

Statistical Analysis of the Register 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

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Section 1 - Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the regulatory body for nurses and midwives. Our purpose is to establish and improve standards of care in order to safeguard the health and well being of the public. We do this by:

- maintaining a register of nurses and midwives
- setting standards and guidelines for education, conduct, performance and ethics
- providing advice on professional standards
- considering allegations of lack of fitness to practise due to misconduct, lack of competence or ill health.

The Register

Registration with the NMC is an essential requirement for working as a nurse or midwife in the UK. We maintain a register of all of the people who have fulfilled our registration requirements and who are, therefore, entitled to practise in the UK. The register is at the heart of the NMC's role in safeguarding the health and well-being of the public. The Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001 (The Order), sets out the NMC's role and responsibilities.

This statistical analysis is aimed at workforce planners, researchers, academics, government, employers, the media or members of the public with an interest in the numbers on the register. The statistics in this report cover the period 1 April 2007 - 31 March 2008.

Further information

These statistics are also available on the NMC web site (www.nmc-uk.org).

Section 2 - Basic demographic information

This section provides basic demographic information on the register as at 31 March 2008. This includes age and gender breakdowns, geographical distribution, number and type of qualification.

Please note that one-third of nurses and midwives hold more than one registerable or recordable qualification and it is not possible to identify with any degree of certainty which ones they are using in their current practice. For example, a common request made of the NMC is to state how many mental health or children's nurses there are in the UK. Although we can say how many hold the relevant qualification, the NMC cannot confirm whether the relevant qualification is actually used in their current employment.

The exception is for practicing midwives who have to submit an Intention to Practise (ITP) notification to their Local Supervising Authority (LSA). The ITP confirms that midwives meet the necessary requirements to maintain their registration, their main geographical areas of practice and that they are participating in the process of statutory supervision.

Table 1 - Numbers on the register

This section gives the total number of nurses and midwives on the register from 2004, the year in which the three-part register was introduced, together with the number of initial registrations and numbers leaving the register. As changes are frequently made to the register, the total number of nurses and midwives on the register can vary each day due to lapses and renewals of registration. In particular, numbers vary significantly at the end of each month as this is a peak period for registration renewals

Year ending 31 March	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Initial registration	34,617	33,257	31,402	27,704	25,864
Nurses/midwives leaving the register who choose not to practise or retire.	19,717	20,840	22,079	23,038	36,203
Change over previous year	14,900	12,417	9,323	4,666	10,339
Total number on the register	660,480	672,897	682,220	686,886	676,547

Table 2 - Age distribution of the register

The following table gives an age breakdown of the register since 2004. More than 65% of those on the register are over 40 years of age and over 31% are over 50.

Age range in year to 31 March	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
Under 25 years	2.02	1.94	1.87	1.82	1.88
25-29 years	8.44	8.29	8.04	7.69	7.38
30-39 years	28.3	27.35	26.73	26.06	25.34
40-49 years	33.94	34.42	34.52	34.5	34.38
50-54 years	11.62	11.91	12.42	12.99	13.89
55 years and over	15.68	16.09	16.4	16.91	17.15

Table 3 - Gender breakdown of the register

The table below shows the gender balance on the register. Please note the figures below do not include 115 nurses and/or midwives who did not complete the gender field on their application form.

Year to 31 March	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
Male	10.63	10.73	10.73	10.73	10.69
Female	89.36	89.25	89.24	89.24	89.29

Table 4 - Geographical breakdown of the register

The figures for the year ending 31 March 2008 are as follows:

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England	508,899	520,579	532,016	531,966	528,980
Northern Ireland	21,705	21,814	22,833	23,322	23,013
Scotland	64,401	64,915	65,350	70,400	68,926
Wales	32,443	32,082	32,434	34,814	34,036
Non-UK address	28,162	31,310	29,366	26,384	21,592
Total	655,610	670,700	681,999	686,866	676,547

Table 5 - Admissions to the register by country/area

The following table shows initial and subsequent* admissions to the register by country/area for the year ending 31 March 2008.

Country/area	Initial	Subsequent
England	17,538	1,490
Scotland	2,519	254
Wales	992	133
Northern Ireland	612	92
European Economic Area	1,872	27
Overseas	2,309	10
Total	25,842	2,006

* Subsequent entries are those where the nurse or midwife is already on the register and obtains a further qualification, thus allowing them to enter a different part of the register or for nurses to have an additional field of practice marked on the register.

Table 6 - Initial admissions to the register by UK country, European Union and European Economic Area countries and overseas countries

This table shows the change in numbers coming onto the register since 2004. The NMC stopped accepting Intention to Practise (ITP) forms from midwives working outside the UK in 2005/6. ITPs have to be signed off by a supervisor of midwives in a Local Supervising Authority (LSA) and these are only located in the UK.

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England	15,862	16,146	16,848	17,270	17,538
Scotland	2,331	2,263	2,434	2,497	2,519
Wales	812	1,159	962	1,021	992
Northern Ireland	457	414	696	600	612
European Economic Area	1,033	1,193	1,753	1,484	1,872
Overseas	14,122	11,477	8,709	4,830	2,309
Total	34,617	32,652	31,402	27,702	25,842

Table 7 - Initial admissions to the register by overseas country 2008

This table provides details of registration statistics for all 32 source overseas countries from which more nurses or midwives were admitted to the register in the year ending 31 March 2008.

Country	Admissions
India	1020
Australia	262
Philippines	249
Nigeria	154
Nepal	117
New Zealand	62
China	52
Zambia	51
Zimbabwe	49
Pakistan	42
Ghana	38
USA	35
South Africa	32
Canada	24
Kenya	19
Mauritius	19
Iran	18
Japan	14
Cameroon	12
Sri Lanka	7
Israel	4
Uganda	4
Belarus	3
Gambia	3
Malawi	3
Sierra Leone	3
Thailand	3
Botswana	2
Brazil	2
Hong Kong	2
Jamaica	2

Singapore	2
Total	2309

Table 8 - Initial admissions to the register from European Economic Area countries

The following numbers of admissions were made to the register from countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) in the year to 31 March 2008.

Country	Admissions
Poland	456
Romania	382
Bulgaria	168
Germany	141
Italy	92
England *	83
Eire	68
Czech Republic	52
Portugal	49
Slovakia	48
Spain	37
France	33
Lithuania	34
Hungary	34
Sweden	31
Denmark	27
Netherlands	25
Finland	24
Malta	19
Norway	16
Greece	14
Belgium	13
Austria	12
Latvia	7
Switzerland **	7
Total	1872

* This category represents EU citizens trained in England or UK nationals who trained outside the EU. Until September 2008, nurses and midwives who were EU citizens but who trained outside the EU could be assessed through the EU registrations route if they wished. This mainly affected overseas nurses and midwives who were married to UK nationals and Commonwealth citizens who held UK passports. From September 2008, this category of nurses and midwives will apply for registration via the Overseas registration route.

** Although Switzerland is not in the EU or EEA they are treated as EU applicants because they follow the training requirements for EU nurses and midwives and follow many other EU directives.

Table 9 - UK nurses and midwives seeking employment outside the UK

Nurses and midwives are part of a professional global workforce. Just as nurses and midwives based within the EEA and overseas come to the UK in order to practise, UK trained nurses and midwives also seek employment outside the UK.

When a nurse or midwife seeks employment outside the UK, the regulator of the relevant country to which they have applied, checks with the NMC in order to establish if the applicant is on our register. This process is known as verification.

The following table provides details of the number of verification checks made by regulators outside the UK for nurses and midwives on the NMC register. **However, these figures should not be interpreted as revealing that 11,178 nurses and midwives left the UK to work overseas in the year to 31 March 2008 for two primary reasons.** Firstly, it should be noted that a single nurse or midwife may of course apply for more than a single vacancy outside the UK. Each application would count as a separate verification check. Secondly, it should also be noted that the nurse or midwife who applied for work outside the UK may not actually have taken up employment outside the UK.

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	3,296	3,047	4,764	5,581
USA	1,729	1,338	1,613	1,701
New Zealand	1,097	1,423	1,336	1,237
Eire	847	1,009	999	1,011
Canada	461	404	739	898
Spain	124	132	142	164
United Arab Emirates	28	18	42	66
France	74	87	60	62
Other	375	341	384	458
Total	8,031	7,799	10,079	11,178

Table 10 - Total number of nurses with a prescribing qualification

The following table provides details of the total number of nurses and midwives who hold a qualification for prescribing on the register for the year ending 31 March 2008.

Prescribing Qualification	2005	2006	2007	2008
Community Practitioner Nurse Prescriber	31,914	33,069	34,000	33,843
Nurse Independent / Supplementary Prescriber	4,151	7,181	10,750	13,965
Nurse Independent Prescriber	1618	1653	1648	1620
Total	37,683	41,903	46,398	49,428

Section 3 - Nursing

Table 11 - Numbers on the nurses' part of the register

The following table provides details of the number of nurses registered for the year ending 31 March 2008. Please note that the numbers includes nurses who hold more than one qualification and who have therefore been counted more than once.

Branch	2008
Adult	396,776
Mental Health	61,541
Children	19,164
Learning Disabilities	14,187
General	5,322
Fever	30
Total	497,020

Section 4 - Midwifery

Table 12 - Number on the midwives' part of the register

The following table provides details of the number of midwives registered for the year ending 31 March 2008. Please note that the NMC no longer collects information regarding the numbers of midwives working either part-time or full-time.

Number of Midwives	
Male	132
Female	35,169
Form not filled	4
Total	35,305

Table 13 - Number of midwives submitting ITP notifications

The following table provides a breakdown of the number of midwives submitting Intention to Practise (ITP) notifications by country within the UK.

The NMC stopped accepting Intention to Practise (ITP) forms from midwives working outside the UK in 2005/6. ITPs have to be signed off by a supervisor of midwives in a Local Supervising Authority (LSA) which are only located in the UK.

Country	Total
England	28,030
Northern Ireland	1,374
Scotland	3,877
Wales	1,692
Other	332
Total	35,305

Table 14 – Number of practising midwives per Supervisor of Midwives (SOM)

The table below shows the number of practising midwives per SOM in each country, and in the UK as a whole, for the year ending 31 March 2008. Please note that this information is not drawn directly from the register but is provided following requests from users of the NMC's statistical analysis of the register.

The NMC has a standard of fifteen midwives to one SOM in order to enable SOMs to be more effective in ensuring protection of the public.

Years	England	N Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2004/05	14	21	16	15	16
2005/06	14	21	16	15	14
2006/07	14	25	14	14	14
2007/08	13	19	14	12	14

Section 5 – Specialist community public health nursing

Table 15 – Numbers on the specialist community public health nurses’ part of the register.

Migration to the Specialist Community Public Health Nurses’ (SCPHN) part of the register has been taking place in phases by different groups, e.g.; health visitors, when it has been determined that a particular group has met the appropriate standards for entry to this part. Please note that some people will be counted more than once as they hold more than one SCPHN qualification. For the year ending 31 March 2008, the breakdown of the specialist community public health nurses’ part of the register was as follows:

	Female	Male	Total
Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurse – Family Health Nurse			
Channel Islands	0	0	
Isle of Man	0	0	
N Ireland	0	0	
Scotland	43	0	
Wales	0	0	
England	1	0	
Total	44	0	44
Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurse – Occupational Health Nurse			
Channel Islands	5	0	
Isle of Man	2	0	
N Ireland	105	5	
Scotland	308	37	
Wales	102	14	
England	2551	203	
Total	3073	259	3332
Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurse – School Nurse			
Channel Islands	2	0	
Isle of Man	4	0	
N Ireland	38	0	
Scotland	97	0	
Wales	102	2	
England	2415	10	
Total	2658	12	2670
Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurse – Health Visitor			
Channel Islands	32	0	
Isle of Man	29	1	
N Ireland	659	11	
Scotland	2154	44	
Wales	1114	21	

England	17605	262	
Britain	2	0	
Total	21595	339	21934
Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurse			
Channel Islands	0	0	
Isle of Man	0	0	
N Ireland	0	0	
Scotland	0	0	
Wales	0	0	
England	1	0	
Total	1	0	1
Total	27371	610	27981