Breast Screening Programme, England 2017-18

Screening is intended to detect breast cancer at an early stage when there is a better chance of successful treatment. Women between the ages of 50 and 70 years are invited for regular breast screening (every three years) under a national programme.

Some women outside this age group are also screened as part of the NHS Breast Screening Programme, either through self or General Practitioner (GP) referral where appropriate, or as part of a research trial.

Uptake of invites

70.5% took up invitation (aged 50-70)

Cancer detection

18,001 women (aged 45+) had cancers detected

8.4 cases per 1,000 screened

Types of cancer detected

78.6% women (aged 45+) with cancer detected had invasive cancers

1 One which has spread beyond the layer of tissue in which it developed and is growing into surrounding, healthy tissues.

Types of cancer detected

7,223 women (aged 45+) had invasive but small cancers

2 Less than 15mm in diameter, usually too small to detect by hand.

Read the full report: digital.nhs.uk/pubs/brstscreen1718