

Publication Summary



Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics

For invitations between 1 May 2013 and 30 April 2015

Publication date – 23 February 2016



About this Release

This release from Information Services Division provides an update of the Scottish bowel screening statistics for the period 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2015 including uptake, laboratory and clinical outcomes. From now on Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics will be released every six months instead of once a year.

Key Points

For the two year period 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2015:

- The number of bowel screening participants exceeded one million.
- Uptake was 57.7%, this is a slight increase (0.9 percentage points) compared with the two year period 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2014. The Healthcare Improvement Scotland standard for uptake is 60%.
- Uptake for females was 60.6% and for males was 54.7%.
- Uptake was found to be lower in more deprived areas. Uptake was 45.5% in the most deprived areas compared to 66.6% in the least deprived areas.
- Almost two percent of those returning their screening kit received a positive test result. Of those with a positive test result 6.6% had a bowel cancer.
- Nearly 3 out of 5 (59.7%) screen detected cancers were diagnosed at the earliest two stages. The earlier a cancer is detected the greater the chances are of successful treatment.

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 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 two 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 1 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 Detect Cancer Early bowel screening marketing campaign was launched in February 2013.

The key points have been selected from the Key Performance Indicators report which includes a series of measures used to monitor and evaluate the [Scottish Bowel Screening Programme](#).

Frequency of future publications

Scottish Bowel Screening Programme statistics will be released every six months instead of once a year. The August update will provide a more comprehensive commentary than the February update. Readers are invited to send any comments on this publication to nss.isdCANCERSTATS@nhs.net.

Contact

Greig Stanners
Senior Information Analyst
nss.isdCANCERSTATS@nhs.net
0141 282 2333

Jaroslav Lang
Information Analyst/Statistician
nss.isdCANCERSTATS@nhs.net
0141 282 2202

Further Information

The [Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Key Performance Indicators report](#) is available on the ISD website. [Background information and glossary](#), and [metadata documents](#) are also available on our website.

For more information on Bowel Screening see the [Bowel screening section of our website](#).

For related topics, please [see the Cancer pages](#).

The next release of this publication will be 02 August 2016.

You may also be interested in

There are three cancer screening programmes in Scotland - [bowel](#), [breast](#) and [cervical](#). Analytical support for the evaluation and monitoring of these programmes is provided by ISD Scotland.

ISD also provides a support service for [cancer clinical trials](#) for cancer and facilitates [national cancer audits](#).

ISD and 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.

Further information [about our statistics](#).