Scottish Bowel Screening Programme
Statistics
For invitations between 1 November 2015 and 31 October 2017

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides an update of the Scottish bowel screening statistics for the period 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2017 including uptake, laboratory workload and clinical outcomes.

Main Points
- Uptake for the bowel screening test reached a high of 57.8% in 2012/14 and has gradually decreased to 55.6% in 2015/17:

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

  For the two-year period November 2015 to October 2017:
  - The overall uptake was 55.6%, which was less than the uptake reported for the period 1 November 2014 to 31 October 2016 (56.6%).
  - Uptake was lower in areas of higher deprivation. Uptake in the most deprived group was 42.3% compared with 65.3% in the least deprived group.
• 2.1% of those returning their screening kit received a positive test result. Of those with a positive test result, 6.4% had a bowel cancer and 37.5% had an adenoma (a benign growth that may develop into cancer in the future).

• 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. Trend charts shows data by 2-year intervals from 1st November to 31st October e.g. 2007/09 covers 1st November 2007 to 31st October 2009.

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. Data from this test will be included in the next edition of the KPI report.

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Further Information

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. You can find more information on Detect Cancer Early (DCE) on the ISD website DCE pages. For related topics, please see the Cancer pages on the ISD website. The next release of this publication will be February 2019 (Key Performance Indicator report and summary).

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.