



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

06 March 2025

Deputy Colm Burke
colm.burke@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ9955/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of notifications issued for Breastcheck appointments for each CHO area; the number of notifications on foot of such letter for the years 2019 to 2024, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

About BreastCheck

BreastCheck is Ireland's free breast screening programme. We screen women who have no symptoms of breast cancer so that we can find and treat breast cancer at the earliest possible stage. We aim to invite women for their first screening test by the age of 52 - in some cases it will be 53; and every two to three years after that, up to the age of 69. We provide access to appropriate care for those who need further tests and treatment. We work to make BreastCheck services accessible to all; for example, providing longer or group appointments, and information in braille and international languages.

We have four BreastCheck static screening units and 24 mobile clinics across the country. Mobile clinics enable us to provide breast screening for more women across the country. They typically stay at a location for between three months and two years and we invite eligible women living in the area for screening. The units then move to another location, where we invite eligible women in that area. We work to ensure that no unit is sitting idle for periods of time and that all women in Ireland have an equal and equitable opportunity to attend screening close to where they live.

BreastCheck data

In the response below, for 'the number of notifications issued for Breastcheck appointments', we have provided the number of invitations we sent each year and for 'the number of notifications on foot of such letter', we have provided the number of women who attended for screening. Please note that a woman could be invited in one calendar year, but attend in the following or a subsequent year. As our invitations are issued for each static unit and its mobile units, we do not report data by CHO area.

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 the data requested, with links to published data that is available for the years 2019 to 2022.

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Year	Number of women invited for screening	Number of women who attended screening	Link to published data
2019	239,792	167,575	Programme Report 2018/ 2019
2020*	79,882	57,836	Statistical Report 2020
2021*	166,176	123,891	Statistical Report 2021
2022	226,553	155,916	Statistical Report 2022

* Screening pauses due to COVID-19

For the years 2023 to 30 September 2024, verified published data is not yet available. Our preliminary data, that is subject to verification and change, is as shown below:

Year	Number of women that were invited for screening	Number of women who attended screening
2023	240,693	167,312
01 Jan to 30 Sep 2024**	134,545	94,019

[**AIRE implementation](#)

Being breast aware

BreastCheck is a screening service for women aged 50-69 who do not have symptoms of breast cancer. Women with concerns or symptoms concerning their breast health should not wait for or attend screening and should instead contact their GP who will give them the appropriate advice.

It is important that every woman is breast aware. This means knowing what is normal for her so that if any unusual change occurs, she will recognise it. If cancer is found early, treatment is more likely to be successful. It is therefore important for women to get into the habit of looking at and checking their breasts at least on a monthly basis. More information on checking breasts, and on how a woman can reduce her risk of breast cancer, is available on hse.ie/breastcheck.

Women who have additional questions regarding breast screening can contact Freephone 1800 45 45 55 from 9am-6pm, Monday to Friday; or email info@breastcheck.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Murphy,
Chief Executive.