
Spotlight on Nursing and Midwifery: Underpinning research

Report Annexe 2024



Spotlight on Nursing and Midwifery: Underpinning research

In [‘Spotlight on Nursing and Midwifery 2024’](#), we share insights drawn from data we hold, external research literature, and key pieces of further research that we have undertaken. This includes:

1. A survey of professionals, students, employers and members of the public

Surveys of:

- 2,939 nursing and midwifery professionals
- 1,014 students on our approved programmes
- 59 employers
- 2,016 nationally representative members of the public

2. Qualitative research with members of the public

An online community with 20 people from minority ethnic backgrounds (an online community is a group of people taking part in a series of conversations and structured exercises around a given topic) and seven in-depth interviews with disabled people.

3. Analysis of a sample of fitness to practise concerns received from members of the public including:

- Analysis of fitness to practise concerns raised with us relating to continuing healthcare¹, April 2014-August 2020
- Analysis of fitness to practise concerns raised with us by members of the public, January 2014-March 2023 including an in-depth qualitative review of 191 concerns

More information about the survey and qualitative research is provided below (which expands on points one and two above).

¹ NHS continuing healthcare (CHC) is a package of ongoing care, for adults aged 18 and over, provided outside hospital. It is arranged and funded solely by the NHS, where it has been assessed that someone’s need for care is primarily due to their health needs (a ‘primary health need’). It is designed to meet physical and/or mental health needs that have arisen because of disability, accident or illness. CHC exists in England and Wales and there is equivalent provision in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

1.1 Surveys of professionals, students, employers and members of the public

Professionals by gender, age, location, and ethnicity

Total		2,939
Gender	Male	343
	Female	2,565
Age	18-40	666
	41-55	1158
	56+	1,098
Location	England	1,738
	Scotland	297
	Wales	185
	Northern Ireland	207
Ethnicity	White	2,381
	Ethnic minority background	503

Professionals by profession, setting, and qualification

Total		2,939
Job title	Nurse	2,338
	Midwife	183
	Nursing associate	91
	Both nurse and midwife	156
	Not currently practising	143
Setting	NHS acute	1,148
	NHS community	462
	NHS mental health, learning disability/autism	282
	NHS maternity	195
	Primary care	372
	Adult social care	140
	Independent provider	291
	Other	122
Qualification	Specialist practice qualification	556
	Specialist Community Public Health Nursing qualification	208
	Nurse prescriber	464

Students by gender, age, location, and ethnicity

Total		1,014
Gender	Male	102
	Female	905
Age	18-40	759
	41-55	234
	56+	18
Location	England	886
	Scotland	84
	Wales	12
	Northern Ireland	31
Ethnicity	White	772
	Ethnic minority background	229

Students by course title, stage of education, and education region

Total		1,014
Course title	Student nurse	727
	Student midwife	200
	Student nursing associate	71
	Post-registration student nurse	0
Stage of education	First year	284
	Second year	360
	Third year	334
	Fourth year or above	12
Education region (prior to nursing/ midwifery course)	Within the UK	928
	Within the EU	21
	Outside of the EU or the UK	44

Employers by location

Total	59
England	42
Scotland	5
Wales	3
Northern Ireland	9

Employers by staff numbers and setting

Total	59	
Nursing and midwifery staff numbers	Oversee 1-20 professionals	15
	Oversee 21-100 professionals	27
	Oversee 101-500 professionals	6
	Oversee 501 or more professionals	11
Setting	NHS acute	20
	NHS community	10
	NHS mental health, learning disability / autism	7
	NHS maternity	6
	Primary care	6
	Adult social care	11
	Independent provider	14
	Other	7

Members of the public by gender, age, and location

Total		2,016
Gender	Male	980
	Female	1,028
Age	18-40	796
	41-55	521
	56+	653
Location	England	1,673
	Scotland	183
	Wales	100
	Northern Ireland	60

Members of the public by ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic group

Total		2016
Ethnicity	White	1,562
	Ethnic minority background	454
Disability	No disability	1,068
	Disabled	948
Socioeconomic group	A/B	636
	C1/C2	814
	D/E	566

2.1 Qualitative research with members of the public

Online community by ethnicity, type of care experienced, age, gender and location

Total		20
Gender	Male	5
	Female	15
Age	25-34	10
	35-44	5
	45-54	4
	55-64	1
Location	England	9
	Scotland	6
	Wales	3
	Northern Ireland	2
Ethnicity	Black (African and Caribbean)	5
	Asian (Pakistani and Indian)	7
	Mixed ethnicity (White and Asian/Black Caribbean)	3
	Other ethnic backgrounds	5
Type of care experienced	Nursing	13
	Midwifery	17

In-depth interviews by disability, ethnicity, age, type of care experienced and location

Total		7
Gender	Male	2
	Female	5
Age	25-34	3
	35-44	1
	55-64	3
Location	England	2
	Scotland	2
	Wales	3
Ethnicity	White British	5
	Ethnic minority background	2
Type of care experienced	Nursing	5
	Midwifery	2
Disability	Mental health condition	3
	Physical disability	4

What we do

Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwifery practice that improves everyone's health and wellbeing. As the independent regulator of more than 826,000 nurses and midwives in the UK and nursing associates in England, we have an important role to play in making this vision a reality.

We're here to protect the public by upholding high professional nursing and midwifery standards, which the public has a right to expect. That's why we're improving the way we regulate, enhancing our support for colleagues, professionals and the public, and working with our partners to influence the future of health and social care.

Our core role is to **regulate**. We set and promote high education and professional standards for nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England and quality assure their education programmes. We maintain the integrity of the register of those eligible to practise. And we investigate concerns about professionals – something that affects very few people on our register every year.

To regulate well, we **support** nursing and midwifery professionals and the public. We create resources and guidance that are useful throughout professionals' careers, helping them to deliver our standards in practice and address challenges they face. We work collaboratively so everyone feels engaged and empowered to shape our work.

We work with our partners to address common concerns, share our data, insight and learning, to **influence** and inform decision-making and help drive improvement in health and social care for people and communities.

23 Portland Place,
London W1B 1PZ
+44 20 7637 7181
www.nmc.org.uk

 @nmcnews  @nmcuk


**Nursing &
Midwifery
Council**