

NSW Mental Health service users have lower rates of cervical screening



Women living with serious mental health conditions have similar rates of cervical cancer but more cervical cancer deaths than other Australian women.

Lower cervical screening rates can lead to later diagnosis and worse outcomes.

The National Cervical Screening Program offers free screening for women aged 25–74.

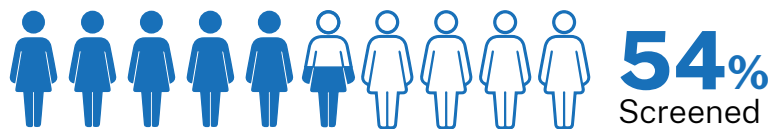
Screening has halved cervical cancer mortality in Australia.

Only **40%** of women who use NSW mental health services have had recent screening.*

Mental Health service users



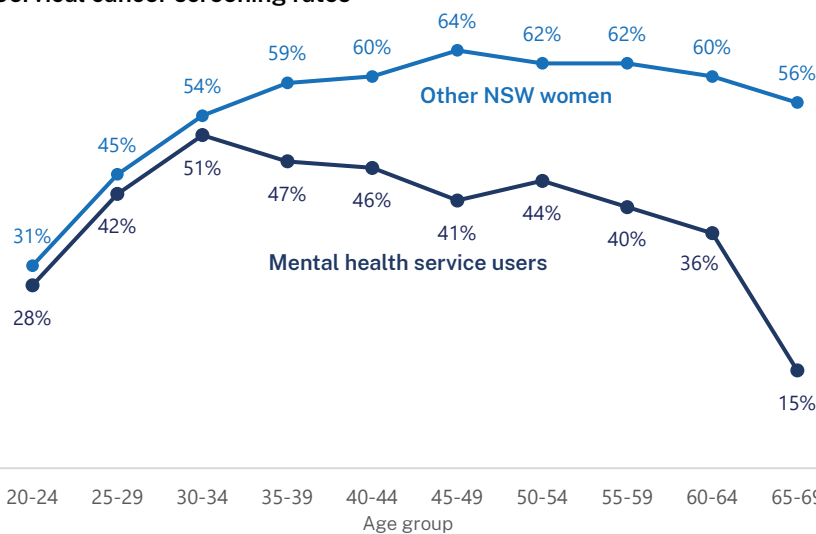
Other NSW women



Screening gaps were not due to differences in disadvantage or rural location*

Older mental health service users had very low cervical screening rates *

Cervical cancer screening rates



Self-screening, a new option introduced in 2022, may make screening more accessible.

Cervical screening is now recommended five yearly.

Mental health and cancer screening services should work together to support service users to participate in cervical screening.

* Impelido et al, Age-specific differences in cervical cancer screening rates in women using mental health services in NSW, Aust. ANZJP 2023;0(0).

The study used screening data from 2015 to 2017

Read the [full study](#)

Mental Health Living Longer (MHLL) aims to use data to improve the physical health of people who use NSW mental health services.

NSW Ministry of Health