

HIPS/17/55 – Understanding and addressing ethnic variation in cervical cancer screening in Scotland.

Cancer of the cervix can largely be prevented by cervical screening, yet in Scotland in 2015, 379 women were diagnosed with, and 116 women died, from invasive cervical cancer. Our work has shown breast and bowel screening participation in Scotland varies by ethnic group: we now wish to document to what extent this is the case for cervical cancer screening, and develop interventions to support the NHS in offering screening in culturally sensitive and appropriate ways. We will (1) describe patterns of attendance to cervical screening by ethnic group using anonymised linkage of cervical screening and self-reported ethnicity in the 2011 Census; (2) obtain the view of ethnic minority populations about barriers and facilitators to cervical screening; (3) summarise the evidence in the scientific literature; and (4) design new more inclusive ways of offering screening to women, with input from ethnic groups, the NHS, the Scottish Government, and relevant charities.