

# Update on the Population based Screening Programmes in Wales.

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QSIC

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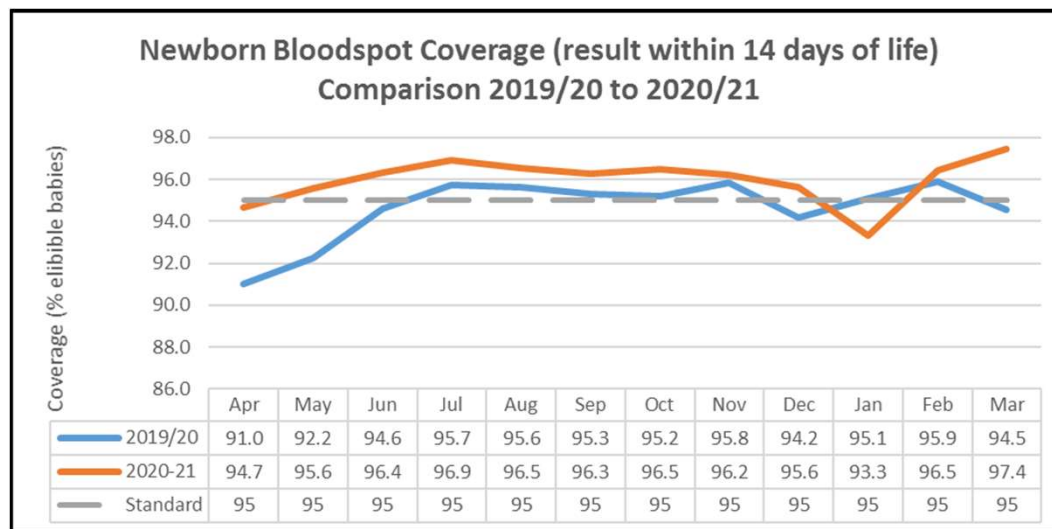
# Impact of the Pandemic on the Population Based Screening Programmes

Phase of Screening Response during the pandemic	Date	Summary
Pause	March to May 2020	Following WG announcement on 13 March to suspend non urgent outpatients appointment and admissions. Recommendation to WG accepted to pause the adult screening programmes. Antenatal and Newborn programmes not paused.
Reinstatement	June to September 2020	As covid cases started to reduce from May 2020 plans to reinstate covid safe screening pathways against agreed criteria implemented. Risk based and phased implementation of programmes
Continuation	September to March 2020	Continual review against agreed criteria undertaken. All screening programmes continued through local lockdowns, firebreak and national lockdowns.
Recovery	March 2021 onwards	Plans to recover programmes prepared

## Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme

Newborn Bloodspot Screening has continued to be offered throughout the pandemic as to pause could have had significant implications for babies.

The coverage of the programme has remained within standard throughout the pandemic except for January 2021 during the second peak and Christmas period.

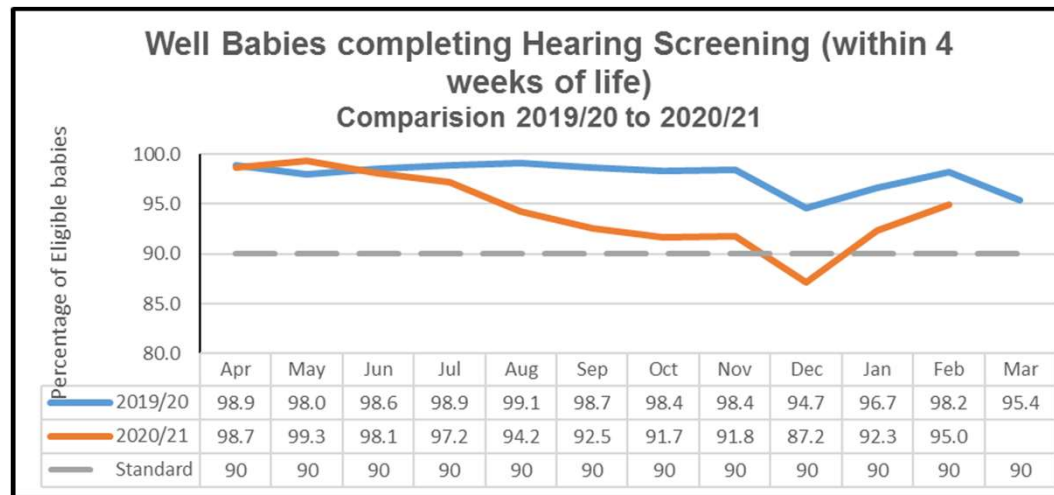


## Newborn Hearing Screening Wales Programme

This programme was not paused as this could have had significant implications for babies.

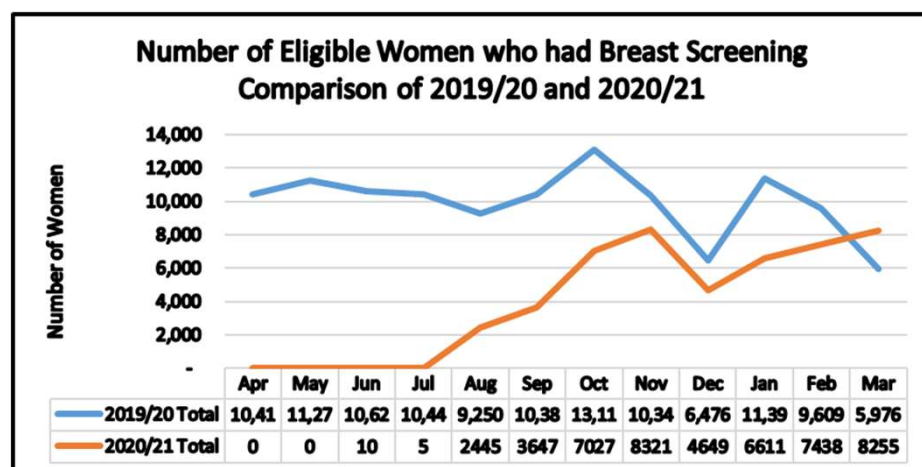
Newborn Hearing Screening has continued to be offered throughout the pandemic although during the first peak community clinics were paused.

The percentage of babies completing their screening within four weeks has remained within standard throughout the pandemic except for December 2020 during the second peak and Christmas period.



## Breast Screening Programme (Breast Test Wales)

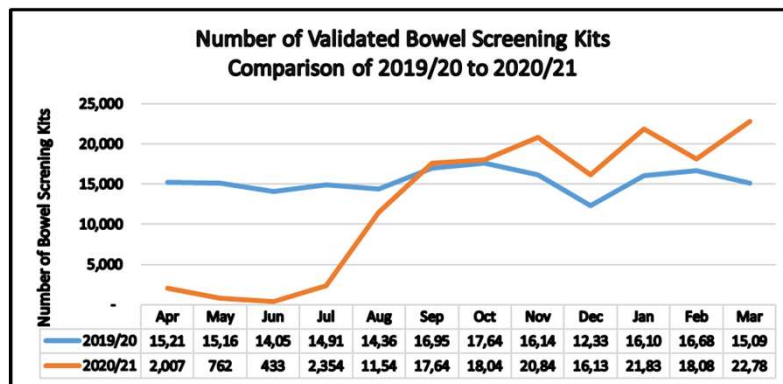
The programme paused screening from March to August 2020 and supported symptomatic assessment clinics for several health board. The screening capacity has reduced following reinstatement due to Covid safe pathway.



Number of Breast Screening Invitations			Change
Number of women offered screening from April 2019 to March 2020	155,768		
Number of women offered screening from April 2020 to March 2021 (pause from March to August 2020)	86,368		45% reduction
Number of Women Screened			
Number of women screened April 2019 to March 2020:	108,283		
Number of women screened April 2020 to March 2021 (pause from March to August 2020)	57,288		47% reduction
Uptake			
Uptake (percentage of invited women who attend for screening – rolling annual rate) – March 2020	69.5%		
Uptake (percentage of invited women who attend for screening – rolling annual rate) – March 2021 –	66.3%		3.2% reduction
Number of Screen Detected Breast Cancer			
Number of breast cancers screen detected in April to March 2020	1,085		
Number of breast cancers screen detected from April to March 2021 (expect this to increase as not all cancers will have been histology reported yet)	518		567 cancers 52.3% reduction

## Bowel Screening (Bowel Screening Wales)

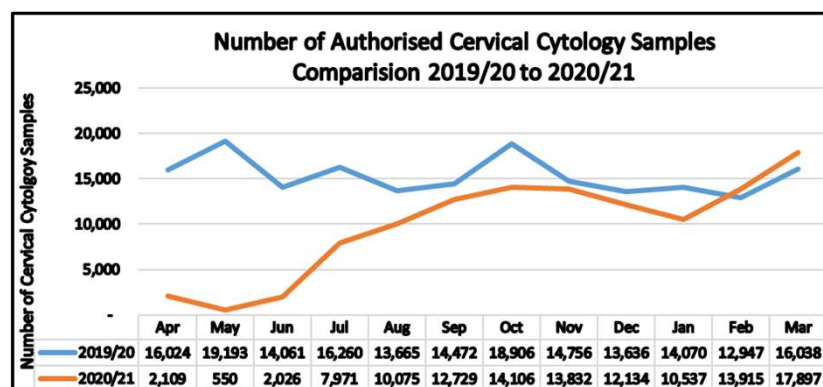
The programme paused screening from March to August 2020. The screening laboratory supported Covid testing and offered health boards symptomatic FIT testing to mitigate harm for symptomatic participants waiting for colonoscopy.



Number of Invitations		Change
Number of participants offered screening from April 2019 to March 2020 –	280,193	
Number of participants offered bowel screening from April 2020 to March 2021 – (pause from March to August 2020)	182,710	34.8% reduction
Number of Screening		
Number of participants screened 1st April 2019 to March 2020:	164,050	
Number of participants screened April 2020 to March 2021:(pause from March to August 2020)	116,520	29% reduction
Uptake		
Uptake - April 2019 to March 2020	58.5%	
Uptake– April 2020 to March 2021	63.8%	5.3% increase
Number of Screen Detected Cancer		
Number of cancers screen detected in April to Feb 2020	217	
Number of cancers screen detected from April to Feb 2021 (expect this to increase as not all cancers will have been histology reported yet)	174	43 cancers 19.8% reduction

## Cervical Screening Programme (Cervical Screening Wales)

The programme paused invitations for screening from March to June 2020. The screening laboratory continued to analyse any cervical samples sent in over the whole period and colposcopy services continued to accept referrals.



Number of Invitations		Change
Number of participants sent invitations (first invites and reminders) from 1 April 2019 to Feb 2020	402,849	
Number of participants sent invitations (first invites and reminders) from March 2020 to March 2021 – (pause from March to June 2020)	373,502	7% reduction
Number of Screening		
Number of participants screened March 2019 to Feb 2020:	186,983	
Number of participants screened March 2020 to Feb 2021 (pause from March to June 2020):	116,022	38% reduction
Uptake		
Age appropriate coverage- percentage of women who have taken up screening offer – Jan 2020	73.6%	
Age appropriate coverage- percentage of women who have taken up screening offer – Jan 2021 –	70.0%	3.6% reduction
Number of high grade cytology identified		
Number of high grade cytology identified from April 2019 to March 2020	1,924	
Number of high grade cytology identified from April 2020 to March 2021 (expect this to increase as not all histology reported yet)	1,309	615 high grade 32% reduction

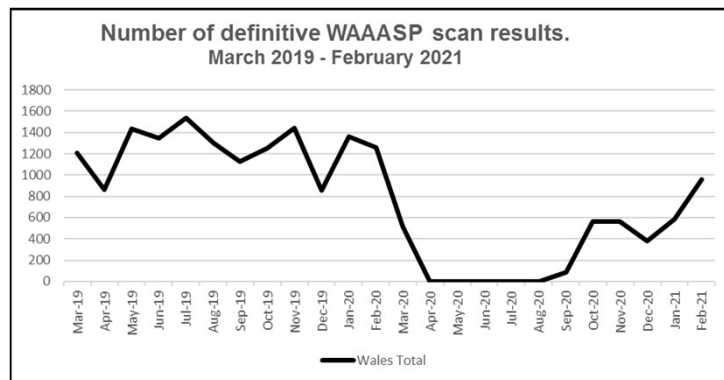


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## Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme (WAAASP)

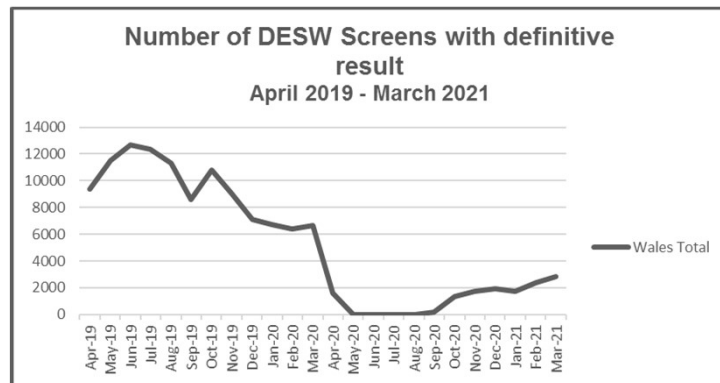
The programme paused March to August 2020. Staff supported covid response including the covid testing in Cardiff Stadium and supporting newborn hearing screening by delivering screening.



Number of Invitations		Change
Number of participants offered screening from January 2019 to December 2019	17,056	
Number of participants offered screening from January 2020 to December 2020 (programme paused from March to August 2020)	5,540	68% reduction
Number of Screening		
Number of participants screened August 2019 to Dec 2019 (allowing 4 months to attend)	13,292	
Number of participants screened August 2020 to December 2020 (allowing 4 months to attend) (programme paused from March to August 2020)	3,034	77% reduction
Uptake		
Percentage of men who have taken up screening offer – August 2019 to December 2020	77.9%	
Percentage of men who have taken up screening offer – August 2020 to December 2020	55%	22.9% reduction
Number of AAA		
Number of AAA screen detected from March 2019 to March 2020	120	
Number of AAA screen detected from April 2020 to March 2021	44	76 AAA 63% reduction

## Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (Diabetic Eye Screening Wales)

The programme paused March to September 2020. Most of the Staff supported covid response including the covid testing in Cardiff Stadium.



Number of Invitations		Change
Number of participants offered screening from March 2019 to February 2020	141,897	
Number of participants offered screening from March 2020 to February 2021 (programme paused from March to September 2020)	34,798	75.5% reduction
Number of Screening		
Number of participants screened March 2019 to February 2020 (allowing one month to attend):	115,251	
Number of participants screened from March 2020 to February 2021 (allowing one month to attend) (programme paused from March to September 2020)	17,003	85.2% reduction
Uptake		
Percentage of participants who have taken up screening offer April 2019 to Feb 2020 –	81%	
Percentage of participants who have taken up screening offer April 2020 to Feb 2021 –	49%	32% reduction
Number of referrals of sight threatening retinopathy		
Number of participants with R3A referrals from March 2019 to Feb 2020	572	
Number of participants with R3A referrals screen detected from April 2020 to March 2021	433	139 referrals 24% reduction

# Steps taken to reduce impact

- ❖ **Paused the programmes for as short a time as possible**
- ❖ **Risk stratified the screening population to offer screening to those known to be at higher risk of the disease screened for**
- ❖ **Offered screening with covid-secure pathways**
- ❖ **Introduced measures to reduce DNA to appointments and improve effective use of available clinic appointments.**
- ❖ **Offered screening in different venues – sports stadium and arts venues as health boards not able to reinstate many screening venues**
- ❖ **Continued to offer the programmes throughout the local lockdowns, firebreak, national lockdowns**
- ❖ **Communication through partners, social media and joined with the Welsh Government campaign – Help Us Help You to encourage people to attend screening**

# Recovery Plan

Programme	Backlog Status
Bowel Screening Wales	Decreasing Backlog
Breast Test Wales	Increasing Backlog
Cervical Screening Wales	Decreasing Backlog
Diabetic Eye Screening Wales	Increasing Backlog
Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme	Increasing Backlog

## Breast Screening Programme (Breast Test Wales)

### Action:

Programme activity needs to increase to 12,000 screens per month from the current 7,500. To be sustained for at least 36 months. Regions of longest wait prioritised.

### Phase 1 (April 2021 – September 2021)

Additional screening capacity to prevent the round length from increasing further.

Additional activity on weekends, Static centre activity to be optimised further.

Open appointment invitations to maximise the slot utilisation and reduce DNA in the prevalent round women.

### Phase 2 (?October 2021 – April 2024)

When social distancing measures are relaxed this will allow the service to increase capacity by reducing appointment slot length and increasing the number of available appointments.

**Timescale for Recovery:** Anticipated 36 – 48 months

### Investment

Staffing – increase in screening office staff to support the planning and administration of the round length plan and open invitation work.

Fund enhanced weekend working pay for Radiography staff to provide weekend screening lists

### Dependencies:

To meet the objectives the following criteria need to be met –

- Social distancing measures will need to be relaxed to release further capacity in phase 2
- Funding and agreement from staff to work additional hours
- Timely treatment for women with screen detected breast cancer by Health Board



## Bowel Screening (Bowel Screening Wales)

### Action:

**Additional invites to be issued each week to reduce backlog. Invite levels raised from 5,500 (pre covid) to 7,800 weekly invitations from March 21**

**Timescale for Recovery:** 10 months - Anticipated December 2021

### Investment

- Maintain BSW staffing levels to enable them to deal with additional invites.
- Additional funding required to increased activity for invites and analysis.

### Dependencies:

- Capacity in colonoscopy in health boards for timely provision. Some Health Boards timeliness struggling – this mostly in HB where timeliness an issue before pandemic.
- Requirement to reduce backlog in preparation for further BSW Optimisation.

## Cervical Screening Programme (Cervical Screening Wales)

### Action:

**Increase of invitations sent out in a phased approach in line with timescale agreed with GPC Wales.**

**Timescale for Recovery:** 10 months - Anticipated December 2021

### Investment

Additional funding required to increased activity for invites and analysis.

### Dependencies:

- Cervical screening capacity in Primary Care and sexual health clinics
- Laboratory capacity to process and review cytology of HPV positive samples.
- Continued LHB colposcopy capacity.

# Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme (WAAASP)

**Action: Programme activity needs to increase substantially from the current 1,000 to circa 1,800 screens per month.**

## **Phase 1**

Ensuring that longest waiting participants are given appoints as a priority

Additional screening capacity – staff and venues

Identify regions where the longest waiting participants are based and look to increase venue capacity

## **Phase 2**

When social distancing measures are relaxed this will allow the service to increase capacity by reducing appointment slot length and increasing the number of available appointments.

Increase in screening venues and more efficient use of venues

**Timescale for Recovery:** anticipated 18 months

## **Investment**

Staffing – additional screening staff and clinical trainer

Additional venues

## **Dependencies:**

- Social distancing measures will need to be relaxed to release further capacity in phase 2
- Funding for additional staff and agreement from staff to work additional hours
- Availability of Health Board venues for screening
- Referred participant to vascular services that meets the Vascular Society for Great Britain and Ireland standards (centralisation into 3 regional networks).



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## Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESW)

**Action:** Programme activity needs to increase substantially from the current 4,828 to circa 12,300 screens per month. This needs to be sustained until the service implements risk based interval screening

### **Phase 1** (April 2021 – September 2021)

Additional screening capacity to prevent the round length from increasing further.

Additional activity on weekends, longer working days

Increased number of venues available for screening – both healthcare and non healthcare facilities.

Open appointment invitations to maximise the slot utilisation and reduce DNA.

### **Phase 2** (?October 2021 – April 2024)

When social distancing measures are relaxed this will allow the service to increase capacity by reducing appointment slot length and increasing the number of available appointments.

Engagement with primary care colleagues to explore potential availability of retinal reviews for low risk participants would positively impact on the service backlog but this would be subject to additional significant funding.

**Timescale for Recovery:** Anticipated recovery period is 24-36 months

### **Investment**

Staffing – additional diabetic eye screening staff

Additional venues

External investment needed to enable availability of retinal reviews for low risk participants

### **Dependencies:**

- Social distancing measures will need to be relaxed to release further capacity in phase 2
- Funding for additional staff and agreement from staff to work additional hours
- Availability of Health Board venues for screening
- Timely assessment treatment for referred participant by Health Board



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# Summary

- The pandemic has impacted screening identified conditions for the adult screening programmes. This is due to the pause; the reduced capacity following reinstatement; and reduced uptake in some programmes
- The antenatal and newborn screening programmes have been maintained throughout the pandemic with thanks to health board maternity and audiology staff.
- The recovery will take significant time and will require additional activity above usual levels
- The division will work to ensure all within ability is done to support recovery
- Support from HB to enable recovery is needed – eg availability of venues; timely provision of colonoscopy