

### 3.3 RE-SCREENING

#### 3.3.1 Frequency of re-screening during a two year period

The Australian cervical screening policy is for biennial screening. However, many women screen more frequently than this.

**Definition** This measure estimates the number of women with a negative smear report who had a repeat Pap test within a 2 year period, and the number of times these women re-tested within that period. This measure is an indicator for compliance with the recommended screening interval among women with negative smear reports. Women with a negative cytology result, with recommendation to screen in less than two years or with a history of CIN, have been excluded from the analysis.

**Index period** 1 February 1997 - 28 February 1997

Number of further screens within the following 24 months for women of all ages who received a negative Pap test report during February 1997 are presented in Table 3.11. The index period for this measure is February 1997. A total of 56,841 women were screened during the index period.

**Table 3.11 Proportion of women with further screens within a two year period**

Number of further tests	Number of women	Percentage of women
None	30,638	54%
One	21,193	37%
Two	4,171	7%
Three	676	1%
Four	140	<1%
Five or more	23	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,841</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.3.2 Frequency of re-screening during a two year period by 5-year age groups

Of women with a negative smear result, 57.4% had no further tests, 36.0% had one repeat Pap test within 2 years, and 6.6% had more than one repeat test. The proportion of women who had one further re-screen was highest for women between the ages of 50 to 54 (39.1%), and lowest for women between the ages of 65 to 69 (28.8%).

The proportion of women with more than one re-screen was highest in the 50 - 54 year age group (8.4%) and lowest in the 20 - 24 year age group (4.9%). (Table 3.12).

**Table 3.12 For women in the 20 - 69 year target age group, number and proportion of repeat screens within two years by 5-year age group. Screened in February 1997 with a negative cytology result <sup>1</sup>**

Age group (years)	Total number of tests	No further test		One further test		> 1 further test	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
20 - 24	4,394	2,863	65.2	1,314	29.9	217	4.9
25 - 29	6,146	3,595	58.5	2,211	36.0	340	5.5
30 - 34	6,991	3,938	56.3	2,603	37.2	450	6.4
35 - 39	7,016	3,921	55.9	2,607	37.2	488	7.0
40 - 44	5,888	3,327	56.5	2,146	36.4	415	7.0
45 - 49	4,913	2,699	54.9	1,865	38.0	349	7.1
50 - 54	3,799	1,993	52.5	1,487	39.1	319	8.4
55 - 59	2,674	1,519	56.8	971	36.3	184	6.9
60 - 64	1,855	1,100	59.3	632	34.1	123	6.6
65 - 69	1,484	976	65.8	428	28.8	80	5.4
<b>20 - 49</b>	<b>35,348</b>	<b>20,343</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>12,746</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>50 - 69</b>	<b>9,812</b>	<b>5,588</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>3,518</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>20 - 69</b>	<b>45,160</b>	<b>25,931</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>16,264</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>6.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Women with a negative cytology result, with recommendation to screen in less than two years or with a history of CIN, have been excluded.

### 3.3.3 Frequency of re-screening during a two year period by Area Health Service and age group

In the 20-49 age group, the percentage of women with one repeat Pap test was 33.3% in rural NSW and 36.9% in metropolitan NSW. The proportion of women with more than one further Pap test in a two year period was higher in the Metropolitan NSW (6.8%) compared to Rural NSW (5.0%). (Table 3.13)

The heterogeneity of the proportion of women in the 20 - 49 year age group with re-screens was significant across Area Health Services ( $p$ -value < 0.001). In metropolitan NSW, the highest re-screening rates for women who had one further test in two years occurred in Northern Sydney (40.3%), South Eastern Sydney (39.3%), Illawarra (37.0%) and South Western Sydney (36.5%). Lower rates were observed in the Wentworth (32.5%), Hunter (33.9%) and Western Sydney (34.2%) Area Health Services. In rural NSW, the proportion of women with one further test was highest in the Mid North Coast (38.2%) and Mid Western (36.3%) Area Health Services, with the lowest rate observed in the Far West Area Health Service (27.0%). (Table 3.13)

In metropolitan NSW, the highest proportion of women in the 20 - 49 year age group who had more than one further test in two years occurred in the South Western Sydney (7.8%) and South Eastern Sydney (7.6%). The lowest rates were observed in the Hunter (4.3%) and Wentworth (4.9%) Area Health Services. In rural NSW, the proportion of women with more than one further test within a two year period were higher in the New England (6.5%) and Greater Murray (5.5%) Area Health Services, and lower in the Macquarie (3.3%) and Mid Western (3.8%) Area Health Services. (Table 3.13)

In the 50-69 age group, the percentage of women with one further test within a two year period was 29.8% in rural NSW and 37.7% in metropolitan NSW. The proportion of women who had more than one further test was 8.0% in metropolitan NSW and 4.6% in rural NSW. (Table 3.14)

In the 50 - 69 year age group the proportion of women with re-screens was significantly heterogeneous across Area Health Services ( $p$ -value < 0.001). In metropolitan NSW, the highest re-screen rates (one further test) for women aged 50 - 69 years occurred in Northern Sydney (43.2%) and lowest in the Wentworth (32.3%) Area Health Services. In rural NSW, the highest re-screen rate occurred in the New England (31.7%) AHS and the lowest in the Far West AHS (12.0%). (Table 3.14)

In the 20-69 age group, the percentage of women with one further repeat Pap test within a two year period was 32.5% in rural NSW and 37.0% in metropolitan NSW. The proportion of women who had more than one further Pap test within a two year period was 7.1% in metropolitan NSW compared to 4.9% in rural NSW. (Table 3.15)

The proportion of women with re-screens in the 20 - 69 year age group was also significantly heterogeneous across Area Health Services ( $p$ -value < 0.001).

**Table 3.13** Number and proportion of repeat screens within two years by AHS women in the 20-49 target age group screened initially in February 1997 with a negative cytology result <sup>1</sup>

AHS	No further test		One further test		> 1 further test	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Central Coast	859	59.2	505	34.8	88	6.1
Central Sydney	1,610	56.2	1,037	36.2	217	7.6
Hunter	1,699	61.8	932	33.9	119	4.3
Illawarra	1,029	56.1	679	37.0	126	6.9
Northern Sydney	2,660	52.2	2,054	40.3	378	7.4
South Eastern Sydney	2,569	53.2	1,896	39.3	365	7.6
South Western Sydney	2,214	55.7	1,449	36.5	311	7.8
Wentworth	950	62.5	494	32.5	75	4.9
Western Sydney	1,923	59.5	1,106	34.2	202	6.3
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>10,152</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Far West	58	67.4	24	27.9	4	4.7
Greater Murray	666	61.0	366	33.5	60	5.5
Macquarie	315	65.9	147	30.8	16	3.3
Mid North Coast	647	56.5	438	38.2	61	5.3
Mid Western	501	59.9	304	36.3	32	3.8
New England	650	59.4	374	34.2	71	6.5
Northern Rivers	946	63.3	474	31.7	74	5.0
Southern	555	68.9	218	27.0	33	4.1
<b>Rural</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>5.0</b>
AHS Not Available	492	64.1	249	32.4	27	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,343</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>12,746</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>6.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Women with a negative cytology result, with a recommendation to screen in less than two years or with a history of CIN, have been excluded.

**Table 3.14 Number and proportion of repeat screens within two years by AHS women in the 50-69 target age group screened initially in February 1997 with a negative cytology result<sup>1</sup>**

AHS	No further test		One further test		> 1 further test	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Central Coast	282	59.6	161	34.0	30	6.3
Central Sydney	402	52.3	295	38.5	70	9.1
Hunter	435	61.5	237	33.5	35	5.0
Illawarra	362	60.8	204	34.3	29	4.9
Northern Sydney	739	49.4	647	43.2	110	7.4
South Eastern Sydney	674	50.4	517	38.6	147	11.0
South Western Sydney	487	53.2	341	37.2	88	9.6
Wentworth	204	61.1	108	32.3	22	6.6
Western Sydney	453	55.9	295	36.4	63	7.8
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Far West	21	84.0	3	12.0	1	4.0
Greater Murray	211	63.9	99	30.0	20	6.1
Macquarie	94	65.3	42	29.2	8	5.6
Mid North Coast	247	65.5	114	30.2	16	4.2
Mid Western	163	65.5	77	30.9	9	3.6
New England	231	62.1	118	31.7	23	6.2
Northern Rivers	297	64.8	140	30.6	21	4.6
Southern	185	73.1	64	25.3	4	1.6
<b>Rural</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>4.6</b>
AHS Not Available	101	60.5	56	33.5	10	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,588</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>3,518</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>7.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Women with a negative cytology result, with a recommendation to screen in less than two years or with a history of CIN, have been excluded.

**Table 3.15 Number and proportion of repeat screens within two years by AHS women in the 20-69 target age group screened initially in February 1997 with a negative cytology result <sup>1</sup>**

AHS	No further test		One further test		> 1 further test	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Central Coast	1,141	59.3	666	34.6	118	6.1
Central Sydney	2,012	55.4	1332	36.7	287	7.9
Hunter	2,134	61.7	1169	33.8	154	4.5
Illawarra	1,391	57.3	883	36.4	155	6.4
Northern Sydney	3,399	51.6	2701	41.0	488	7.4
South Eastern Sydney	3,243	52.6	2413	39.1	512	8.3
South Western Sydney	2,701	55.2	1790	36.6	399	8.2
Wentworth	1,154	62.3	602	32.5	97	5.2
Western Sydney	2,376	58.8	1401	34.7	265	6.6
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>19,551</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>12,957</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>2,475</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Far West	79	71.2	27	24.3	5	4.5
Greater Murray	877	61.7	465	32.7	80	5.6
Macquarie	409	65.8	189	30.4	24	3.9
Mid North Coast	894	58.7	552	36.2	77	5.1
Mid Western	664	61.1	381	35.1	41	3.8
New England	881	60.1	492	33.5	94	6.4
Northern Rivers	1,243	63.7	614	31.5	95	4.9
Southern	740	69.9	282	26.6	37	3.5
<b>Rural</b>	<b>5,787</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>3,002</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>4.9</b>
AHS Not Available	593	63.4	305	32.6	37	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,931</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>16,264</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>6.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Women with a negative cytology result, with a recommendation to screen in less than two years or with a history of CIN, have been excluded.

**Table 3.16 Number and proportion of repeat screens within two years women in the target age groups screened initially in February 1997 with a negative cytology result <sup>1</sup>**

Age group (years)	No further test		One further test		> 1 further test	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>20-49</b>	20,343	57.6	12,746	36.1	2,259	6.4
<b>50-69</b>	5,588	57.0	3,518	35.9	706	7.2
<b>20-69</b>	<b>25,931</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>16,264</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>6.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Women with a negative cytology result, with a recommendation to screen in less than two years or with a history of CIN, have been excluded.