

The NMC register England

1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020



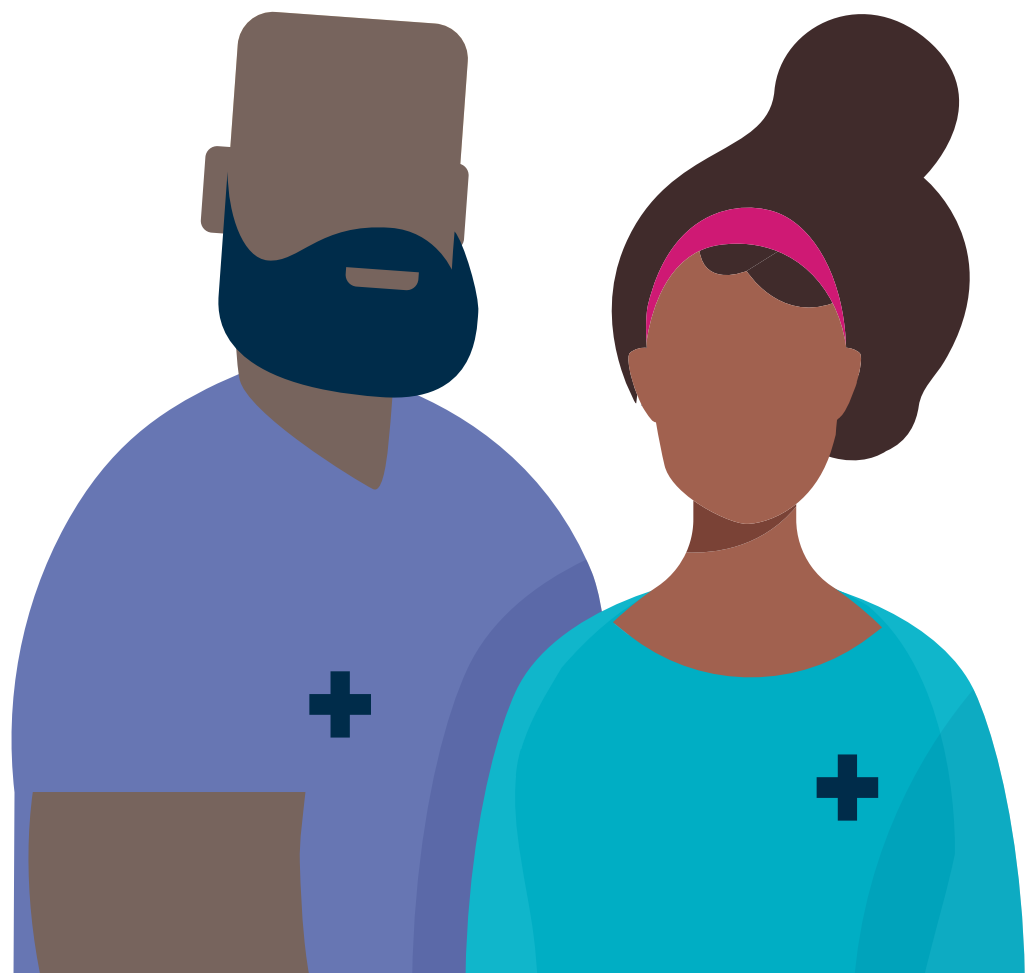
About us

Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwifery that improves everyone's health and wellbeing. As the professional regulator of more than 700,000 nursing and midwifery professionals, we have an important role to play in making this a reality.

Our core role is to **regulate**. First, we promote high professional standards for nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England. Secondly, we maintain the register of professionals eligible to practise. Thirdly, we investigate when care goes wrong – something that affects less than one percent of professionals each year.

To regulate well, we **support** our professions and the public. We create resources and guidance that are useful throughout people's careers, helping them to deliver our standards in practice and address new challenges. We also support people involved in our investigations, and we're increasing our visibility so people feel engaged and empowered to shape our work.

Regulating and supporting our professions allows us to **influence** health and social care. We share intelligence from our regulatory activities and work with our partners to support workforce planning and sector-wide decision making. We use our voice to speak up for a healthy and inclusive working environment for our professions.



About our register

We keep the register of all nurses and midwives eligible to practise in the UK, and nursing associates who can practise in England. We currently publish data from our register every six months. Our previous report was a mid-year update that we published in December 2019.

How to interpret our data

Not everyone on our permanent register will currently be working as nurses, midwives and nursing associates, or in the field they're registered in.

We collect the registered addresses of the professionals on our register. The data in the report is about those professionals with registered addresses in England.

People from the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) and outside the EEA all join our register through different routes. When we say that someone is from the UK, EEA or outside the EEA, we mean that they joined our register through that particular route.

So far, all the nursing associates on our register joined it via the UK route.

The number of joiners, leavers and total people registered won't add up exactly. That's because the joiners' data only includes people joining the register for the first time. It doesn't include people who re-joined after a break from practising.

The number of joiners and leavers are cumulative totals from the whole year (1 April–31 March). We're working to improve our systems so we can provide a more complete picture of joiners and leavers in the future.

Our register changes every day and can vary considerably from the start of the month to the end of the month. Therefore, our data only offers a snapshot in time. This report gives a snapshot of our register on 31 March 2020.

In March 2020 we established a Covid-19 temporary register to support the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Data from the Covid-19 temporary register is included in its own section at the end of this report. For clarity, data from the Covid-19 temporary register is not included in figures 1–9.

Size of our permanent register on 31 March 2020

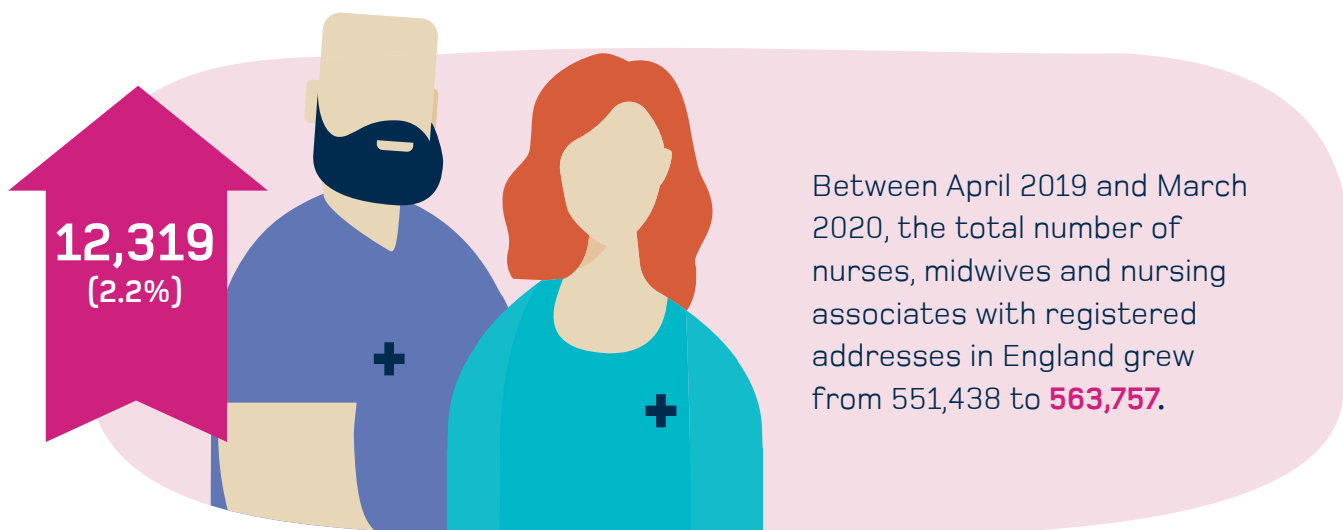


Figure 1
Total number of people on the register by registration type with an address in England

Registration type	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Nurse	512,532	511,437	510,179	514,750	525,073
Midwife	27,105	28,235	29,338	30,329	31,224
Dual registrant (nurse and midwife)	7,724	6,956	6,298	5,881	5,784
Nursing associate	n/a	n/a	n/a	478	1,676
Total	547,361	546,628	545,815	551,438	563,757

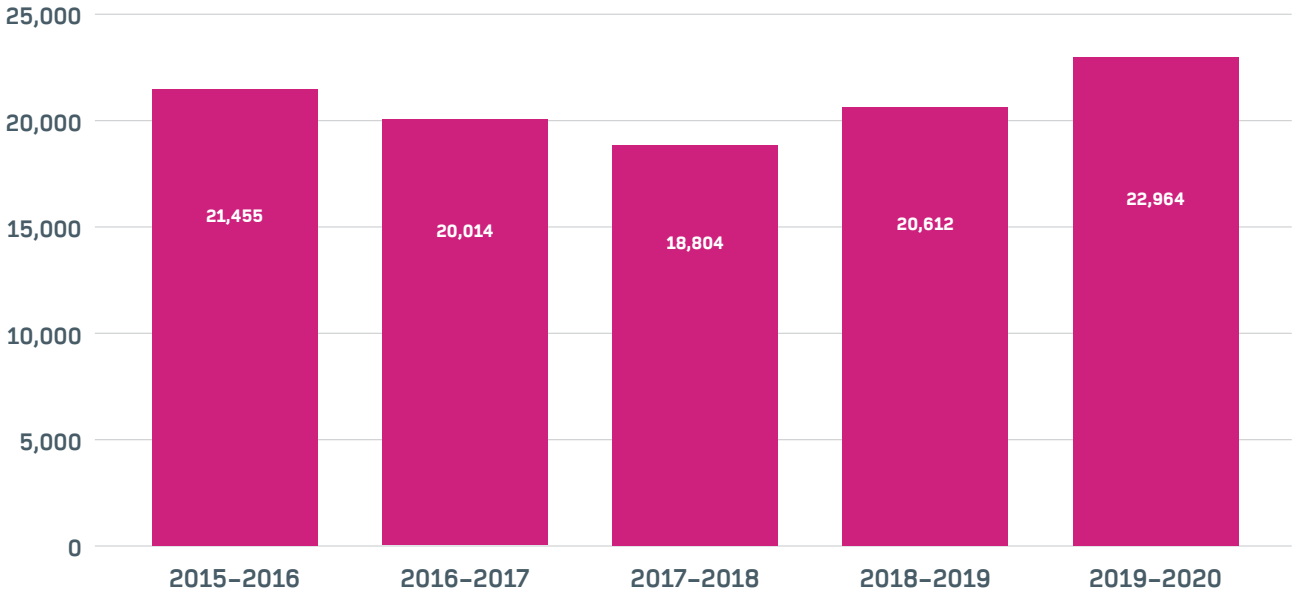
The nursing associate role was introduced in 2019, in England only. Nursing associates bridge the gap between health and care assistants, and registered nurses.

Joining the permanent register

The number of people joining our permanent register in England for the first time has increased steadily since 2017. Between April 2019 and March 2020, 22,964 people joined. That's 2,352 (11.4 percent) more than the previous year.

Figure 2

People with an address in England joining the permanent register for the first time



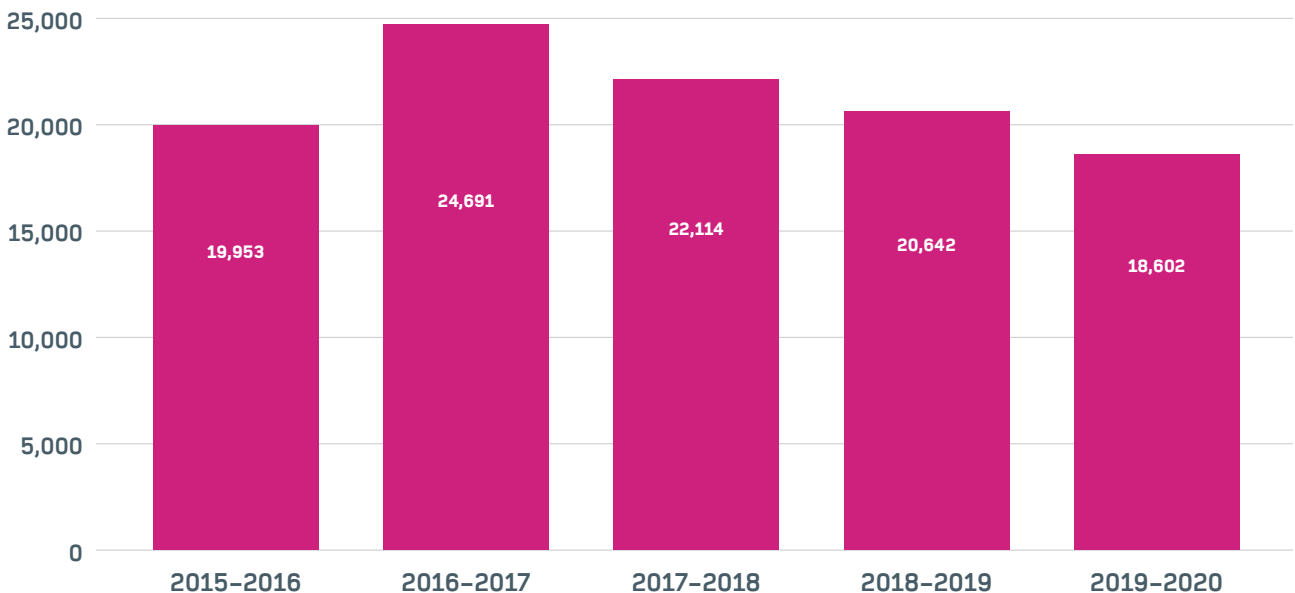
Joiners' data doesn't include those re-joining the register having previously left. Also, the overall number on the register is from one point in time, whereas the joiners' and leavers' data are the sum of activity over twelve months. Therefore, these figures won't add up exactly.

Leaving the permanent register

The number of people leaving the permanent register in England peaked in 2016-2017 and has since decreased year-on-year since then. This is similar to the UK-wide picture. In 2019-2020, 18,602 people in England left our register. That's 2,040 (9.9 percent) less than the previous year.

Figure 3

People with an address in England leaving the permanent register



Professionals who trained in the EEA

There were minor changes in the number of people on the permanent register in England who trained in the EEA. Romania was the most popular EEA country of training, with 6,443 registered professionals, followed by Portugal on 3,921.

Figure 4

Total number of people on the register in England by country of training in the EEA (top five countries)

	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Romania	4,965	6,368	6,396	6,416	6,443
Portugal	3,726	4,052	3,994	3,961	3,921
Spain	4,468	4,811	4,417	3,916	3,397
Italy	2,678	3,476	3,384	3,351	3,323
Poland	2,303	2,447	2,398	2,357	2,296
Total EEA	23,458	26,962	26,339	25,656	24,968

Professionals who trained outside the EEA

There were significant increases in the number of professionals on the permanent register in England who trained outside the EEA. The Philippines was the most popular non-EEA country of training with 25,584 registered professionals, up 10.0 percent (2,335 people) from the previous year.

Figure 5

Total number of people on the register in England by country of training outside the EEA (top five countries)

	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Philippines	20,582	21,181	22,005	23,249	25,584
India	14,414	14,653	14,855	15,338	17,369
Nigeria	2,681	2,670	2,678	2,771	3,205
South Africa	2,900	2,804	2,710	2,667	2,643
Zimbabwe	2,123	2,100	2,099	2,142	2,231
Total outside EEA	52,534	53,150	54,000	55,988	61,543

This data is based on people on our permanent register with a registered address in England. Some professionals on our permanent register who trained overseas may still have registered addresses outside the UK and therefore will not be included here. Data on the number of people on our permanent register with addresses outside the UK can be found in the UK registration data report.

Profile of the permanent register in England

There was a significant rise in the number of people aged 21–40 on our permanent register in England. The number of people aged 56 and over also increased. Meanwhile those aged 41–55 decreased.

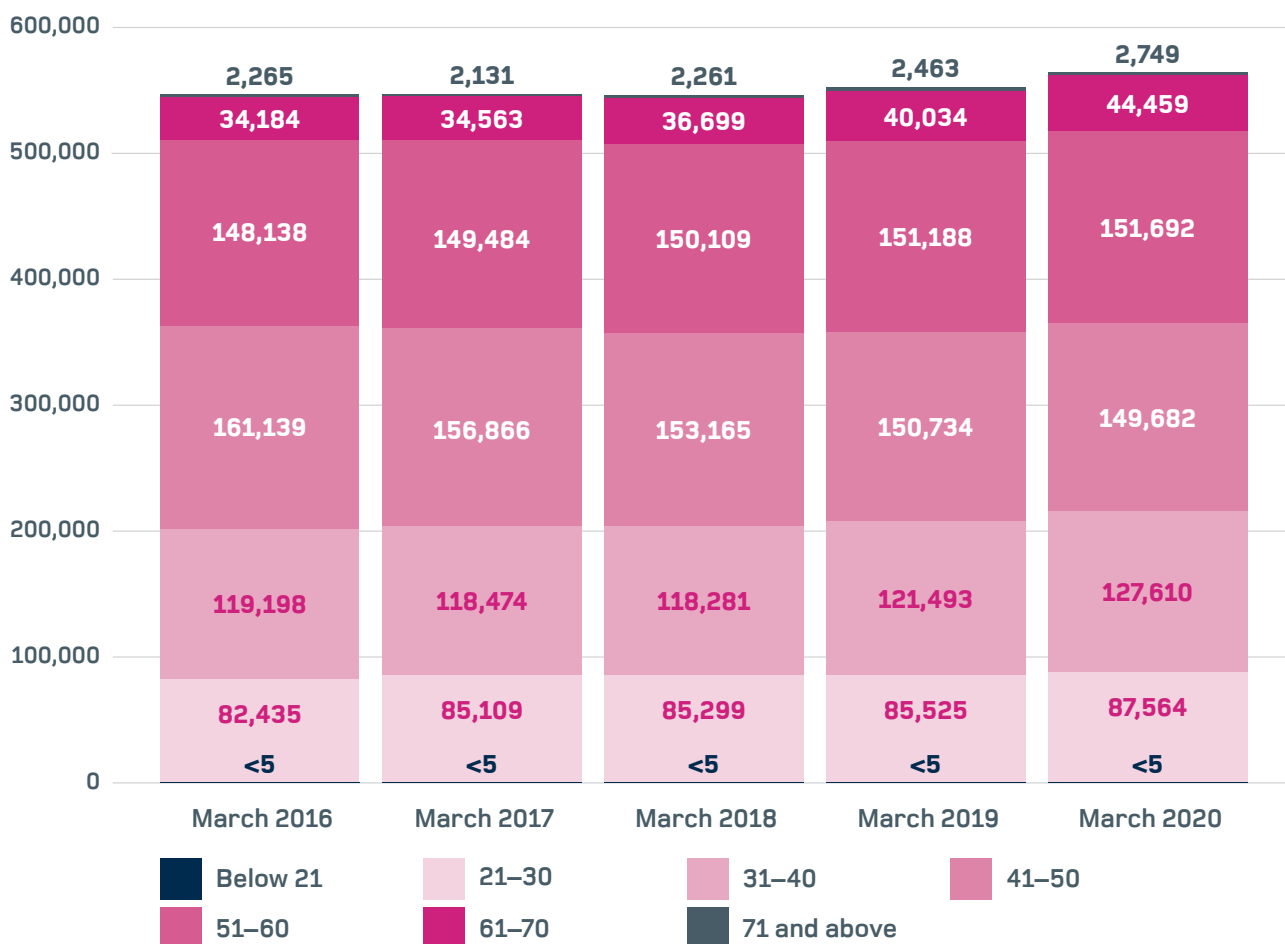
Figure 6a

Age profile of the permanent register in England

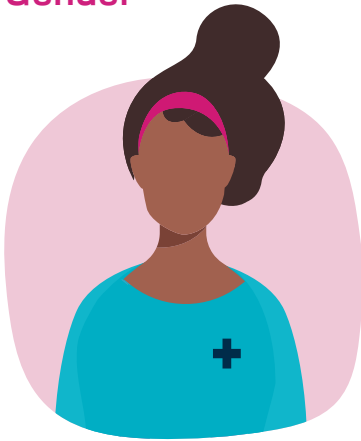
	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Below 21	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
21–30	82,435	85,109	85,299	85,525	87,564
31–40	119,198	118,474	118,281	121,493	127,610
41–50	161,139	156,866	153,165	150,734	149,682
51–55	87,587	87,380	86,141	84,445	82,695
56–60	60,551	62,104	63,968	66,743	68,997
61–70	34,184	34,563	36,699	40,034	44,459
71 and above	2,265	2,131	2,261	2,463	2,749

Figure 6b

Age profile of the permanent register

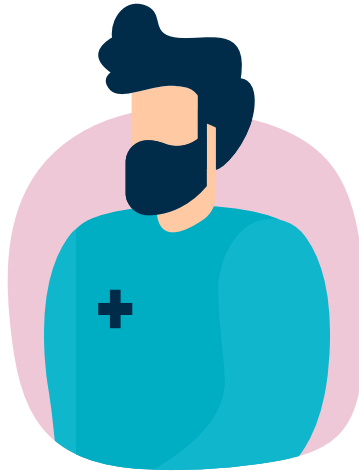


Gender



89%

of people on our permanent register in England identify as female



11%

of people on our permanent register in England identify as male

Over the last five years there have been only fractional changes in this gender split, within a one percent swing.

Of the 563,757 professionals on the permanent register in England, 3,536 said their gender is not the same as it was at the time of birth.

Fields of nursing practice

There was a significant increase in the number of adult nurses on our permanent register. There were very slight increases in the other three fields.

The number of adult and mental health nurses increased slightly for the second year running. Meanwhile the number of children's nurses continued the steady growth that we've seen over the last five years.

The number of learning disabilities nurses increased marginally. However in March 2020 there were nearly 1,000 fewer learning disabilities nurses than there were in 2016.

This data doesn't tell us what role nurses are currently working in. Nurses can hold more than one qualification and don't always work in the fields they are registered in.

Figure 7

Nurses registered in the four fields of practice

	Adult	Children	Learning disabilities	Mental health
March 2016	419,871	39,673	14,439	70,567
March 2017	417,370	40,244	13,866	69,532
March 2018	413,973	41,092	13,520	69,005
March 2019	415,455	42,160	13,465	69,483
March 2020	422,458	43,225	13,480	70,575

SCPHN and specialist practice qualifications

A nurse or midwife can have multiple additional qualifications. Specialist community and public health nursing (SCPHN) is a distinct part of our register. Someone on our register can become a specialist community public health nurse by taking an approved programme and achieving the right standards.

Where an area of practice is identified on our register, this indicates the area the qualification focused on. 'Specialist practitioner' refers to someone who has a specialist practice qualification (SPQ). SPQs are post-registration qualifications that relate to particular fields of practice. However, gaining an SPQ doesn't change the field a person is registered in.

Figure 8

Total number of registered Specialist Community and Public Health Nurses with an address in England

	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Health visitors	19,316	19,077	18,614	18,158	17,885
School nurses	3,275	3,363	3,388	3,411	3,438
Occupational health nurses	2,805	2,710	2,645	2,616	2,570
SCPHNs without a field of practice	176	176	175	174	167
Family nurses	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25,572	25,326	24,822	24,359	24,060



Figure 9**Total number of professionals with special/recordable qualifications with an address in England**

	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
Nurse independent / Supplementary prescriber	28,651	30,853	33,305	36,308	39,755
Community practitioner nurse prescriber	32,733	32,849	32,709	32,839	32,949
SP – District nursing	13,016	12,539	12,181	12,074	11,917
Teacher	3,060	3,381	3,656	3,926	4,079
Lecturer / Practice educator	4,586	4,082	3,687	3,363	3,099
SP – Adult nursing	2,251	2,189	2,105	2,055	2,008
SP – General practice nursing	1,360	1,311	1,285	1,266	1,239
Nurse independent prescriber	1,306	1,243	1,187	1,113	1,045
SP – Community mental health nursing	1,044	995	949	900	854
SP – Community children's nursing	620	619	625	627	633
SP – Mental health	525	498	478	459	442
SP – Children's nursing	340	335	322	309	303
SP – Community learning disabilities nursing	372	357	334	316	303
SP – Learning disability nurse	51	49	50	49	48
Total	89,915	91,300	92,873	95,604	98,674

SP = Specialist practitioner

Covid-19 temporary register in England

In March 2020 we established a Covid-19 temporary register to support the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic. We initially invited nurses and midwives who had left our permanent register within the last three years to join our Covid-19 temporary register.

In April we invited two further groups: overseas applicants who had completed all parts of their NMC registration process except their OSCE (Objective structured clinical examination); nurses and midwives who had left the register within the last four and five years.

However the data below is taken from 31 March 2020 – the same as the data from our permanent register above in this report. Therefore it doesn't include these two additional groups. For clarity, data from the Covid-19 temporary register is not included in figures 1–9.

Figure 10

Total people on the Covid-19 temporary register with an address in England

	31 March 2020
Nurse	5,659
Midwife	440
Nurse and midwife	82
Total	6,181

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