Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Statistics
For invitations between 1 May 2015 and 30 April 2017
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This release from Information Services Division (ISD) provides an update of the Scottish bowel screening statistics for the period 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2017 including uptake, laboratory workload and clinical outcomes.

Main Points
• For the two year reporting period 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2017 uptake was 56.0%, which was less than the uptake reported for the period 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2016 (57.0%).

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

- Uptake was lower in areas of higher deprivation. Uptake in the most deprived group was 42.9% compared with 65.5% in the least deprived group.
- Around two percent of those returning their screening kit received a positive test result. Of those with a positive test result, 6.2% had a bowel cancer.
- Three out of five screen detected cancers (62.5%) 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 started a phased roll-out in June 2007. 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. Since 1 April 2013, those aged over 74 can self-refer and opt into bowel screening.

A new bowel cancer test which simplifies the sample collection process has been introduced with an aim to increase participation in Scotland’s national bowel screening programme. The new home screening faecal immunochemical test (FIT) requires participants to return just one bowel motion sample instead of the three samples previously required.

**Contact**

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

Anna Goulding  
Information Analyst  
0141 207 1876  
NSS.isdCANCERSTATS@nhs.net

**Further Information**

Further information can be found on the ISD website.

The [Scottish Bowel Screening Programme Key Performance Indicators report](https://www.isdScotland.org/), which includes a series of measures used to monitor and evaluate the Scottish Bowel Screening Programme, is available on the ISD website.

You can find more information on Detect Cancer Early (DCE) on the [ISD website DCE pages](https://www.isdScotland.org/Detect-Cancer-Early/).  
For related topics, please see the [Cancer pages](https://www.isdScotland.org/Cancer/) on the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be 08 August 2018 (Key Performance Indicator report, full report and summary).

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