



13 February 2023

Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD
Peadar.Toibin@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ4892.22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people screened by CervicalCheck in each of the past ten years.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

The total number of persons screened by CervicalCheck - at either primary care or colposcopy - in each of the past ten years is shown in the table above.

Year	Number of persons screened
2013	344,500
2014	289,170
2015	272,471
2016	276,450
2017	279,893
2018*	355,745
2019	229,176
2020**	168,792
2021	333,437
2022†	210,782

* Year women availed of the offer of a free out-of-schedule screening test

** The CervicalCheck programme was paused during April, May and June 2020 on public health advice at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic

† Provisional data from the beginning of January to the end of October 2022, and subject to change

Despite the many restrictions the pandemic placed on our operations, the programme has been up to date with invites for screening since 2021 and is issuing result letters in line with the KPI of four weeks in 95% of cases.

Please note that in March 2020 cervical screening in Ireland changed from cytology screening (smear test) to HPV cervical screening. The figures in this table are therefore not the number of smear tests but the total number of persons screened (either cytology-led or HPV-led screening) in this time period.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that this year the NSS has joined forces with the National Cancer Control Programme and National Immunisation Office to launch Ireland's roadmap to eliminate cervical cancer.

[Ireland's roadmap](#) shows the strides made so far towards this global goal, and signposts the future direction we will take, breaking this ambitious journey into achievable stages. The global goals have been developed by the World Health Organization and set key targets that all

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countries are asked to strive towards in HPV vaccination, cervical screening and early treatment. Ireland is one of the first countries to commit to cervical cancer elimination.

You can read more about cervical cancer elimination on screeningservice.ie, or by clicking [here](#).

For other queries, programme participants can call the Freephone information line on 1800 45 45 55; email: info@screeningservice.ie; or contact their clinic directly. I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Murphy, Chief Executive

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National Screening Service



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Ciock
The National Breast Screening Programme



AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Púitige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Riatraí do Dhiabéitigh
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme