

Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics



For invitations between 1 November 2013 and 31 October 2015

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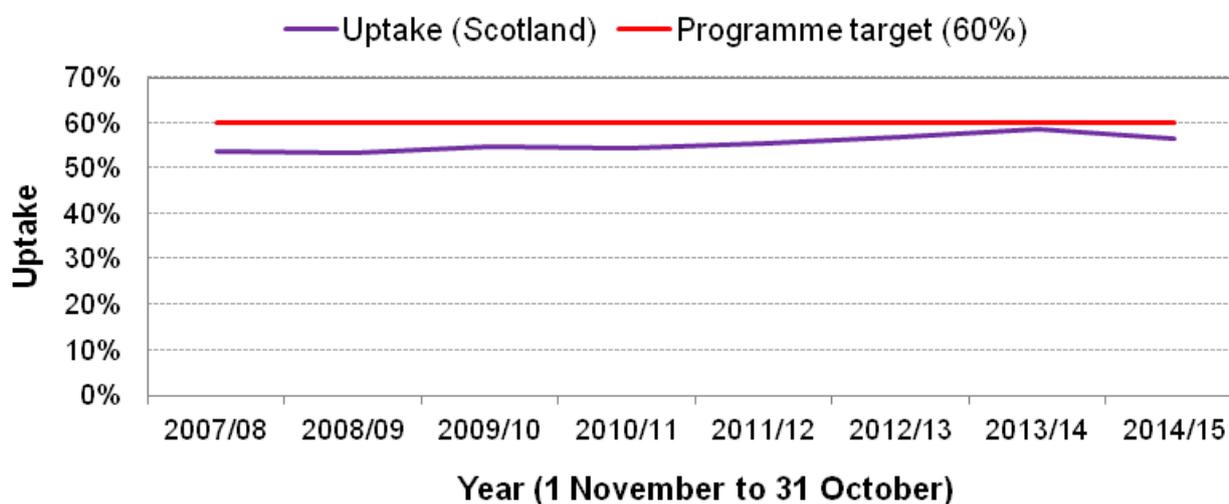
About this release

This release from Information Services Division provides an update of the Scottish bowel screening statistics for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2015 including uptake, laboratory workload and clinical outcomes.

Main Points

- For the two year reporting period 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2015 uptake was 57.5%, which was broadly similar to the uptake rate reported for the period 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2014. However, analysis by single year reveals that while uptake rates have steadily increased over time (going from 53.9% when the programme started in 2007/08 to a high of 58.5% in 2013/14) there was a decrease in uptake in 2014/15 to 56.5%.

Trend in uptake of bowel screening for all persons in Scotland by year



- Uptake was lower in areas of higher deprivation. Uptake in the most deprived group was 45.1% compared with 66.5% in the least deprived group.
- Nearly two percent of those returning their screening kit received a positive test result. Of those with a positive test result, 6.7% had a bowel cancer.
- Three out of five screen detected cancers (61.1%) 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. 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.

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Further Information

NHS Lanarkshire's data are incomplete for some clinical outcomes following a positive screening test result. This is being investigated at source and may result in a minor revision of this publication.

Further information can be found in the [full publication report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

The [Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Key Performance Indicators report](#), which includes a series of measures used to monitor and evaluate the Scottish Bowel Screening Programme is available on the ISD 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 07 February 2017 (Key Performance Indicator report and summary only).

ISD and Official Stats

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