

# Indicator 6: Rescreening

## Rescreen rate

The rescreen rate is the proportion of all women screened in a given year whose screening outcome was a recommendation to return for screening in two years who returned for a screen within 27 months. This rate is reported by five-year age groups for women aged 40 years and over and for the target age group 50–67 years. Although the BreastScreen Australia target age group is 50–69 years, only women aged 50–67 years are reported for the rescreen indicator. This is because women aged 68–69 years in the index year were outside the target age group 27 months after their index screen.

## The rescreen indicator

The rescreen indicator measures the proportion of women who return for screening in the program within the recommended screening interval. The interval between screens is an important factor influencing the level of detection of cancers within the program. Intervals that are too long may allow tumours to grow to the point where symptoms become evident, thus eliminating the advantage of screening. A high rescreen rate is also important for maintaining the participation rate. The anticipated reductions in mortality can be achieved only if a high proportion of women in the target age group attend for screening every two years. By having a mammogram every two years, a woman can reduce her chance of dying from breast cancer by up to 40% (Duffy et al. 1991); (Fletcher et al. 1993); (Feig 1998). The recommended interval of 27 months includes an additional 3 months to allow for potential delays in screening availability and data transfer.

Women in the target age group are re-invited biennially. Some states and territories have a policy of re-inviting a proportion of women annually, for example, women with a strong family history of breast cancer. The data for this indicator include women who are recommended for annual screening as well as those screened biennially.

The proportion of women who returned for screening within the recommended screening interval increased with the number of screens a woman had previously attended. As can be seen in the table below, the rescreen rate is greater for women who have attended for two previous screens than for women who have been screened only once before, and greater still for women who have previously attended three or more screening episodes.

One of the objectives of the BreastScreen Australia Program is 'To rescreen all women in the Program at two-yearly intervals' (BSANAC & DHAC 2000).

The National Accreditation Standards for rescreen require:

- ≥75% of women aged 50–67 years who attend for their first screening round within the program are rescreened within 27 months.
- ≥90% of women aged 50–67 years who attend for their second and subsequent screen are rescreened within 27 months of their previous screening episode.

The following table shows the rescreen rates for 2001 and 2002 for women aged 50–67 years. Although the BreastScreen Australia target age group is 50–69 years, only women aged

50–67 years are reported for the rescreen indicator. This is because women aged 68–69 years in the index year were outside the target age group 27 months after their index screen.

The objectives of rescreening at least 75% of women in the age group 50–67 attending for their first screening round and at least 90% of women attending for their second or subsequent screening rounds were not achieved in 2001 and 2002. The age-standardised rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years attending for their first screening round declined from 62.9% in 2001 to 61.6% in 2002, but this decline was not significant. The age-standardised rescreen rate for women aged 40 years and over attending for their first screening round also declined from 58.5% in 2001 to 56.6% in 2002. The rescreen rates for women aged 50–67 years participating in their second or subsequent rounds were higher than the rescreen rates achieved by women participating in their first screening round but they did not reach the objective of at least 90%.

**Age-standardised rescreen rates for women aged 40 years and over and 50–67 years, screened during 2001 and 2002**

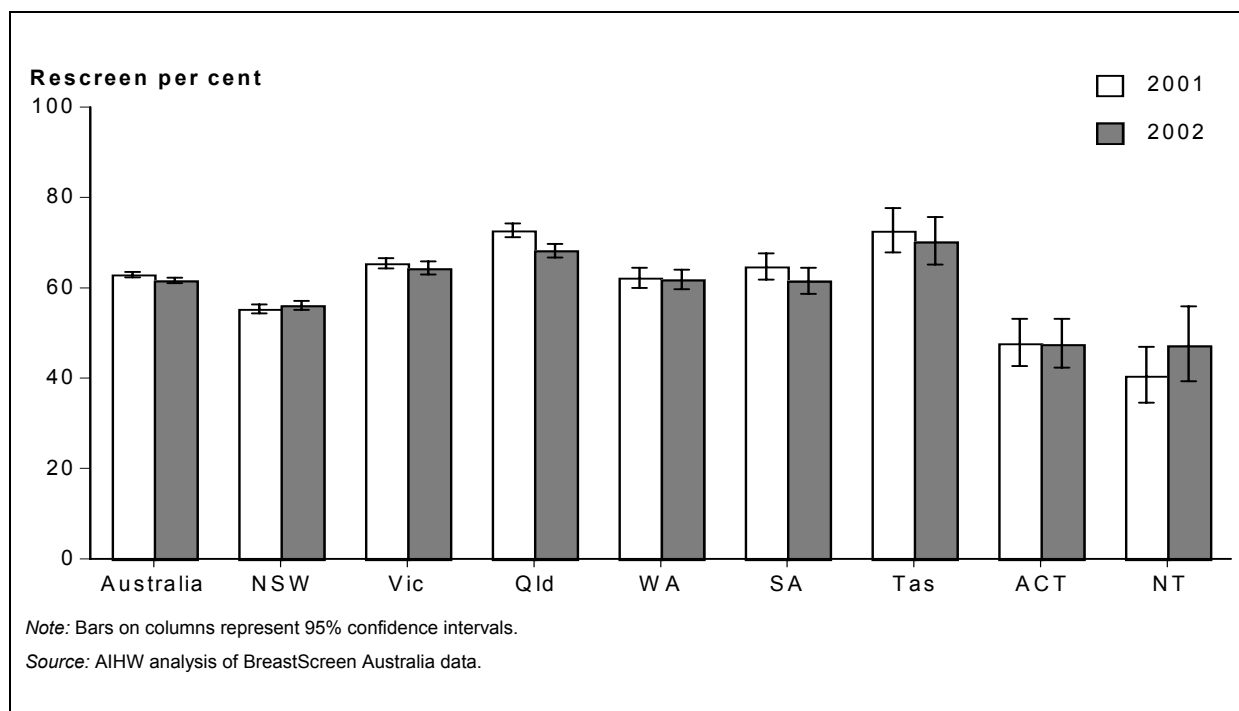
	Objective <sup>(a)</sup>	2001	2002
<b>First screening round</b>			
Rate (%) for women aged 50–67 years	≥75	62.9	61.6
95% CI		62.2–63.5	60.9–62.2
Rate (%) for women aged 40 years and over	..	58.5	56.6
95% CI		58.1–59.0	56.1–57.1
<b>Second screening round</b>			
Rate (%) for women aged 50–67 years	≥90	71.9	70.3
95% CI		71.3–72.5	69.7–71.0
Rate (%) for women aged 40 years and over	..	67.9	65.9
95% CI		67.4–68.3	65.4–66.4
<b>Subsequent screening rounds</b>			
Rate (%) for women aged 50–67 years	≥90	81.8	80.7
95% CI		81.5–82.1	80.4–81.0
Rate (%) for women aged 40 years and over	..	78.0	76.4
95% CI		77.7–78.3	76.1–76.7

(a) Performance objective for BreastScreen services as set out in the National Accreditation Standards (NQMC 2004).

.. Not applicable.

## States and territories

### Rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years, screened during 2001 and 2002, first screening round



	Australia	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
<b>2002 rate (%)</b>	61.6	56.1	64.3	68.2*	61.8	61.5	70.2	47.5	47.2
<i>95% CI</i>	60.9–62.2	55.1–57.1	62.9–65.8	66.7–69.7	59.6–64.0	58.6–64.4	65.1–75.6	42.3–53.1	39.2–55.9
<b>2001 rate (%)</b>	62.9	55.3	65.4	72.7	62.2	64.7	72.6	47.7	40.5
<i>95% CI</i>	62.2–63.5	54.4–56.3	64.3–66.6	71.2–74.2	60.0–64.4	61.8–67.6	67.8–77.7	42.7–53.1	34.6–46.9

\* Statistically different from the 2001 rate.

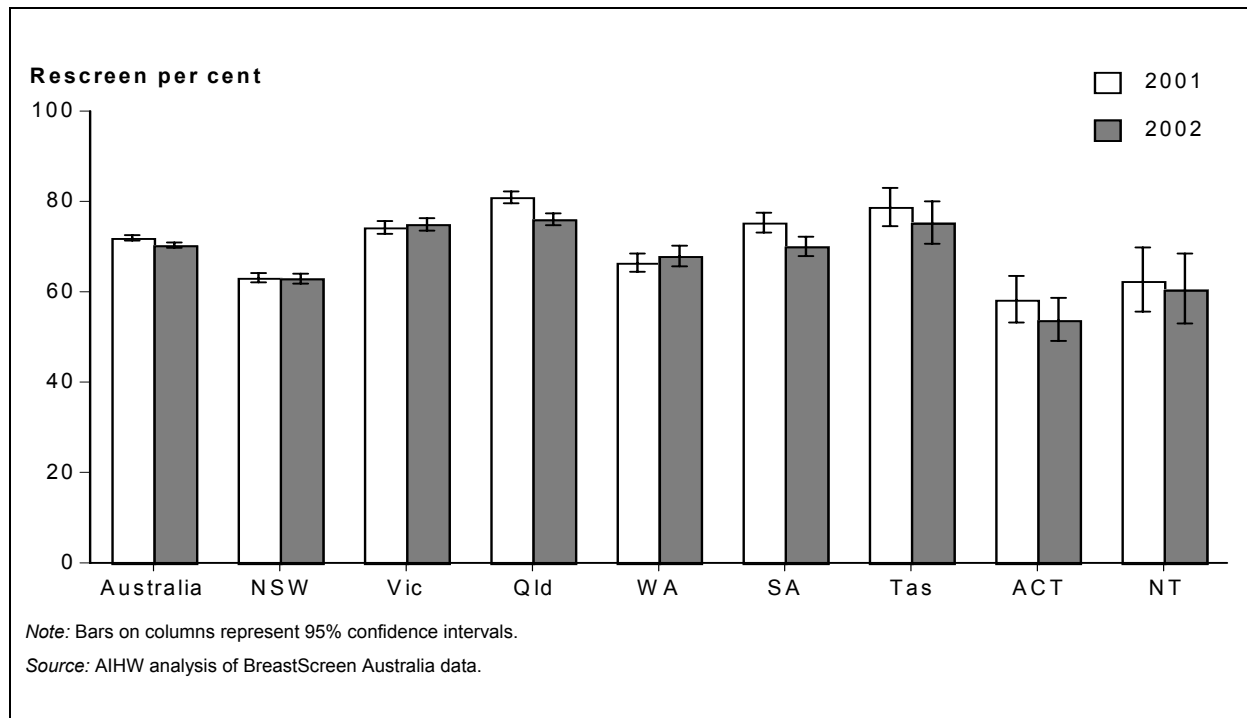
Note: Rates are the number of women attending for rescreening as a percentage of women screened and age-standardised to the population of women attending a BreastScreen Australia service in 1998.

- The age-standardised national rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years returning for screening within 27 months of attending a BreastScreen Australia service in 2002 for the first time was 61.6%, a reduction from 62.9% in 2001. Of all women aged 40 years and over screened in 2002, 56.6% returned for screening, a fall from 58.5% in 2001.

For more information, see: Tables 37 to 42 beginning on page 108. Tables with data other than for the latest reporting period can be found on the AIHW's website at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

## States and territories

### Rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years, screened during 2001 and 2002, second screening round



	Australia	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
<b>2002 rate (%)</b>	70.3*	62.9*	74.9*	76.0*	67.9*	70.0*	75.2	53.7	60.4
<i>95% CI</i>	69.7–71.0	61.8–63.9	73.6–76.3	74.7–77.3	65.6–70.2	67.8–72.2	70.6–80.0	49.1–58.6	53.0–68.4
<b>2001 rate (%)</b>	71.9*	63.1*	74.2*	80.9*	66.4	75.3*	78.7	58.2*	62.4*
<i>95% CI</i>	71.3–72.5	62.1–64.1	72.8–75.6	79.7–82.2	64.4–68.5	73.2–77.5	74.6–83.1	53.3–63.5	55.6–69.7

\* Statistically significant increase between first and second screening round (first round is on previous page).

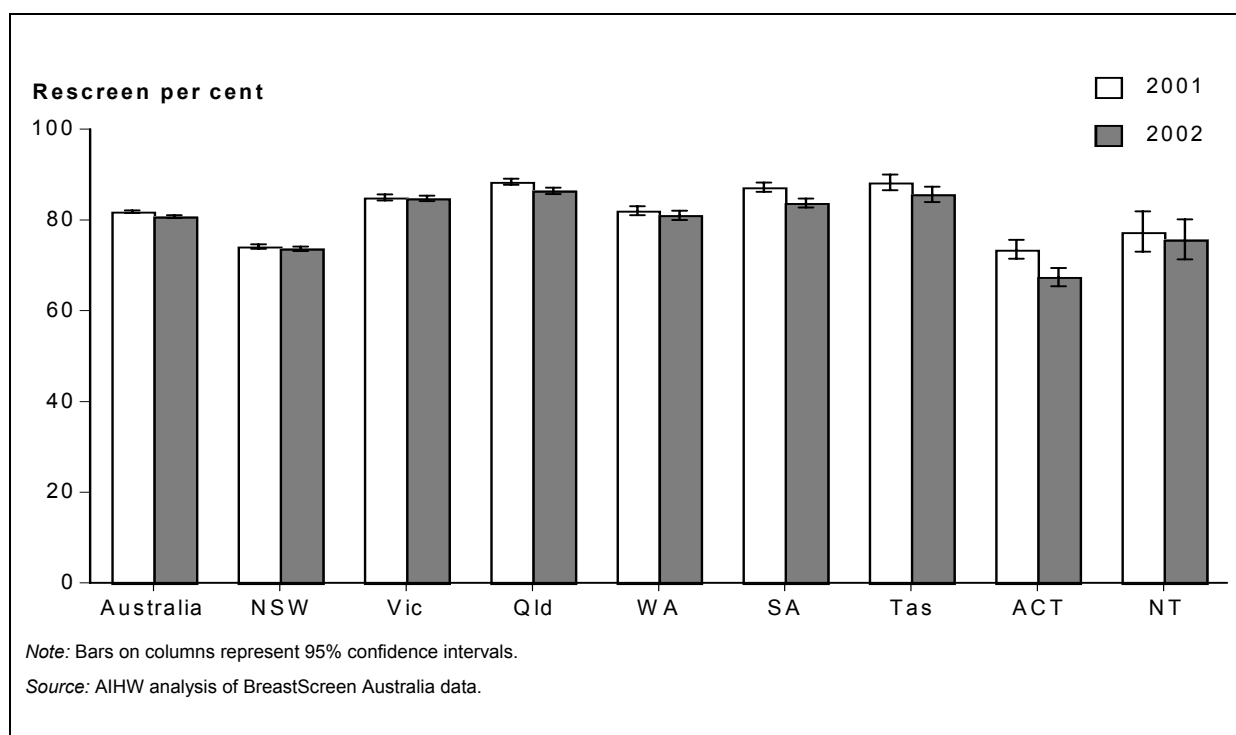
Note: Rates are the number of women attending for rescreening as a percentage of women screened and age-standardised to the population of women attending a BreastScreen Australia service in 1998.

- The age-standardised national rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years returning for screening a second time within 27 months of attending a BreastScreen Australia service in 2002 was 70.3%. This is higher than the rate for women attending for their first visit (61.6%).
- There was a statistically significant decrease in the age-standardised rescreen rates for women attending a screening service for their second round from 71.9% in 2001 to 70.3% in 2002.

For more information, see: Tables 37 to 42 beginning on page 108. Tables with data other than for the latest reporting period can be found on the AIHW's website at <[www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)>.

## States and territories

### Rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years, screened during 2001 and 2002, third and subsequent screening rounds



	Australia	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
<b>2002 rate (%)</b>	80.7*	73.6	84.7	86.4*	81.0	83.7*	85.6	67.4*	75.6
<i>95% CI</i>	80.4–81.0	73.1–74.1	84.1–85.4	85.7–87.1	80.1–82.0	82.8–84.7	83.9–87.3	65.4–69.4	71.4–80.1
<b>2001 rate (%)</b>	81.8	74.1	84.9	88.4	82.0	87.2	88.2	73.4	77.3
<i>95% CI</i>	81.5–82.1	73.6–74.6	84.3–85.6	87.7–89.2	81.1–83.0	86.2–88.2	86.4–90.0	71.3–75.6	72.8–81.9

\* Statistically different from the 2001 rate.

Note: Rates are the number of women attending for rescreening as a percentage of women screened and age-standardised to the population of women attending a BreastScreen Australia service in 1998.

- The age-standardised national rescreen rate for women aged 50–67 years returning for screening for their third or subsequent visit within 27 months of attending a BreastScreen Australia service in 2002 was 80.7%. This is much higher than the rates for women attending for their first or second visits (61.6% and 70.3%, respectively).
- The age-standardised national rescreen rate for the third and subsequent screening rounds declined from 81.8% in 2001 to 80.7% in 2002.

For more information, see: Tables 37 to 42 beginning on page 108. Tables with data other than for the latest reporting period can be found on the AIHW's website at <www.aihw.gov.au>.