Abstract

Cancer screening is an important tool for early cancer detection. This thesis aims to quantify screening attendance and screening non-attendance among women and identify inequalities in screening attendance, its determinants, and barriers to screening. Mixed-methods approach and various sources of data, including administrative data from health insurance, data from health surveys, and semi-structured interviews, are used to fulfil the research objectives. The focus is on cervical and breast screening and Czech women, while screening inequalities in Europe are also examined. The results show that there are large differences in screening attendance between women in terms of education, age, marital status, regions of Czechia or between countries in Europe. Some of the main screening barriers identified include perceived good health (lack of symptoms), fear of diagnosis or examination, low health literacy, and negative prior experiences with healthcare. As this topic has not been extensively studied in Czechia, the findings of this research have the potential to contribute to informed policy making for increasing screening participation.

keywords: cancer, health inequalities, prevention, screening, women's health