

Publication Summary



Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics

For invitations between 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2012

Publication date – 27 August 2013



About this Release

This is an annual update of bowel screening statistics for the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2012 including uptake, laboratory and clinical outcomes.

Key Points

- Overall in Scotland, uptake was 54.9%, an increase of 0.4 percentage points compared with the two year period November 2009 to October 2011; and a continued increase since the programme started. Uptake for females in Scotland was 58.0% and uptake for males was 51.8%. The Healthcare Improvement Scotland standard for bowel screening uptake is 60%.
- Uptake was lower in areas of higher deprivation. Uptake for females in the two least deprived quintiles exceeded the standard at 67.0% and 63.4%, respectively. For males living in the most deprived quintile, 39.6% took up the offer of bowel screening.
- 7.1% of men and 5.5% of women who had a positive bowel screening test result (and who went on for further investigations) had either polyp cancer or invasive colorectal cancer.

Background

The Scottish Bowel Screening Programme commenced a phased roll out in June 2007 and by December 2009 all NHS Boards in Scotland were participating in the Programme.

This publication relates to men and women registered with a Community Health Index (CHI) number aged between 50-74 years who are invited to participate and to be screened every two years. Eligible people are posted a screening kit which is completed at home and involves collecting 2 samples from each of three separate bowel movements. The kit is then returned to the central screening centre in Dundee and tested for hidden traces of blood in the stool. From 1st April 2013 those over the age of 74 can now self-refer and opt into bowel screening.

In February 2012 the Scottish Government formally launched the Detect Cancer Early programme with the aim of increasing the early detection of cancer by 25%. The target concentrates on breast, colorectal (bowel) and lung cancers. Part of this initiative has been focussing on raising awareness of bowel screening.

The publication report summarises the [Key Performance Indicators](#) ^{*,R} (KPIs) which are a series of measures used to monitor and evaluate the [Scottish Bowel Screening Programme](#).

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^R = Feb 2014. Table 4 in the KPI report has been updated as there was an error in the formula used to calculate the percentage of males waiting longer than 8 weeks for a colonoscopy to be performed. This has resulted in an increase in the percentage for all health boards and Scotland for this group only.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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