Scottish Breast Screening Programme
Statistics
Annual update to 31 March 2018

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release from Information Services Division provides an update of breast screening statistics to 31 March 2018. This will be the first release of these statistics since April 2017. The 2016/17 and 2017/18 data are being published for the first time in this release due to the implementation of the new digital mammography Scottish Breast Screening System (SBSS).

Main Points
• For the period 2015/16 – 2017/18, 514,083 women aged 50-70 attended a routine breast screen appointment which equates to around 7 in 10 women (71.2%) taking up the invitation for screening.
• For the period 2015/16 – 2017/18, four NHS Boards did not meet the minimum acceptable uptake standard of 70%; NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (65.8%), NHS Lanarkshire (68.0%), NHS Lothian (69.2%) and NHS Fife (69.7%).

Percentage uptake of women aged 50-70\(^1,2\) by NHS Board of Residence; 2015/16\(^3\) – 2017/18 three-year period.

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1. Routine appointments only, self/GP referral appointments are excluded.
2. Women are invited to attend screening once every three years and NHS Boards are not necessarily screened evenly throughout the three-year period.
3. The 2015/16 data for Scotland is 9% incomplete due to the Breast Screening Programme implementing a new SBSS IT system.
• The uptake rate has been falling consistently since 2008/09 - 2010/11 when it was 74.9%.
• Women from more deprived areas are less likely to attend for breast screening, with under 6 in 10 women from the most deprived areas going for screening compared with almost 8 in 10 women living in the least deprived areas, a difference of over twenty percentage points. This pattern is reflected in other screening programmes.
• The detection of invasive cancer is happening more frequently when the tumour is small (< 15mm) resulting in a better prognosis. This increased detection rate in each of the latest two years was 3.8 per 1,000 women who were screened, the highest in recent years.

Background
The Scottish Breast Screening Programme (SBSP) is part of a UK-wide programme of free mammographic screening for breast cancer, which was set up in 1988 with the aim of reducing deaths from breast cancer. There has been full national coverage of the SBSP from 1991 and since then more than 3.9 million screening episodes and in excess of 30,000 breast cancers diagnosed.

Within Scotland, data are collected by each of the six screening centres (which are supported by 19 mobile units) and retained on the SBSP Information System. Currently, all women aged between 50 and 70 are invited for a routine breast screening examination every 3 years.

More information on the SBSP dataset can be found on our Data sources page. Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

Contact
John Quinn
Senior Information Analyst
0131 275 6573
nss.isdcancerstats@nhs.net

Douglas Clark
Information Analyst
0131 275 7182
nss.isdcancerstats@nhs.net

Further Information
Further Information can be found on the ISD website.

For more information on breast screening see the breast 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 21 April 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.