

# The NHS Breast Screening Programme

Since the introduction of the NHS Breast Screening Programme 20 years ago over 19 million women have been screened and the Programme now saves 1,400 lives every year. The Programme is a world best and its example has been followed to develop similar programmes throughout Europe.

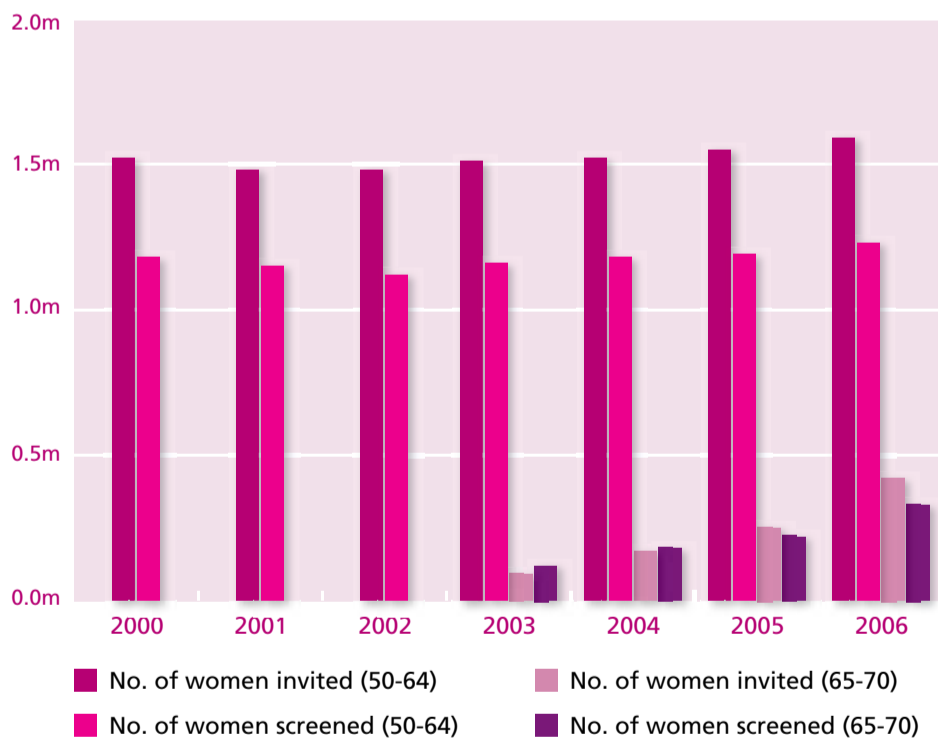
In 2001, the screening Programme was extended to include women aged 65-70. Since 2001 the number of cancers detected by the Programme has increased by 62%. This increase is a direct result of the extension of routine screening to women aged 65-70 and the introduction of two-view mammography at all screening rounds. There is no upper age limit for screening on request.

### Number of women screened

More than 1.6 million women were screened within the Programme in 2005-06, a 10% increase from 2004-05 and a rise of more than 50% over the last 10 years.

In 2005-06 75.9% of women aged 53-64 had been screened at least once in the previous three years, compared to 75.5% the year before. Of the women aged 50-64 invited, 75.4% were screened, an increase of 0.4% from 2004-05.

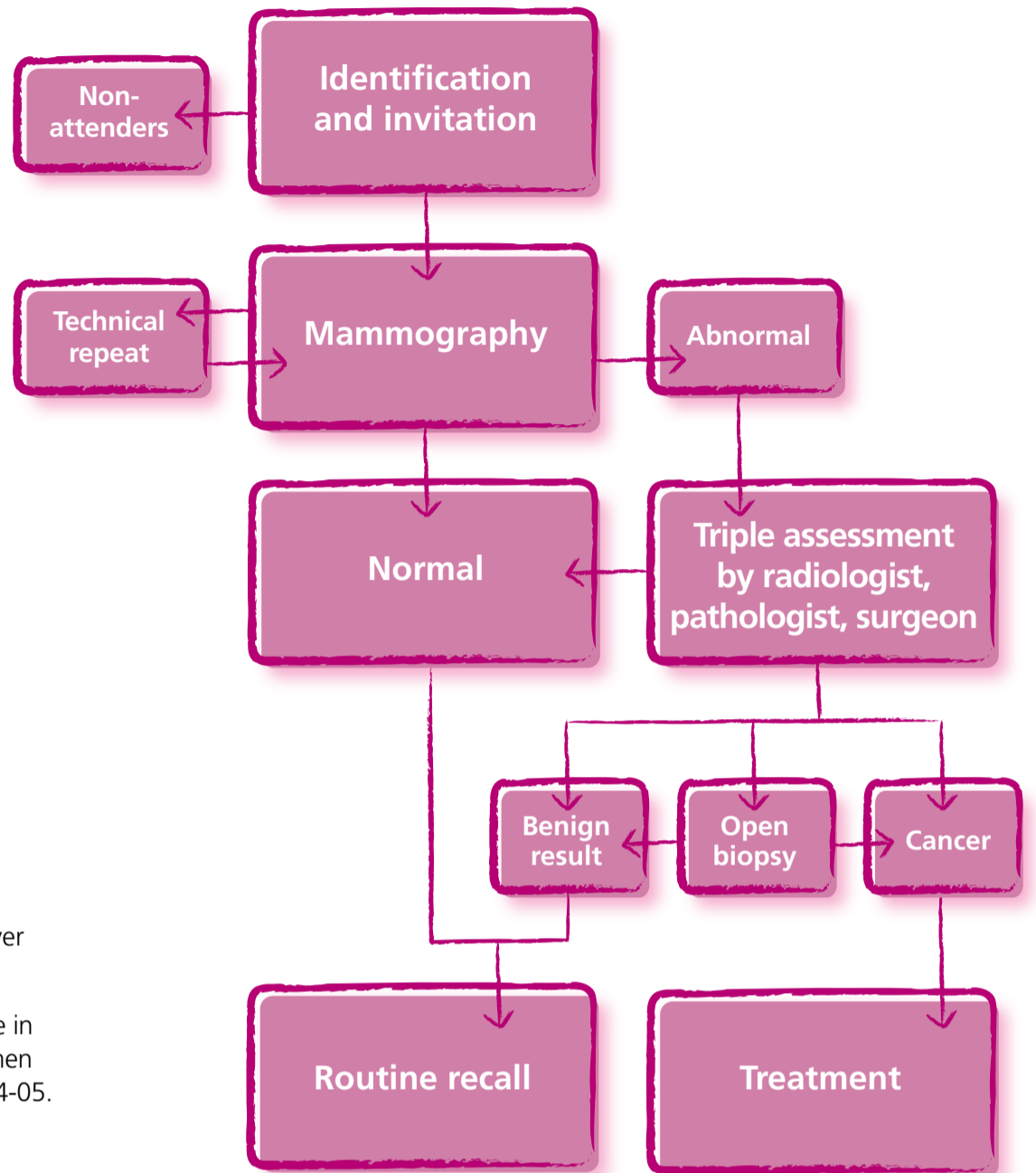
### Summary of screening activity, England 2000-06



Due to the Programme expansion, data for 65-70 prior to 2002-03 is not applicable

### Total screening activity (all ages), England 2005-06

Age-group	No. of women screened	Referred for assessment % of women screened	Cancers detected				
			In-situ and micro-invasive % of women screened	Invasive % of women screened	<15mm % of women screened	<10mm % of women screened	Total % of women screened
50-64	1,465,560	4.7	0.2	0.6	0.29	(0.14)	0.72
65-70	373,085	4.3	0.2	0.9	0.50	(0.24)	1.16
71 or over	52,763	5.4	0.2	1.4	0.68	(0.31)	1.66
Total (All ages)	1,925,285	4.7	0.2	0.7	0.34	(0.16)	0.83



### Cancer detection rate, England 1995-96 to 2005-06

The introduction of two view mammography led to a 40% increase in the number of cancers detected by the Breast Screening Programme. More cancers were detected in 2005-06 than in any previous year, 13% more than in 2004-05, 62% more than in 2000-01 and 143% more than ten years ago.

Women who attend for screening are not only less likely to die from breast cancer, but are also less likely to have a mastectomy than those who are not screened.

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### Cancers detected, England 1996-2006

