

Action Cancer: Provision of breast screening in deprived areas

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Background: Action Cancer provides free, high quality breast cancer screening services to women outside eligibility for the National Health Service Breast Screening Program (NHSBSP), specifically those aged 40-49 years and >65yrs. The aim of this abstract is to highlight using a mobile breast-screening unit for reaching women in deprived areas.

Material and methods: Since 2006 digital breast-screening has been successfully implemented in Action Cancer House (ACH) and the Big Bus mobile unit. The postcodes of those attending screening appointments were used to obtain deprivation rankings.

Results: Since 2006, 8157 attended ACH and 5705 women attended the Big Bus. At ACH, 15%, 19% and 20% were from the least deprived areas of NI (deprivation deciles 8, 9 and 10, respectively), while those on the Big Bus were from more deprived areas (decile 4, 13%; decile 5, 13%; decile 6, 11%).

Conclusions: The use of the Big Bus mobile unit for the provision of breast screening to women in deprived areas is a successful way to engage with the population.