

RUG notes Jan 08 - Appendix 1 Regional survey 2007 Workforce/Workload

Surveys were sent to all maternity ultrasound departments via Superintendent Sonographers. Responses were received from all 19 units, however not all responded fully. All units were given a copy of the data supplied to validate and check for inaccuracies.

Table 1 shows the number of staff in post (sonographers, midwife sonographers, and short course midwives) and the whole time equivalent (WTE) spent performing obstetric scans. Consultant staff are excluded from the analyses as they generally do very few sessions. Bank/agency staff and students are also excluded.

Table 1 - West Midlands obstetric ultrasound: qualified core staff in post June 2007

Unit	Sonographers		MW sono		MW short	
	headcount	WTE	headcount	WTE	headcount	WTE
Alexandra	6	1.3	1	0.2		
BWH	14	5.8			6	0.6
City	10	3.9			1	0.5
George Eliot	3	0.7	2	1.1		
Good Hope	10	3.1	1	0.2	3	0.4
Heartlands	10	4.8	2	1.6	4	0.4
Hereford	5	1.9	2	0.4		
Kidderminster	5	1.1			2	0.2
New Cross	8	2.7	4	2.0		
North Staffs						
Queen's, Burton	8	2.6			6	0.7
Royal Shrewsbury			14	9.0		
Russells Hall	9	4.1			1	0.1
Sandwell	5	1.7	2	0.8	2	0.5
Stafford	3	1.2	3	0.6		
Walsall	8	3.1	3	1.7	1	0.8
Walsgrave	9	3.2	4	3.4	1	1.0
Warwick	5	2.3				
Worcs Royal	9	2.3	1	0.2	7	0.6
Total 18 units	127	45.6	39	21.1	34	5.8

Table 3 shows the obstetric ultrasound staffing compared with activity (annual births).

Table 2 - West Midlands obstetrics ultrasound activity: scans/WTE core staff

Unit	core WTE	WTE/1,000 births
Alexandra	1.5	0.83
BWH	6.4	0.93
City	4.4	1.21
George Eliot	1.8	0.66
Good Hope	3.7	1.08
Heartlands/Solihull	6.8	0.93
Hereford	2.3	1.25
Kidderminster	1.3	1.98
New Cross	4.7	1.33
North Staffs		
Queen's, Burton	3.3	0.91
Royal Shrewsbury	9.0	1.77
Russells Hall	4.2	0.99
Sandwell	3.0	1.12
Stafford	1.8	0.76
Walsall	5.5	1.45
Walsgrave	7.5	1.49
Warwick	2.3	0.85
Worcs Royal	3.1	0.80
Total	72.4	1.11

* excludes activity/staffing at satellite units (Lichfield & Robert Peel)

Other pressures on workforce

Fourteen units (78%) report that members of their staff are affected by RSI/MSD, totalling thirty-six staff (18% of core workforce).

Of the 17 hospitals that completed this aspect of the survey, three stated that they had vacancies totalling 8.9 WTE. In addition, nine other units stated there were no vacancies but raised concerns about workforce issues.

Obstetric activity

Table 3 shows the number and type of obstetric scans performed by each maternity unit in the West Midlands. Data collected relate to activity undertaken between January and June 2007 (6 months). As units vary in size a rate is calculated using births as a denominator, this rate signifies the mean number of scans performed per maternity.

Table 3 - West Midlands obstetrics ultrasound activity: scans by type and rate per birth Jan-Jun 2007

Unit	Early pregnancy assessment/viability		1st trimester (dating)		2nd trimester (anomaly)		3rd trimester		Total obs	
	n	/birth	n	/birth	n	/birth	n	/birth	n	/birth
Alexandra	718	0.80	1,000	1.11	1,067	1.18	1,378	1.53	4,163	4.61
BWH	3,166	0.92	3,653	1.07	3,514	1.03	4,546	1.33	14,879	4.34
City	1,260	0.69	1,736	0.95	1,242	0.68	1,134	0.62	5,372	2.94
George Eliot	810	0.62	1,238	0.94	1,116	0.85	1,489	1.13	4,653	3.53
Good Hope									8,100	4.81
Heart of England	1,467	0.40	2,982	0.82	3,011	0.82	2,641	0.72	10,101	2.76
Hereford	789	0.85	1,115	1.21	1,079	1.17	1,372	1.49	4,355	4.72
Kidderminster	331	1.01	601	1.83	612	1.86	659	2.00	2,203	6.70
New Cross	958	0.54	2,728	1.54	1,941	1.10	2,874	1.63	8,501	4.81
North Staffs									15,000	5.57
Queen's, Burton*	950	0.53	1,600	0.90	1,700	0.95	1,603	0.90	5,853	3.28
Royal										
Shrewsbury	1,721	0.68	1,680	0.66	1,480	0.58	5,278	2.08	10,159	4.00
Russells Hall	922	0.44	2,066	0.97	2,216	1.05	2,701	1.27	7,905	3.73
Sandwell										
Stafford	1,144	0.96	1,530	1.29	1,351	1.14	1,961	1.65	5,986	5.03
Walsall	1,000	0.53	2,771	1.46	2,219	1.17	2,267	1.20	8,257	4.36
Walsgrave	276	0.11	2,847	1.13	2,385	0.95	5,630	2.24	11,138	4.42
Warwick	557	0.41	1,144	0.84	1,220	0.90	1,373	1.01	4,294	3.16
Worcs Royal	1,036	0.54			1,132	0.59	1,246	0.65		
Total	17,105		28,691		27,285		38,152		130,919	

It should be noted that accurate estimates of activity were difficult to collect due to the poor quality of information systems in many ultrasound departments. Some units were unable to quantify activity at satellite/community units.

* excludes activity/staffing at satellite units (Lichfield & Robert Peel)