

EVALUATION OF TLHC PROGRAMME: OVERVIEW

The Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) programme aims to find lung cancer at an earlier stage by inviting people at high risk for a lung health check.

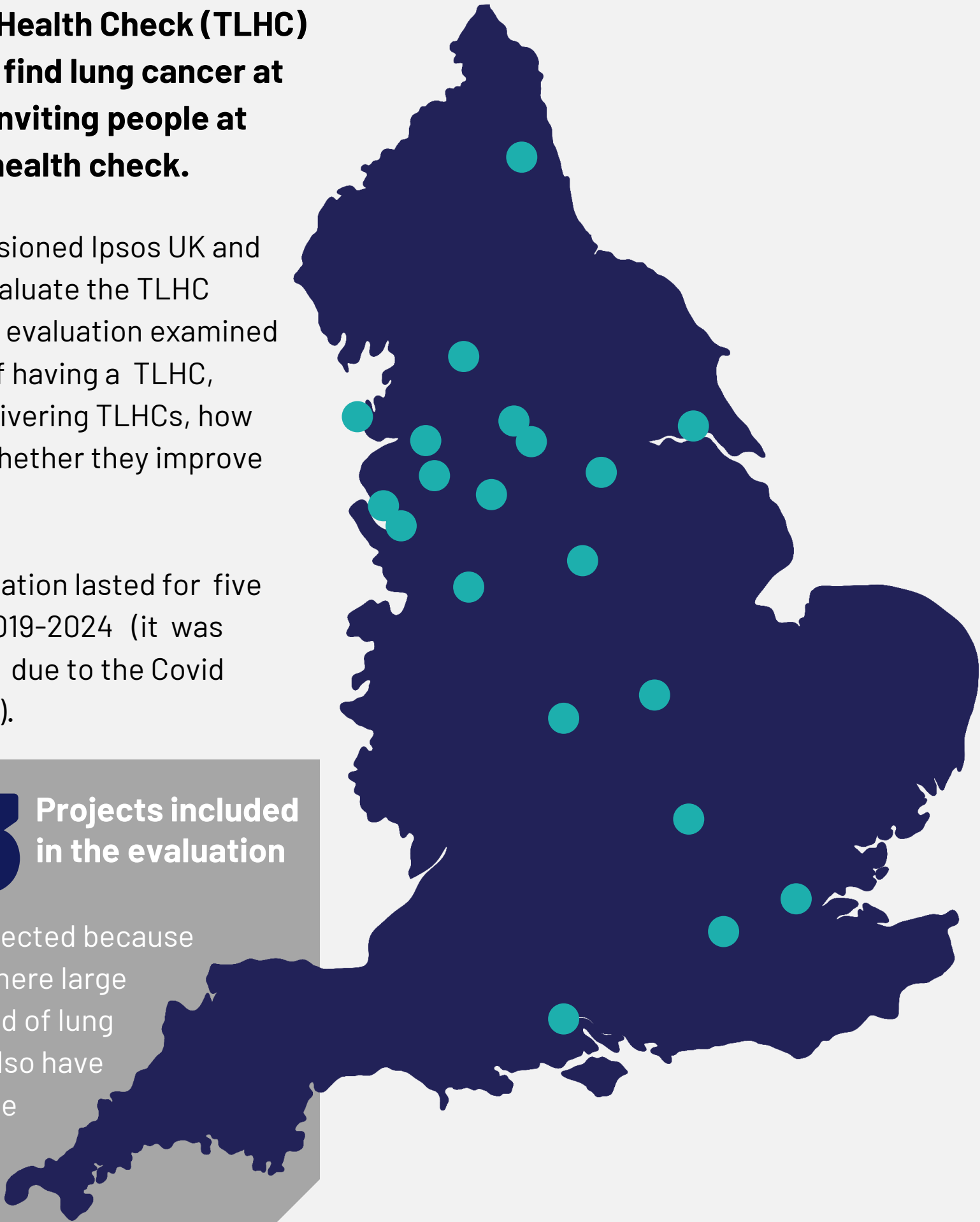
In 2019, NHSE commissioned Ipsos UK and the Strategy Unit to evaluate the TLHC pilot programme. The evaluation examined people’s experience of having a TLHC, staff experience of delivering TLHCs, how much they cost, and whether they improve people’s health.



The evaluation lasted for five years: 2019-2024 (it was extended due to the Covid pandemic).

23 Projects included in the evaluation

Project areas were selected because they were locations where large numbers of people died of lung cancer. These areas also have high numbers of people smoking, since these two things are often linked.



What is a targeted lung health check?

Attendance at a lung health check (LHC):
an assessment to determine risk of developing lung cancer in future.

High risk patients offered a
Low Dose CT Scan.

Suspected **lung cancer** referred for follow-up at hospital.



Uncertain results scheduled for **follow-up scans** (3 month or 12 month).



No significant findings: return to routine **screening** every 24 months.



EVALUATION OF TLHC PROGRAMME: WHAT DID THE PROGRAMME DELIVER?*



Identifying people to invite to a TLHC

Eligible participants identified using **GP practice** data.

Invites typically issued from multiple **GP practices** at a time.

Ensuring buy-in from **GP practices** critical to success.

Invitations

A combination of invitation methods were used by sites: **opt-in and opt-out.**

735,000
people invited

Lung Health Check

Nearly **325,000** **LHCs carried out**

Around **4 in 5** conducted by telephone due to changes to the protocol during Covid.

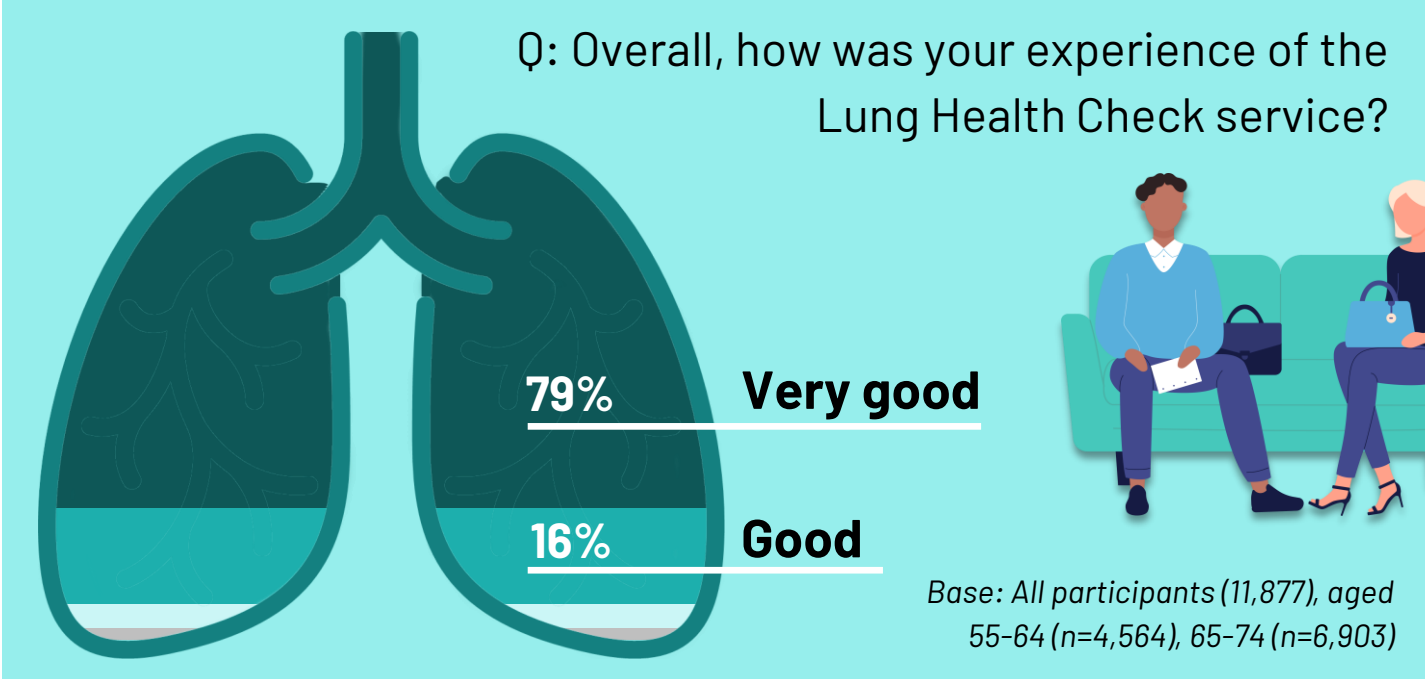
CT Scan of lungs

Mobile scanning units were used by most projects and carried out **85%** of all scans.

250,000 **CT scans carried out**
(160k of these were initial scans)

Most projects subcontracted the staffing of **CT scans** to a third-party provider (15).

Participant Experience



I was very happy with how the staff treated me on the day. They looked after me very well. For example, they had steps there and I'm not great on steps and they said that they would get the lift out. It was very pleasant.
[TLHC participant]

*The numbers reported are those collected within the timeframes of the evaluation; the activity to date is greater.

EVALUATION OF TLHC PROGRAMME: WHAT DID WE FIND?



LUNG CANCER



people who were scanned received a lung cancer diagnosis (**1.7% who received an initial CT scan**).

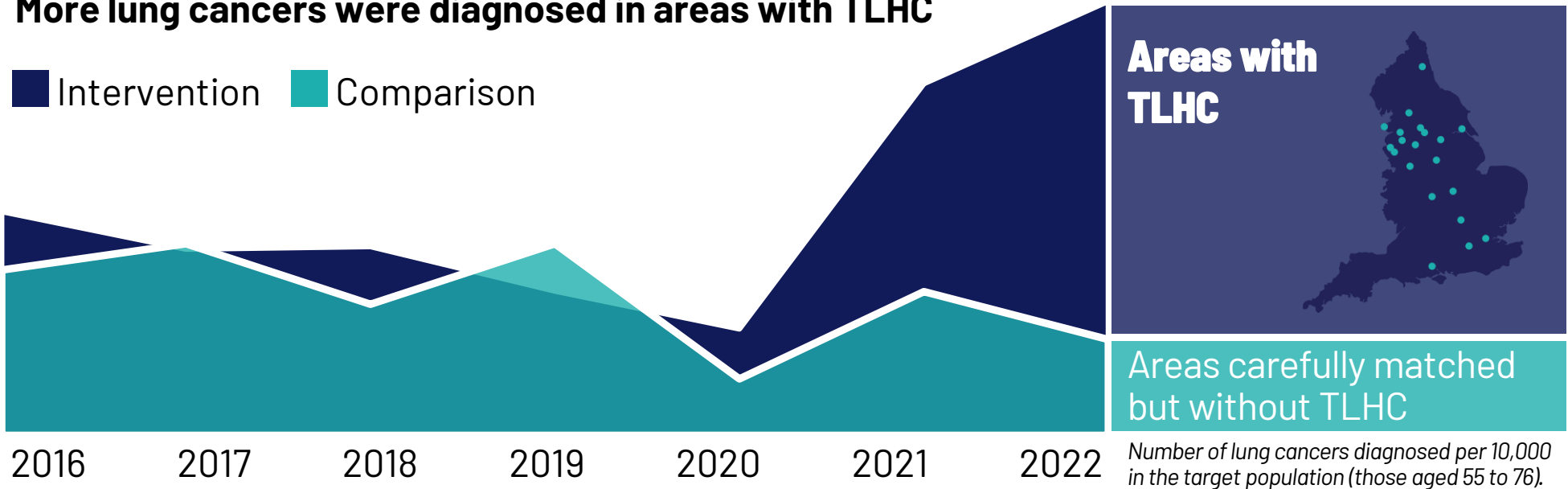


were diagnosed at an early stage through the programme, compared to 30% of lung cancers nationally that are diagnosed at an early stage.

Impact analysis shows more than **1,100** of the lung cancers found would have otherwise been diagnosed at a later stage or not at all. Around **780** of these were diagnosed at stage 1 and 2.

More lung cancers were diagnosed in areas with TLHC

■ Intervention ■ Comparison



OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS

1,697

who were scanned were diagnosed with other (non-lung) cancers between Feb 2020 and Aug 2023*.

**in a smaller cohort of sites submitting patient level data (14)*

75%

of participants who received an initial CT scan had one or more other health problems identified, including:

- coronary calcification (more than half);
- aortic valve calcification (nearly one-third);
- moderate or severe emphysema (around three in twenty).

LEARNING FOR EXPANDING THE PROGRAMME

The evaluation generated extensive learning for future expansion. Key learning includes:

Earlier Diagnosis: TLHCs are effective at finding lung cancer sooner, when it's more treatable and outcomes for patients are better.

Costs: Expanding the programme requires significant investment in equipment and senior staff, however finding cancers earlier reduces the need for expensive treatments later.

Careful Planning: Successfully expanding the programme requires careful planning to ensure there are enough resources, staff, and suitable locations to offer the checks to everyone who needs them. It also means supporting everyone to engage with the programme, especially those in deprived areas and ethnic minorities.

