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Self-collection (SC) uptake in Australia's National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP): Update and policy changes

Professor Dorota Gertig, Medical Director, National Cancer Screening Register,
Telstra Health

Dr. Farhana Sultana, Epidemiologist, National Cancer Screening Register,
Telstra Health



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BACKGROUND

- Australia transitioned from 2-yearly cytology testing for people 18 to 69 years to 5-yearly primary HPV testing for people 25 to 74 years on **1 December 2017**
- HPV SC was introduced to reduce barriers to screening. SC is accessed through a healthcare provider
- Between 1 December 2017 to 30 June 2022: SC was restricted to people:
 - ≥ 30 years with no prior screening history
 - ≥ 30 years more than two years overdue
- 1 July 2022 onwards: SC for HPV testing expanded to all people who were eligible to screen





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VCS Pathology

HOW TO TAKE YOUR OWN HPV TEST

SIMPLY FOLLOW THE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

			
Step 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower your underwear.• Twist the red cap and pull out the swab.• Look at the swab and rotate the red mark closest to the tip.	Step 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get in a comfortable position.• Insert the swab into your vagina, aiming to insert to the red mark. It may be easier to use your other hand to hold the skin of your vagina.	Step 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rotate the swab gently for 10-30 seconds. It should not hurt.	Step 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove the swab, and place back in tube.



A range of collection devices and methods are available for use under the NCSP for SC vaginal samples.

<https://www.rcpa.edu.au/getattachment/b49a24c5-c178-420a-8386-d362187df988/National-Cervical-Screening-Program-Launch-of-self.aspx>



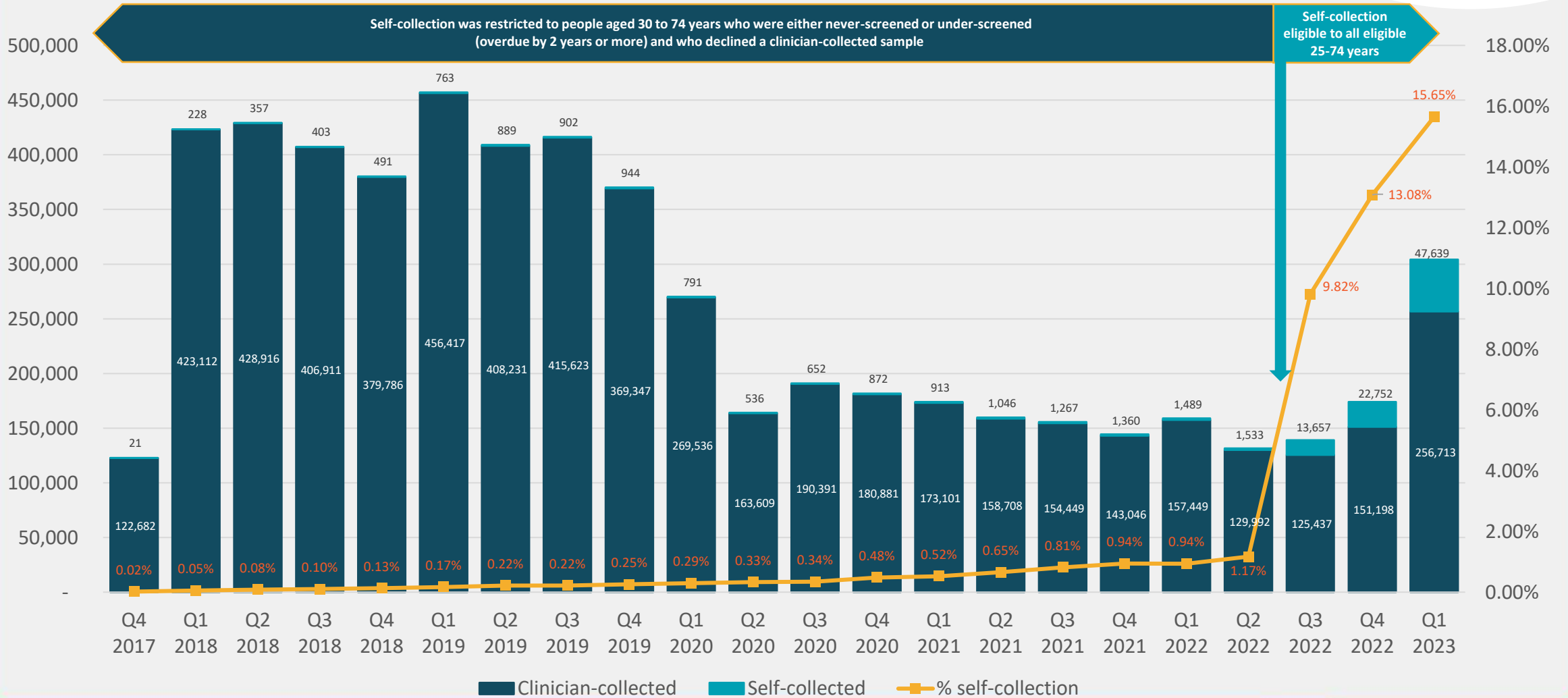
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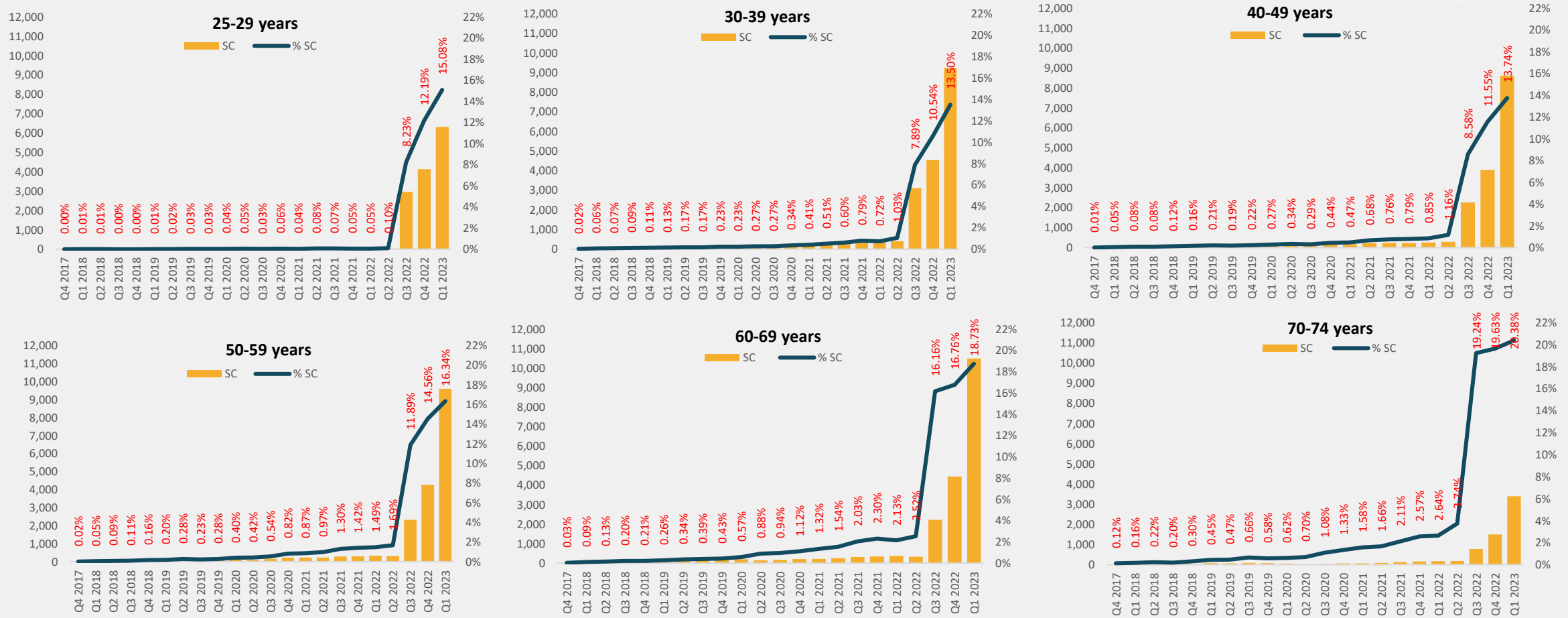
METHODS

- Data extracted from National Cancer Screening Register April 30, 2023
- All cervical screening tests between 1 December 2017 and 31 March 2023 where the reason for HPV test was primary screening or follow-up and age 25-74 years
- Screening history defined based on time between the date of HPV screening test and date the person was due.
- Where a person had no prior screening test (HPV or Pap), they were classified as never screened.
- Proportion switching from clinician to self-collection was estimated by restricting to people with at least two HPV screening tests

TOTAL COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT



COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT BY AGE



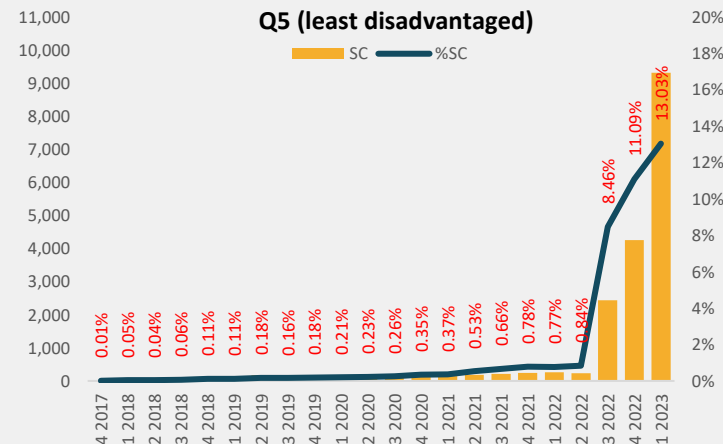
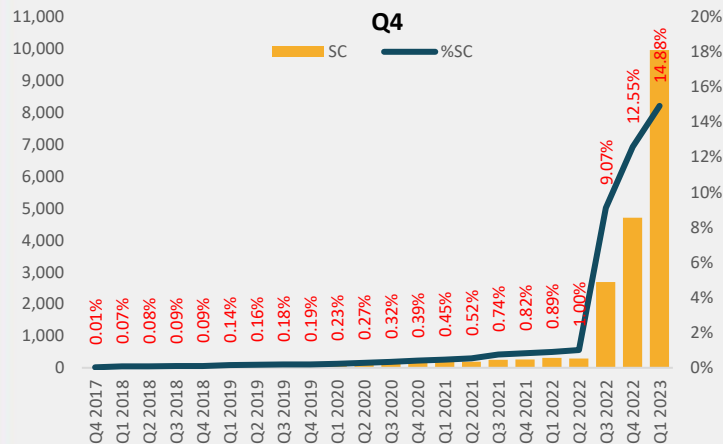
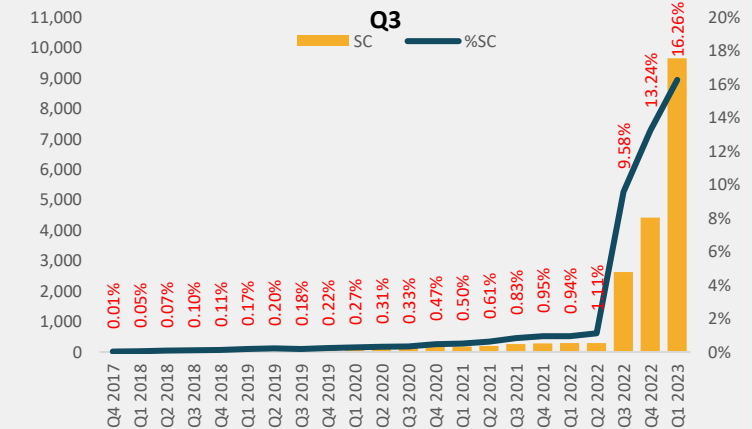
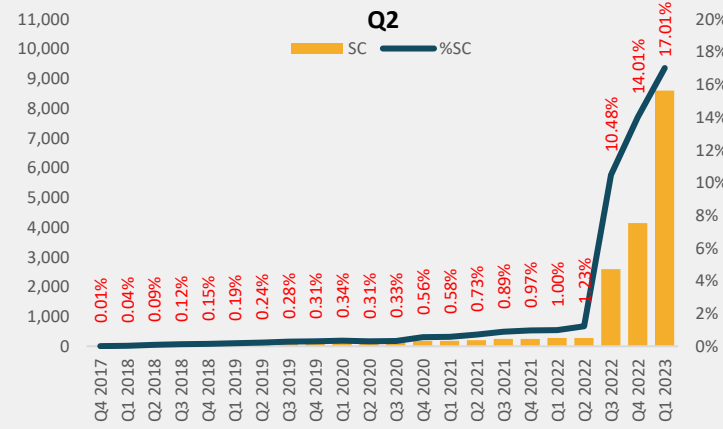
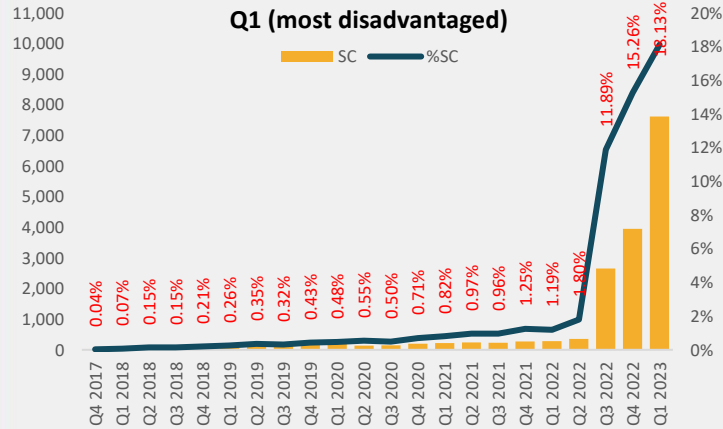
Self-collect uptake increased across all age groups with a higher uptake in older age groups



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COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT BY SOCIOECONOMIC QUINTILES



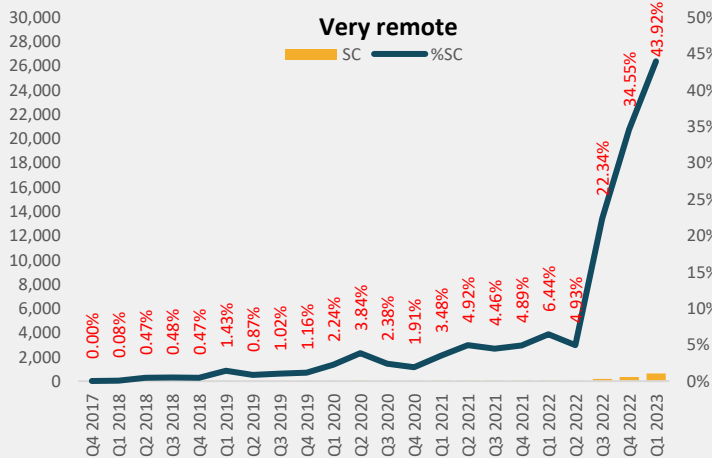
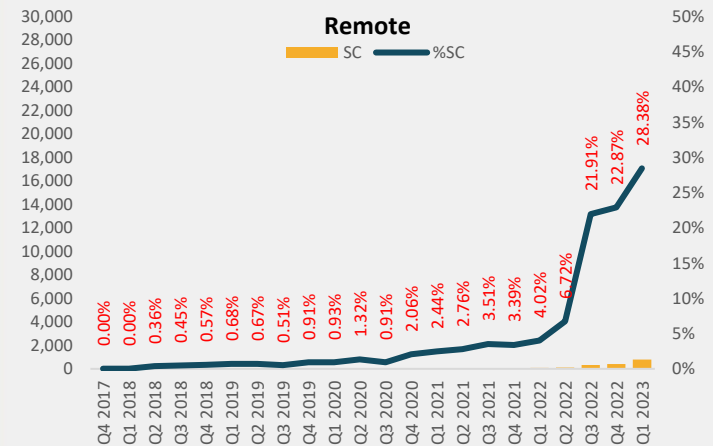
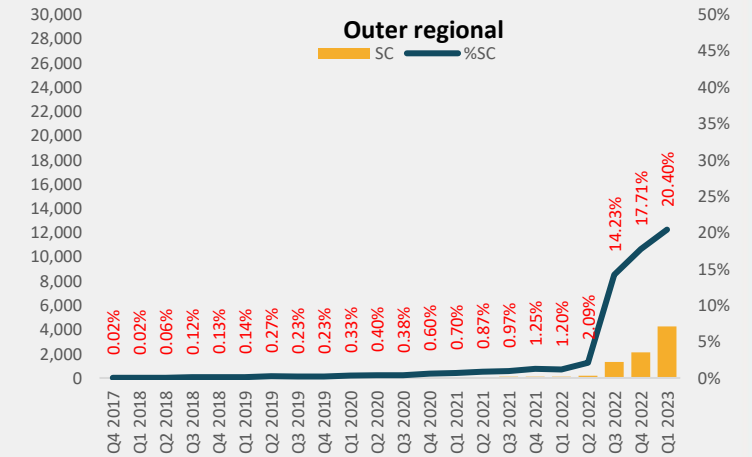
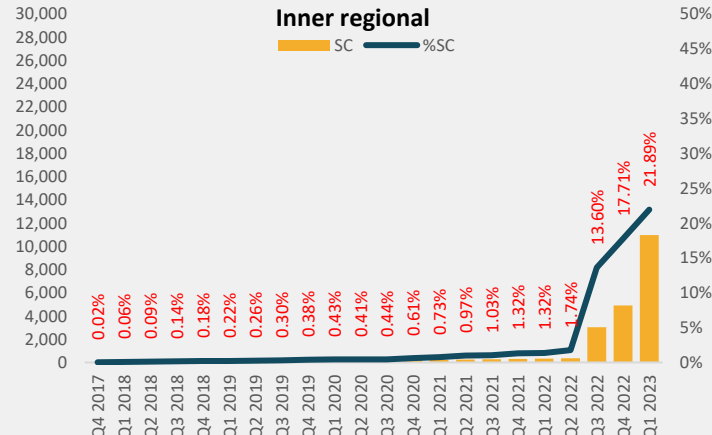
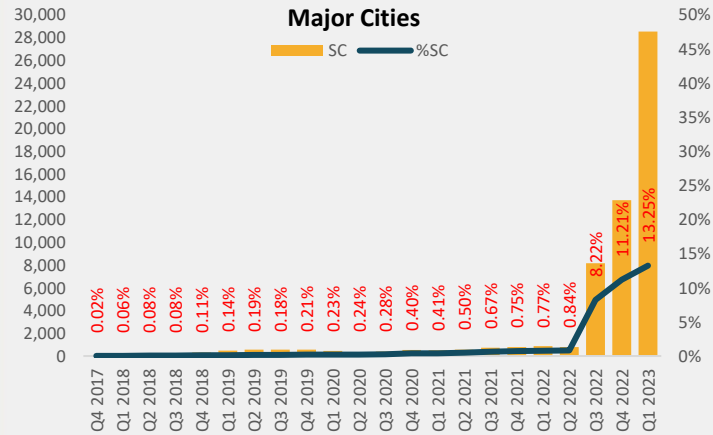
- Self-collect increased across all quintiles with the highest uptake in Q1 (most disadvantaged).



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COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT BY REMOTENESS INDEX



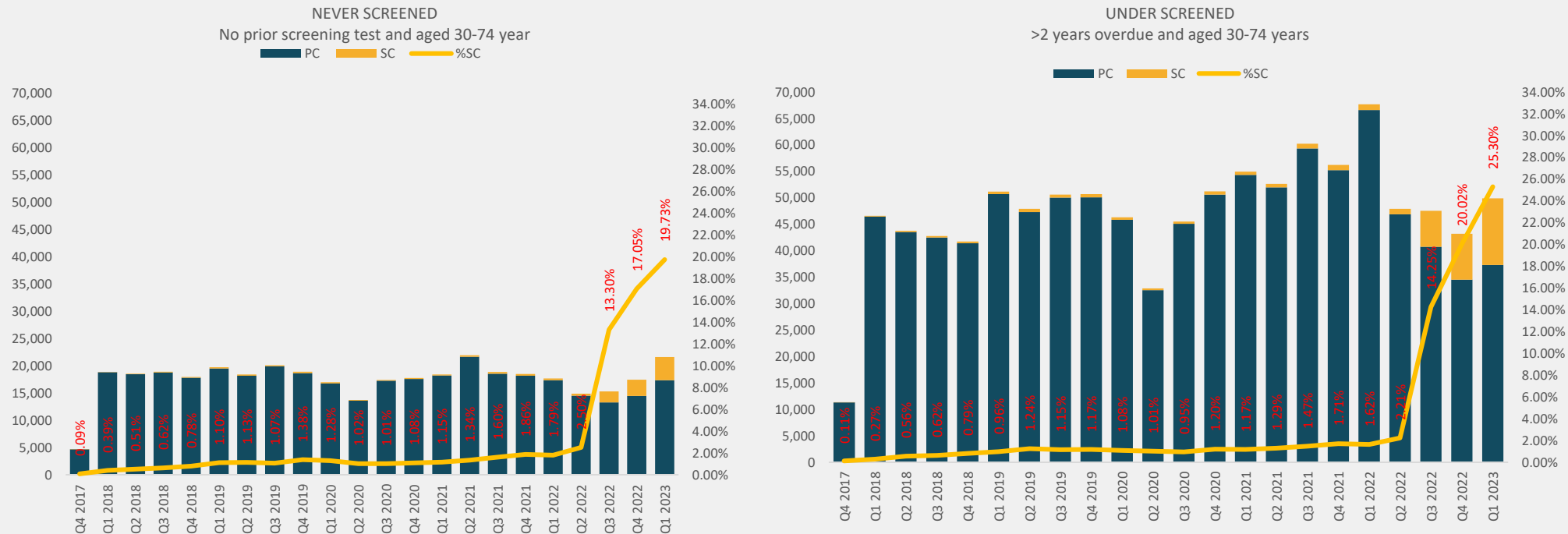
- Self-collect increased across all remoteness areas with highest uptake in very remote areas (44% very remote versus 13% major cities).



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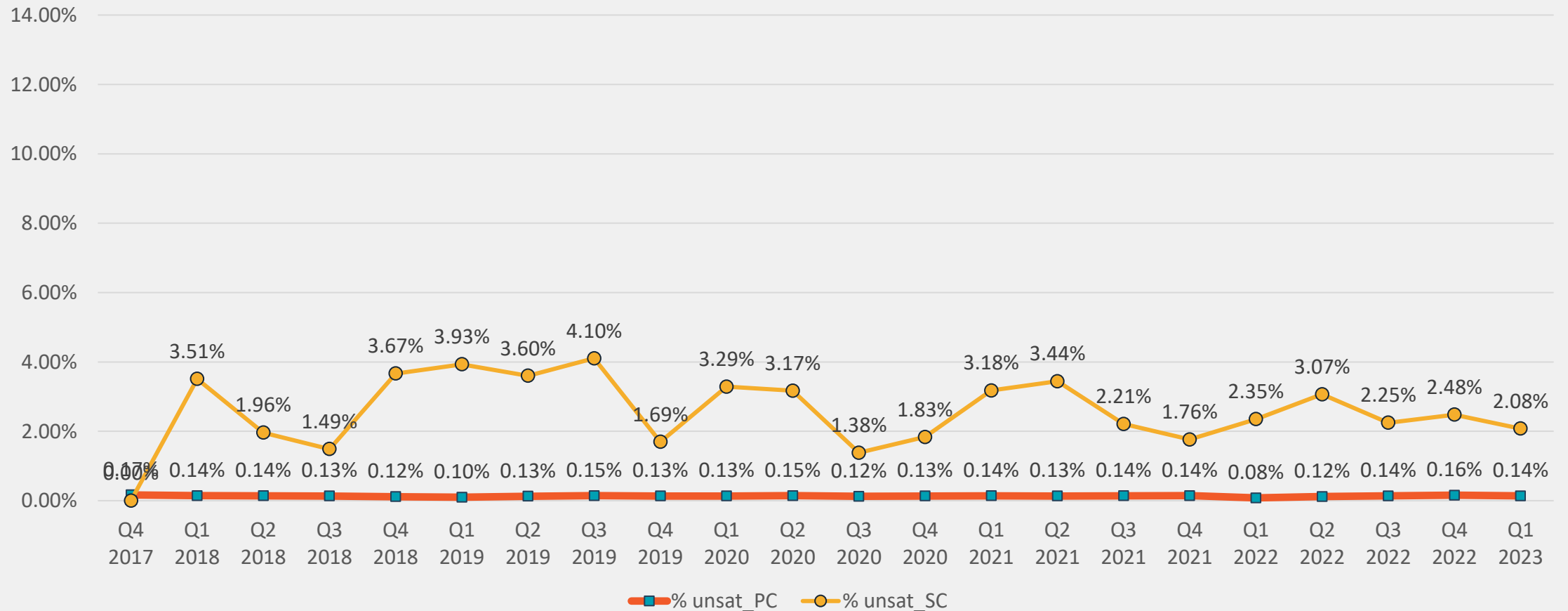


COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN NEVER AND UNDER SCREENED

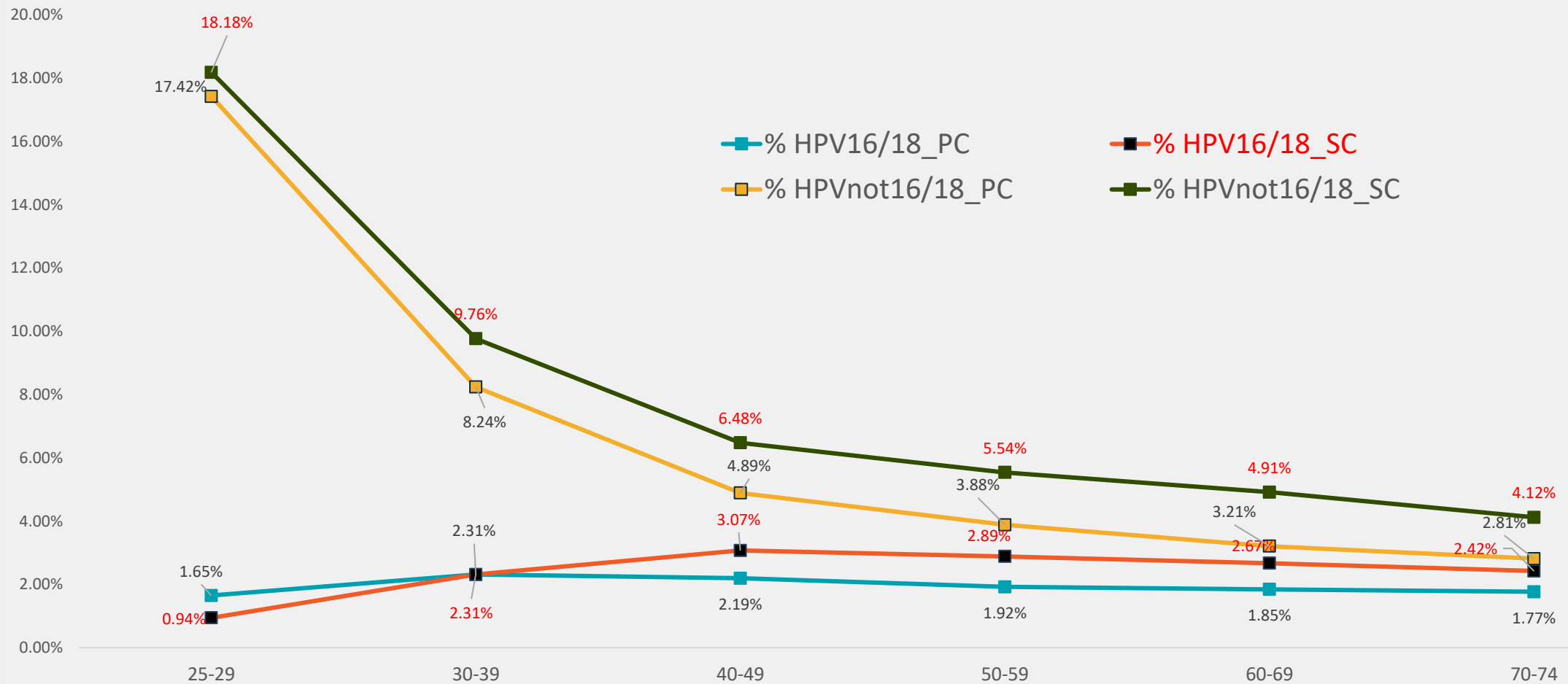


- Proportion of both never and under screened who had a self-collect increased after the policy change but was higher in under screened

HPV UNSATISFACTORY RATES BY COLLECTION METHOD



TYPE SPECIFIC HPV POSITIVITY BY AGE AND COLLECTION METHOD



PROPORTION WHO HAD COLPOSCOPY WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF HPV 16/18 POSITIVE RESULT

Collection method	Screening HPV tests where HPV16/18	Colposcopy within 6 months of 16/18 pos result (n,%)
Clinician-collected	148,603	104,573 (70.37%)
Self-collected	871	609 (69.92%)
Total	149,474	105,182 (70.37%)

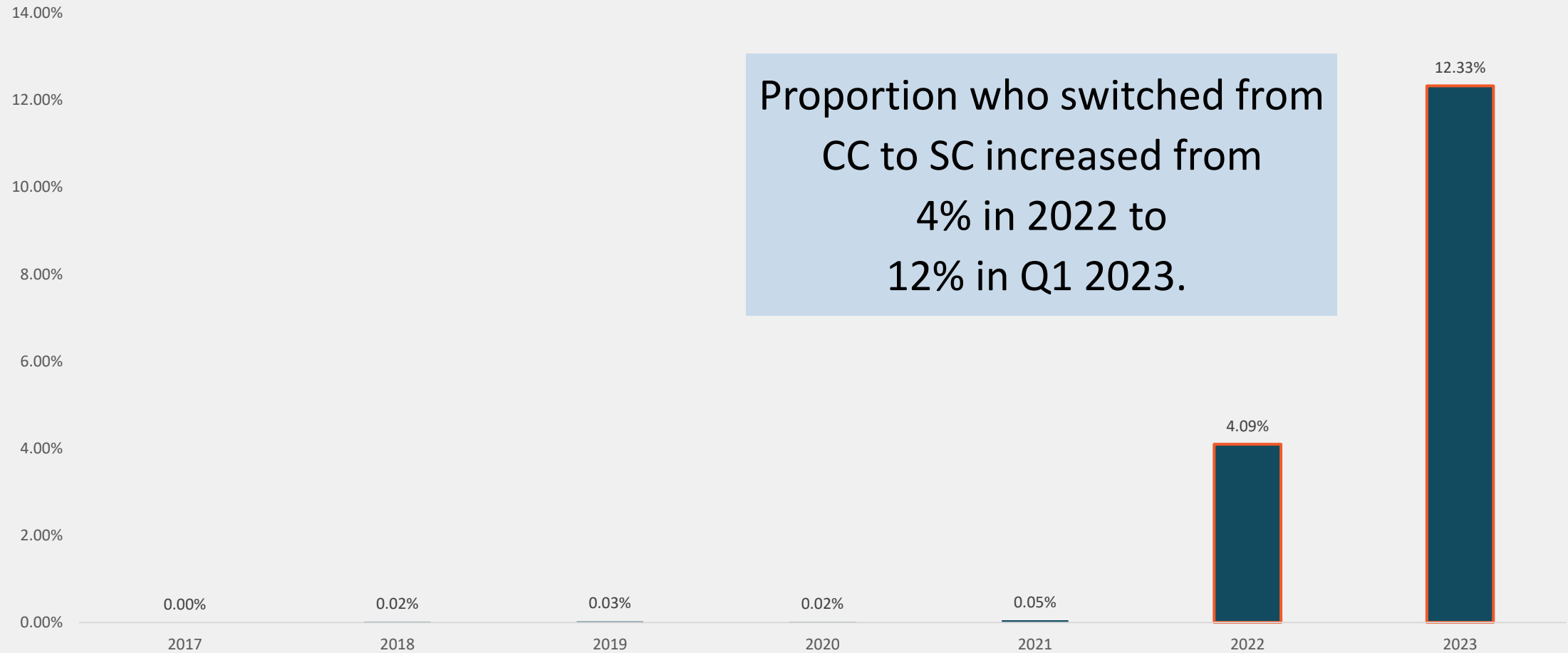
Around 70% had colposcopy follow-up within 6 mths of HPV16/18 positive result and this was similar for SC and CC samples

PROPORTION WHO HAD LBC WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF SELF-COLLECTED HPV NOT 16/18 POSITIVE RESULT

Collection method	Self-collected HPVnot16/18	LBC within 6 months of not 16/18 pos result	Any follow-up test within 6 months of not 16/18 pos result
Self-collected	2,687	1,819 (67.7%)	1,860 (69.17%)

Almost 68% had an LBC within 6 months of SC HPV non-16/18 positive result

PROPORTION OF HPV SCREENING TESTS WHERE PEOPLE SWITCHED FROM CLINICIAN TO SELF-COLLECTION





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KEY FINDINGS

- There has been a consistent increase in SC uptake after Australia's policy expansion by age, remoteness index, SES and never/underscreened
- HPV positivity rates were higher in SC than CC samples
- Unsatisfactory rates were higher for SC than for CC samples, although similar to previous cytology program.
- Follow up within 6 m was ~ 70% for colposcopy after SC HPV 16/18 result and ~70% for LBC after SC HPV non-16/18 HPV result.



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THANK YOU!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Australian Government – Department of Health and Aged Care

Self-Collection Implementation Committee

NCSR staff including Farhana Sultana, Melanie Pereira and Nicole McKenzie