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 2013.

Key Points

- Of all eligible women, just over 71% took up the invitation to be screened in the previous 3.5 years.
- Just over 405,000 cervical screening tests were processed within the programme which is an increase of approximately 8% in the last 5 years since 2007-08
- Of all tests processed, over 97% were of satisfactory quality. Of satisfactory results, 90.3% had a negative result, 8.3% had a low grade cell change and the remaining 1.4% 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
1. Based on the Scottish Cervical Call Recall System (SCCRS) population denominator (excluding medically ineligible women)
2. These data are based on the pre-2006 Health Board configuration (former Argyll & Clyde). Figures for NHS Highland do not include the Argyll & Bute area and figures for NHS Greater Glasgow do not include the Clyde area
3. Cervical screening year runs from 1st April to 31st March

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. Screening is offered routinely 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 S. SCCR S collects information relating to each step as a woman moves through her screening episode. More information on SCCR S 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.

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