



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

01 August 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ38212.25: To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of eligible women with at least one satisfactory cervical screening test in a five-year period at the end of June 2023-2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question, and to the interim response issued to you on 17 July 2025.

About CervicalCheck

CervicalCheck offers free primary HPV cervical screening every three years to women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 29; and every five years to those aged 30 to 65 years. Once people receive their invitation letter, they can make an appointment with a registered sample taker. There are [over 4,000 doctors or nurses registered with CervicalCheck](#) in GP practices, Women's Health, Family Planning and Well Woman Clinics nationwide. Women can check when they are eligible for their free screening test [here](#).

Screening coverage

Coverage is a key performance indicator. It is the proportion of unique women who have had at least one satisfactory screening test taken within the defined screening interval of five years, expressed as a percentage of the total number of eligible women in the population.

Recording coverage over five-year periods helps reduce anomalies that can occur in quarter-to-quarter and year-to-year figures when, for example, a woman is invited in one quarter or year but chooses to attend in another.

CervicalCheck data

We publish our data regularly on our website. Our [programme reports](#) provide verified data in relation to the performance of the programme, including five-year coverage. In addition to our programme reports, we publish [quarterly data reports](#) on the numbers of people taking part in screening across our screening programmes, and uptake. These quarterly reports contain preliminary data and are subject to verification and change. Quarterly reports for CervicalCheck also provide data on 5-year coverage, to the end of each quarter.

The following table shows the number and percentage of eligible women with at least one satisfactory cervical screening test in a five-year period to end Q1 2023-2025. Data to end Q1 has been provided, as this is consistent with the reporting period for our programme reports.

Teach Óstaí an Rí, 200 Sráid Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath D01 A3Y8. King's Inn House, 200 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8.
☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ info@screeningservice.ie www.screeningservice.ie



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Time period	Number	Percentage	Link to published information
To end March 2023	953,073	75.0%	CervicalCheck Programme Report 2022-2023
To end March 2024	967,569	74.0%	Activity and Performance Data Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2024
To end March 2025	1,009,308	73.5%	Activity and Performance Data Q1 2025

Cervical cancer elimination

Ireland is on track to [eliminate cervical cancer](#) by 2040. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines elimination as fewer than four cases per 100,000 women. The current rate of cervical cancer in Ireland is around 10.4 cases per 100,000.

In 2020, the WHO set targets to reach its vision of a world where cervical cancer is eliminated as a public health problem. The WHO's target for screening coverage is 70% of women screened by age 35 and again by age 45. Ireland has set a target that by 2030, 80% of eligible people are screened with a HPV test every 5 years.

Our cervical cancer screening rate is the third highest in the EU. The average among the 20 countries where data are available is 55%.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Murphy
Chief Executive

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