Scottish Cervical Screening Programme Statistics 2018/19

Annual update to 31 March 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 3 September 2019

About this release

This release by the Information Services Division provides annual and quarterly cervical screening statistics. The report provides data on uptake by age group, NHS Board, deprivation and Human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation status. In addition data are presented on laboratory turnaround times, number of screening tests and results of tests by NHS Board and laboratory.

For the period reported, cervical screening was routinely offered to women aged 25-64 in Scotland; those aged 25-49 every three years and those aged 50-64 every five years.

Main Points

- In 2018/19, 407,854 cervical screening tests were processed. Of all tests processed, 97.4% were of satisfactory quality i.e. there were enough cells in the sample.
- The uptake rate for cervical screening was 73.1% with 1,030,703 eligible women having participated in the screening period as at 31st March 2019.
- Uptake of screening is poorest in younger women and increases with age to a peak at 50-54 years.

Percentage uptake of cervical screening among women aged 25-64 who were screened within the last 3.5 or 5.5 years by age group: Scotland, 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Source: Scottish Cervical Call Recall System
• Women from the most deprived areas are less likely to take part in the screening programme - two out of three (67%) compared with over three quarters (78%) from the least deprived areas.
• Cervical screening uptake is highest in HPV vaccinated women when compared to the non-vaccinated women. This may be due to immunised women being more aware of risks involved after vaccinations thanks to the education during the immunisation programme.
• Over nine out of 10 tests (91.9%) were negative with no sign of abnormal change in cells with a further 7.1% having low grade cell changes identified leading to recommended enhanced monitoring. 0.9% of women were identified as having a high risk of developing cervical cancer.

Background

The aim of cervical screening is to identify cell changes in the cervix which could develop to become malignant, thereby reducing cervical cancer incidence and mortality. Changes in cells identified at an early stage can be easily treated and treatment is usually very effective.

Abnormal results are reported in two different ways:

• Low grade or borderline cell changes (low grade dyskaryosis)
• High grade cell changes which are moderate or severe (high grade dyskaryosis).

Dyskaryosis is a medical term to describe cell changes which could develop to become malignant.

Only three years of trend data are available in this publication for uptake due to changes in the age range and frequency introduced in 2016.

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Further Information

Further Information can be found on the ISD website. For more information on cervical screening see the cervical screening section of our website. For related topics, please see the cancer pages on the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be 2 September 2020.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs. NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

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.