

Publication Summary



NHSScotland Psychology Services

Workforce Information as at 31st March 2011

28th June 2011



About this Release

This release is a collaborative piece of work between ISD and NHS Education for Scotland (NES), and presents data on staff in post in NHSScotland psychology services as at 31st March 2011. Data is available by target age of clients seen, area of work, NHS Board, and gender, age and contract type. The tables present figures in both Headcount numbers and Whole Time Equivalents (wte), wte's adjust headcount staff figures to take account of part-time staff.

Key Points

- In total there were 741 (631.0 wte) Clinical&Other Applied Psychologists employed in NHSScotland as at 31st March 2011. This is an increase of 1.9% Clinical&Other Applied Psychologists compared to 30th September 2010.
- This total of 741 (631.0 wte) equates to 688 (583.7 wte) Clinical Psychologists plus 53 (47.3wte) Other Applied Psychologists. This represents a national staffing level of 1 wte Clinical Psychologist per 8 946 of the general population of Scotland.
- Psychology services increasingly employ a skill-mix of staff. Graduates of the MSc in Psychological Therapies in Primary Care (56.5 wte Clinical Associates), Graduates of the MSc in the Applied Psychology of Children and Young People (22.5 wte), assistant psychologists (73.9 wte), cognitive behavioural therapists (30.2 wte), counsellors (15.8 wte), other therapists (15.5 wte), and other clinical staff (15.8 wte), were employed in NHSScotland psychology services as at 31st March 2011.

Background

Within NHSScotland, recent years have seen an unparalleled demand for increased access to Applied Psychologists and Psychological Therapies. Healthcare policy has endorsed this shift towards a greater emphasis on psychologically based approaches e.g. Better Health, Better Care; Delivering for Mental Health; Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland.

Psychology offers a scientific basis for understanding, and practical skills for influencing, how people think, feel and behave, with specific reference to physical health and mental well being. There is a strong evidence base, recognised in Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for the effectiveness of psychological interventions in delivering positive health change for a wide range of clinical conditions.

NES helps to provide better patient care by providing educational solutions for workforce development. NES has responsibility for the pre-registration training of Clinical Psychologists for NHSScotland i.e. the main source of psychology workforce supply. Since its inception in 2004 NES has worked in collaboration with ISD and heads of psychology services across NHSScotland to develop a live national psychology workforce database to collect and analyse data about the psychology workforce to inform training numbers and psychology service planning. The impact of the modernisation of psychology training is accruing as successive cohorts of those who have completed new Masters programmes or the expanded training programme in Clinical Psychology enter the workforce.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

About NES

NES are a Special Health Board, responsible for supporting NHS services delivered to the people of Scotland by developing and delivering education and training for those who work in NHSScotland.

NES helps to provide better patient care by providing educational solutions for workforce development. This is done by designing, commissioning, quality assuring and where appropriate providing education for NHSScotland staff.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).