



## Be Clear on Cancer: Third national blood in pee campaign, 2016

**Caveats:** This summary presents the results of the metric on diagnostics in secondary care. This is one of a series of metric summaries that will be produced for this campaign, each focusing on a different metric. A comprehensive interpretation about the campaign is not included here as this requires a full evaluation of all the metrics. The full evaluation will be part of the final campaign report which will be published in due course. These metrics should not be considered in isolation.

### Diagnostics in secondary care

#### The campaign

The third national blood in pee campaign ran from 15 February 2016 to 31 March 2016 in England.

The campaign's main message was:

- 'If you notice blood in your pee, even if it's just the once, tell your doctor.'

#### Metric: Diagnostics in secondary care

This metric considers whether the third national blood in pee campaign had an impact on the number of imaging tests conducted by the NHS. These include ultrasounds conducted for suspected kidney and bladder cancer and other medical conditions.

The data on the total number of kidney and bladder ultrasounds (hereafter referred to as ultrasounds) was obtained from the Diagnostic Imaging Dataset (DID) held on NHS Digital's iView system (<http://content.digital.nhs.uk/iview>). The data contains details of referrals by GPs, consultants and other referral types.

This metric compares the difference in the monthly number of ultrasounds between the analysis period of February 2016 to May 2016 and the comparison period of February 2015 to May 2015.

#### Results

Comparing the months February 2016 to May 2016 with the same period in 2015, there was a 4.1% increase in the number of ultrasounds for individuals aged 50 and over, and a 4.5% increase in the number of ultrasounds in all ages. However, the changes in the

#### Key message

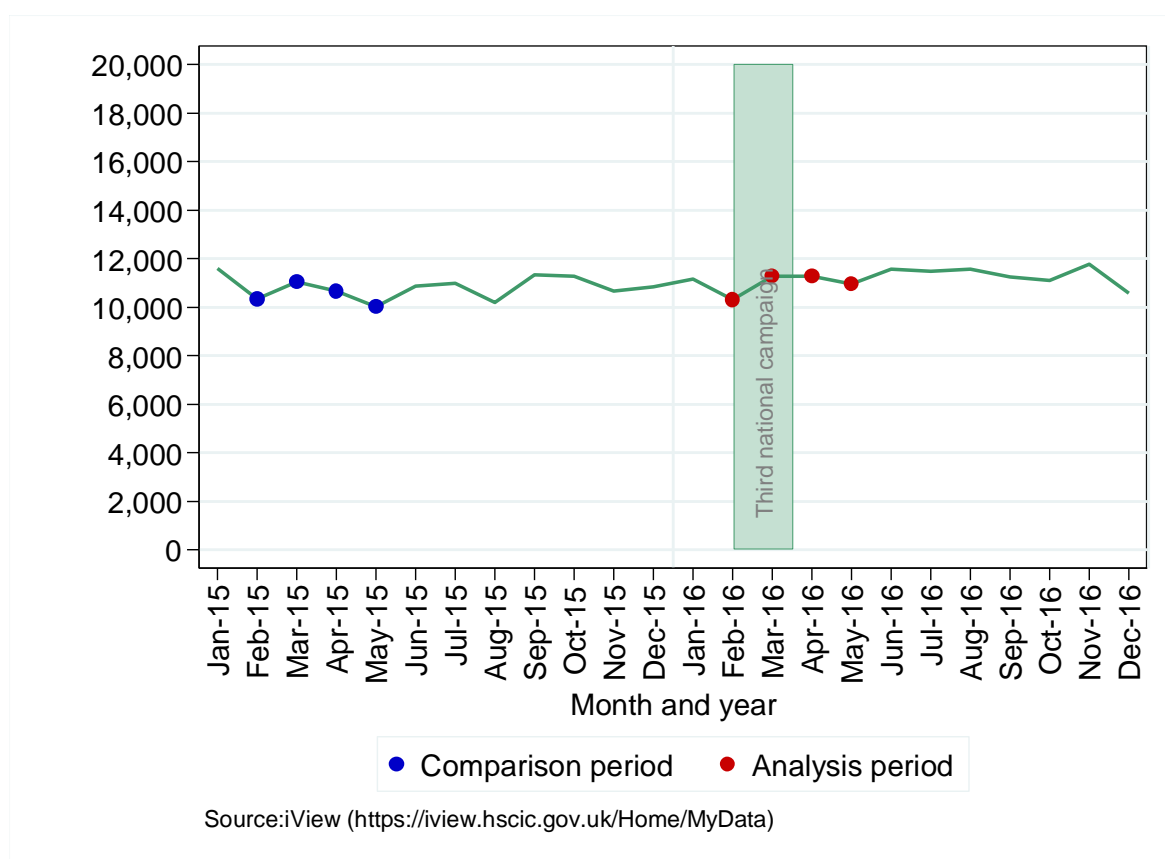
There was no statistically significant change in the number of kidney and bladder ultrasounds carried out during or following the third national blood in pee campaign, when compared with the same period of the year before.

number of ultrasounds were not statistically significant. Figure 1 shows that the trend in the number of ultrasounds was fairly stable from January 2015 to December 2016.

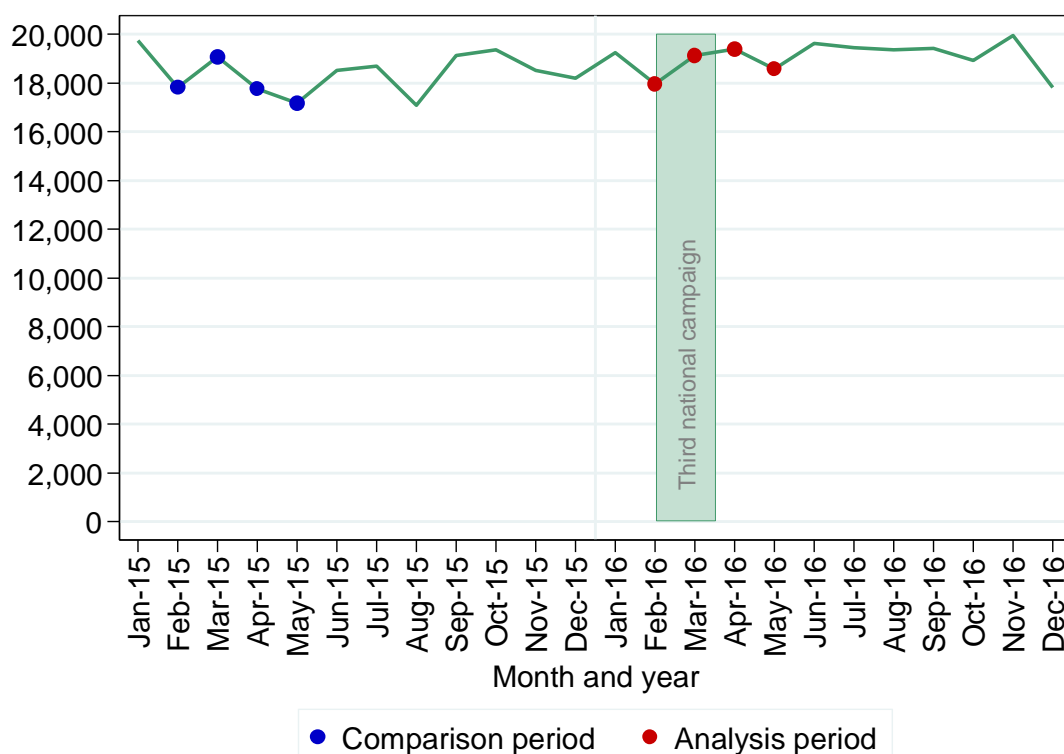
**Table 1: Number of ultrasounds in February 2015 to May 2015 and February 2016 to May 2016, England**

Tests	Age group	February 2015 to May 2015	February 2016 to May 2016	Percentage change
Number of imaging test	50 and over	42,100	43,820	4.1
	All ages	71,835	75,090	4.5

**Figure 1: Monthly number of ultrasounds in January 2015 to December 2016, England a) 50 and over b) All ages**  
a) 50 and over



## b) All ages



Source: iView (<https://iview.hscic.gov.uk/Home/MyData>)

## Conclusions

The third national blood in pee campaign did not appear to have an impact on the number of kidney and bladder ultrasounds carried out.

Other metrics being evaluated include the Cancer Waiting Times referrals, conversion and detection rates, numbers of cancers diagnosed, stage at diagnosis and one-year survival. A full evaluation report will be published on the campaign metrics when all of the results are available.

## Considerations

In general, cancer incidence is increasing which may have an impact on trends over time for this and other metrics, and so the results must be considered with these underlying trends in mind.

Where the results are statistically significant there is some evidence for an impact of the campaign, although underlying trends and other external factors (eg other awareness activities, changing referral guidance) may also affect the results.

Campaigns are likely to have a greater impact on metrics relating to patient behaviour (eg symptom awareness and GP attendance with relevant symptoms) and use of the healthcare system (eg urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer), compared to disease metrics (eg incidence, stage at diagnosis, and survival).

Find out more about Be Clear on Cancer at:

[www.ncin.org.uk/be\\_clear\\_on\\_cancer](http://www.ncin.org.uk/be_clear_on_cancer)

[www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer/](http://www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer/)