHS Board of Residence
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 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 SCCR. SCCR collects information relating to each step as a woman moves through her screening episode. More information on SCCR 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.