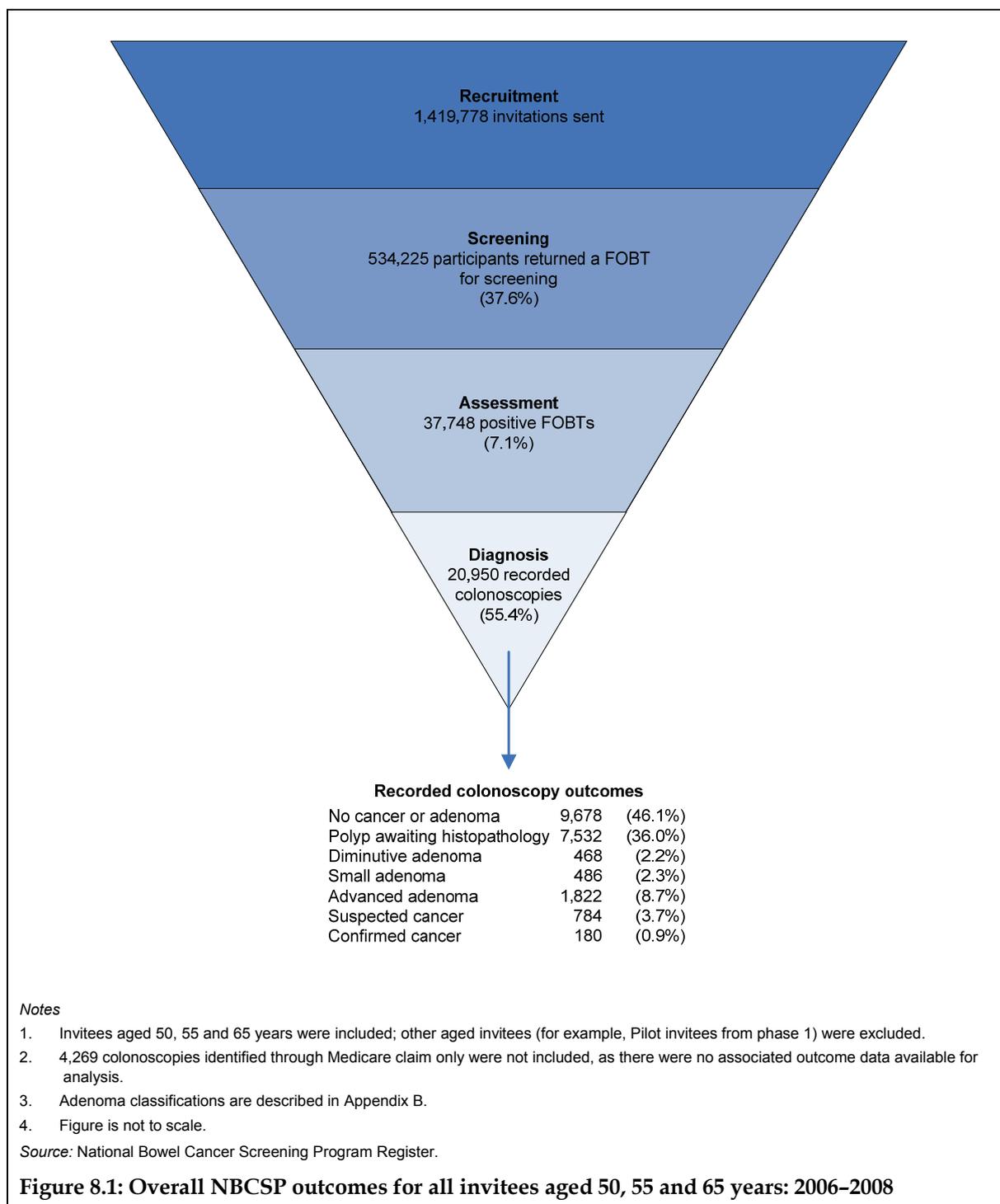


8 Overall NBCSP outcomes (2006–2008)

The Population based screening framework (APHDPCSS 2008) uses five stages to describe a screening pathway. Overall data on invitees to the NBCSP (2006–2008), and their progression through the pathway, have been applied to these stages in Figure 8.1.



There are no formal performance indicators for the NBCSP; however, the current overall screening rate of 37.6% is lower than the 45.4% rate achieved in the Pilot Program (DoHA 2005). Ignoring the different invitee ages recruited into the Pilot and the NBCSP, this equates to around 110,000 fewer people deciding to screen in the NBCSP than may have been expected within 2006–2008. The overall crude colonoscopy follow-up (diagnosis) rate of 55.4% is similar to that achieved in the Pilot Program. Increases in the number of people participating in screening, plus an increase in the rate of return of Colonoscopy and Histopathology Report forms, would improve monitoring of the NBCSP and its invitees.

Since the inception of the NBCSP in 2006, 964 participants have been found with suspected or confirmed cancers and 1,822 more have been diagnosed with advanced adenomas. Furthermore, 954 participants have been diagnosed with earlier-stage adenomas. While the NBCSP only follows participants up to the point of definite diagnosis, and outcomes (about treatment) for these participants are unknown, it would be expected that the earlier treatment the NBCSP afforded these participants should improve their treatment outcomes. This may eventually be shown as reductions in colorectal cancer incidence and mortality in the coming years.