



24 October 2023

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
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Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ43839/23: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of women screened by CervicalCheck in each of the past ten years and to date in 2023.

PQ43840/23: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of CervicalCheck slides sent abroad to foreign laboratories in each of the past ten years and to date in 2023.

PQ45273/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of women screened by BreastCheck in each of the past ten years and to date in 2023.

PQ45274/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of women screened by CervicalCheck in each of the past ten years and to date in 2023.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions, which I intend to answer as one. I trust you are agreeable with this approach.

BreastCheck

We regularly publish BreastCheck Statistical Reports on our website. These reports show screening activity and performance for the year being reported, with detailed statistics, including the number of women who attended for screening in that year.

The table below contains a link to the relevant year's published data, in addition to the requested total number of women that attended screening each year. Published data is available for the years 2013 to 2020.

Year	Number of women who attended screening	Published data
2013	144,656	Programme Report 2013 - 2014
2014	135,966	Programme Report 2014 - 2015
2015	145,822	Programme Report 2015 - 2016
2016	139,839	Programme Report 2016 - 2017
2017	165,581	Programme Report 2017 - 2018
2018	168,582	Programme Report 2018 and 2019
2019	167,575	Programme Report 2018 and 2019
2020*	57,836	Statistical Report 2020

* COVID-19 pause



For the years 2021 to 2023 (to date), published data is not yet available. Our preliminary data, that is subject to verification and change, is as shown below:

Year	Number of women who attended screening
2021*	123,891
2022	156,786
2023**	113,950

* COVID-19 pause

** Provisional data from the beginning of January to the end of August 2023, and subject to change

CervicalCheck

We also regularly publish CervicalCheck Statistical Reports. The CervicalCheck Statistical Reports do not report by calendar year. Links to this published data relevant to 2013 to March 2020 have also been included below. 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 tables below.

Year	Number of people screened	Published data relevant to the period
2013	344,500	Programme Report 2012 - 2013
2014	289,170	Programme Report 2013 - 2014
2015	272,471	Programme Report 2014 - 2015
2016	276,450	Programme Report 2015 - 2016
2017	279,893	Programme Report 2016 - 2017
2018*	355,745	Programme Report September 2017- March 2020
2019	229,176	Programme Report September 2017- March 2020

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

For 2020 to 2023 to date, complete published data is not currently available. Our preliminary data, that is subject to verification and change, is as shown below:

Year	Number of people screened
2020**	168,792
2021	333,437
2022	266,641
2023***	176,413

** 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 August 2023, and subject to change

The below table shows the number of tests processed in laboratories outside Ireland in each of the years 2013 to the end of August 2023. This table does not contain cytology tests as they are created as part of the lab reporting process following a positive HPV test and not sent anywhere.



Please note that figures from 2020 to August 2023 are subject to validation and are therefore subject to change. Please also note that there will always be differences between the number of tests processed in laboratories and number of tests taken in any given calendar year due lead time for sample processing e.g. tests processed outside the state in January will have been taken in December and reported in the previous year's figure.

Year	Number of tests sent to lab outside Ireland
2013	189,974
2014	143,575
2015	137,790
2016	132,519
2017	132,641
2018	176,146
2019	170,745
2020*	156,995
2021	310,064
2022	272,148
2023**	168,536

* 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 August 2023, and subject to change

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.

