

Interruption of screening programmes in England

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Disruption

- Screening services were **formally 'paused'** in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in March 2020
- Effectively paused in England as invitations were not sent out from screening hubs.
- Many screening units began sending out invitations again in **July 2020**.
- In a 31st July letter to NHS Trusts the NHS Chief Executive Sir Simon Stevens set out the NHS priorities for the rest of 2020/21.
 - **top priority** from August 2020 was to restart screening in full

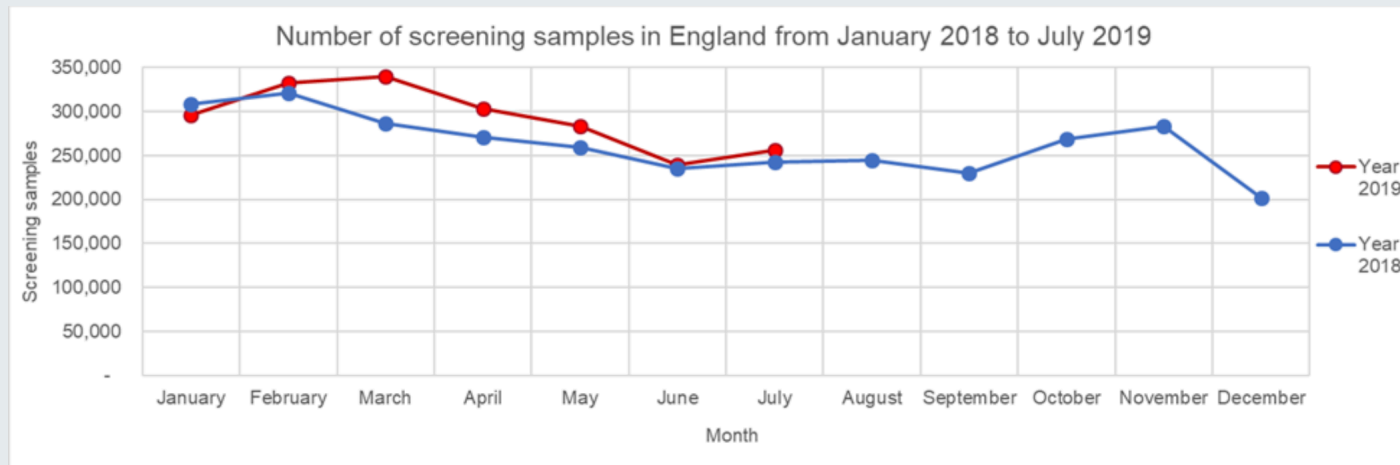
Cervical cancer screening

- In England, invitations for screening were suspended between the beginning of April 2020 and the beginning of June 2020
- Primary care providers were given the option to delay invitation for screening for up to six months if necessary
- Upon resumption those women on **Early Recall** were invited first during the month of June.
 - Thereafter women on **routine recall** were sent invitations
 - Both those affected by COVID and those due from June onwards
- Secondary care
 - **No disruption** to high-grade referrals
 - Minor disruptions to low-grade referrals

Impact

Cervical cancer screening

- Roughly 750,000 women affected over three months of disruption
 - Samples received at laboratories are roughly at the usual level
- Estimating impact is complicated
 - Public awareness campaign ran in 2019 on exactly the months of disruption and
 - HPV primary testing was rolled out just prior to the disruption



- Biggest challenge will be ‘consumer’ and provider confidence

Thank you

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