

# General and Personal Medical Services in England: 1995-2005

## Main Findings

- The number of Practitioners in England rose on average by 1.8% per year between 1995 and 2005.
- The percentage of female Practitioners in 2005 was 40% compared to 29% in 1995
- The number of Practitioners working part-time has more than doubled in the last ten years, reaching 27% in 2005
- 49% of female Practitioners work part-time compared to 12% of male Practitioners
- In 2005, 34% of Practitioners provided services through Personal Medical Services (PMS) arrangements.
- The number of GP Registrars increased to 2,564 in 2005, from 1,404 in 1995. The percentage of female GP Registrars is now 60% compared to 57% in 1995.

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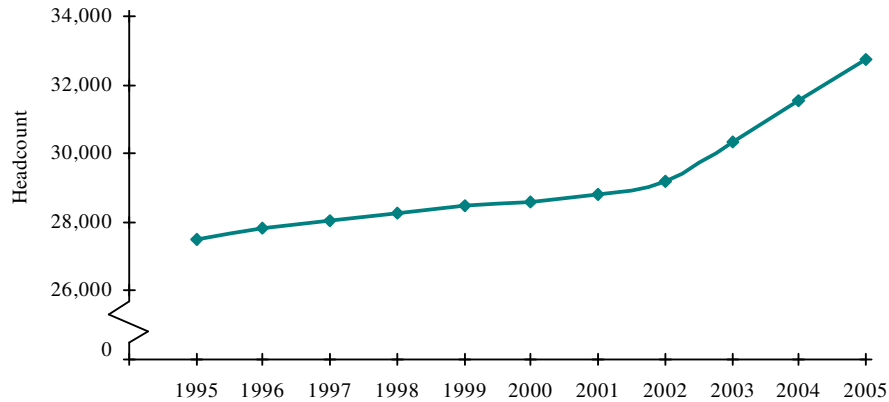
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Figure 1: Number of Practitioners, 1995 - 2005



### Medical Practitioners in General Practice

1. Various types of Medical Practitioners work in General Practice. The term 'Practitioner' in this bulletin is defined as all general medical practitioners **excluding GP registrars and GP retainers**. Locums are not covered in this bulletin. Detailed definitions of all types of GP are in paragraph 25.

2. Figures for Practitioners are based on those working in general practice. The more flexible working arrangements now available mean that in 2005, some 27% of Practitioners have opted for less than full time working, compared with 14% in 1995.

### Number of Practitioners by type

( see section 25 for detailed definitions)

3. In 2005, 90% of Practitioners were

Contracted & Salaried GPs. The remaining 10% is made up of GMS Others (6%) and PMS Others (4%).

4. Between 1995 and 2005 the number of Practitioners rose by 19%, from 27,465 to 32,738. Of these there were 29,340 Contracted GPs in 2005 compared with 26,829 in 1995 (see Table 1a). The estimated number of full time equivalents (FTE) Practitioners has increased at a slower rate than headcount numbers, reflecting increased part time working (see Table 1b).

5. The number of female Practitioners has increased significantly. In 1995, they represented 29% of the total; by 2005 this had increased to 40% (see Table 3).

6. 73% of Practitioners were contracted

Figure 2: Practitioners by gender, 1995 - 2005

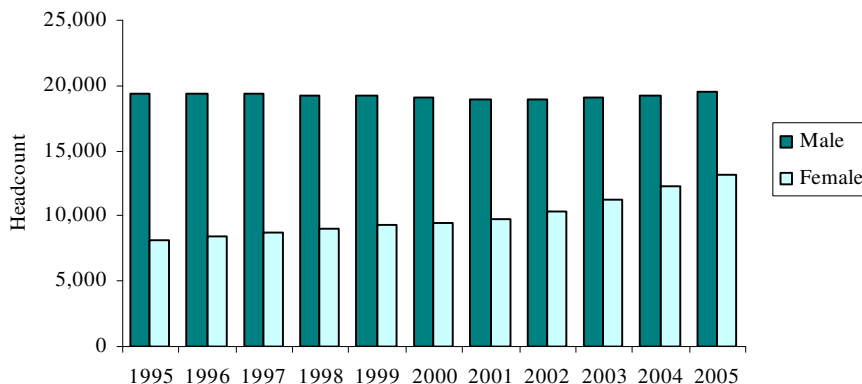
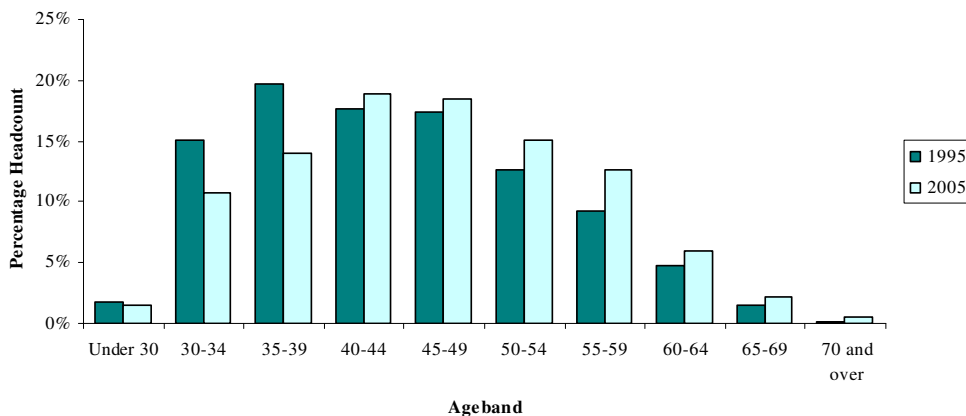


Figure 3: Practitioners by ageband, 1995 - 2005



to work full time in 2005 and 27% part time. Amongst female Practitioners, the figure working part time rose from 34% in 1995 to 49% in 2005.

7. Over the last decade, the number of Practitioners aged 60 and above has risen from 6.3% of the total to 8.6%, whilst the number aged under 30 has slightly fallen from 1.8% to 1.4% (see Table 2).

8. The proportion of Practitioners who had obtained their primary medical qualification in the UK was 81% in 2005, compared with 80% in 1995 (see Table 6)

### GP Registrars and GP Retainers

9. The number of GP Registrars rose from 1,404 to 2,564 in 2005. Since 1995, the number of female GP Registrars has increased by 91% and each year over half of all GP Registrars have been female.

10. Information on GP Retainers was collected for the first time in the 1999 census. There were 642 in 2005 (headcount, equivalent to an estimated 219 FTE)

### Practitioners and the population

11. The number of Practitioners rose at an average annual rate of 1.8% between 1995 and 2005. This rate of growth is higher than the rate of growth in the population, so that by 2005 there were 64.9 Practitioners per 100,000 population compared to 56.8 in 1995. Population figures have been revised by ONS to reflect the estimates from the 2001 population census (see Table 1a).

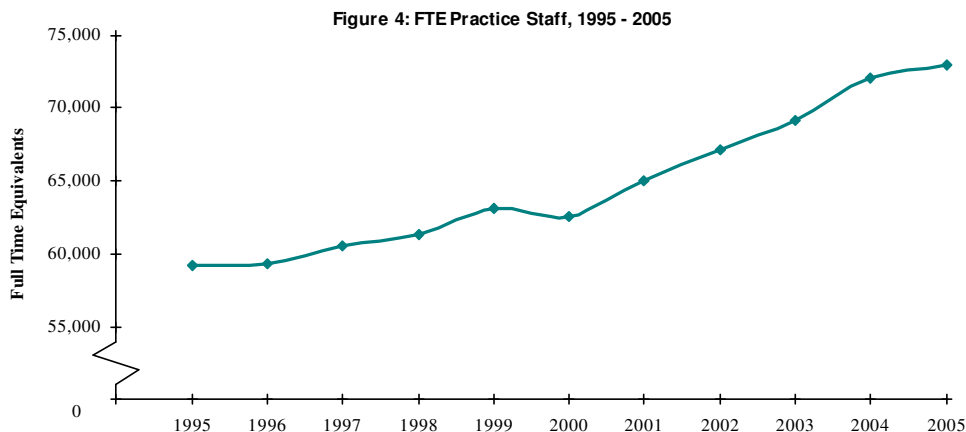
### Partnerships and the Average number of Patients per Practitioner

12. In 2005, there were 8,451 partnerships in total (counting single-handed practitioners as a partnership of one). The number of partnerships has declined in the past year, as there has been an increasing trend towards larger partnerships and therefore fewer single-handed practitioners. (see Table 2).

13. Over the past decade, the average number of patients per Practitioner fell from 1,835 to 1,613.

### Dispensing Practitioners

14. Although most Practitioners just prescribe, some Practitioners are also authorised to dispense prescriptions. Authorisation can be given when patients have difficulty reaching a



chemist owing to inadequate transport, or because they live in a rural area in which their GP has been given permission to dispense.

15. In 2005, 13% of Practitioners were authorised to dispense prescriptions compared with 15% in 1995. The average number of dispensing patients per dispensing Practitioner was 741 in 2005, compared to 766 in 1995, a fall of 3% (see Table 2).

### Staff in Partnerships

16. Practitioners work closely with nurses, midwives and health visitors, employed mainly by Community and Primary Care Trusts but they can be attached to their practice. In addition, most GP practices directly employ their own staff, including nursing, direct patient care, and administrative and clerical staff.

17. The number of FTE practice staff rose by 23% between 1995 and 2005 to over 72,000. The number of FTE practice nurses rose by 42% over the same period (see Table 4).

### Services Provided to Patients

18. Partnerships receive payments for reaching specified targets for vaccination and immunisation programmes, in 2005 79% met higher

targets for childhood immunisation and 56% for pre-school boosters. (Data for January payments quarter have been used to calculate these figures; therefore changes to payments introduced in April 2005 are not taken into account).

### Workforce and Flows

19. By examining whether Practitioners are present in successive censuses, it is possible to estimate the numbers of joiners and leavers. These figures are therefore snapshots from two specific points in time and only represent the national position at this time. They do not cover movement in and out between these two points, nor do they relate to the local level turnover of staff between PCTs.

20. The number of Practitioners who joined the workforce has increased each year since 2000 to 2,864 in 2005. The number of leavers has been more variable. There were 1,649 leavers from 2004, a decrease of 116 from the previous year (see Table 7).

### Personal Medical Services (PMS)

21. PMS pilots were introduced on 1 April 1998. At September 2005, PMS arrangements covered 34% of

Practitioners, 44% of FTE practice staff and 33% of patients (see Table 5)

## Sources

22. The GMS database is a computerised register of General Medical Practitioners who are in contract with PCT or SHAs (Strategic Health Authorities) in England. It includes details of each practitioner's name, age, sex, partnership details and country of primary medical qualification and whether certain allowances are payable (e.g. seniority).

23. The information, which is supplied by PCT via electronic data transfer, includes partnership structure, patients, registrars, retainers, practice staff, services offered by partnerships and target achievements.

24. For the 2000 to 2005 censuses, the data were as at 30 September; previous years' data were as at 1 October.

## Definitions

25. Only those practitioners whose 'Responsible PCT' lies within England have been included in this bulletin. The responsible PCT is usually the one in which the majority of the patients of the practice to which the practitioner belongs to reside, and which is responsible for payments.

26. All tables and figures in this bulletin **exclude GP Locums**

27. **All Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)** include GMS and PMS Contracted & Salaried GPs, GMS Others and PMS Others.

28. A **Contracted & Salaried GP** is a practitioner who has entered into a contract with a PCT to provide services to patients. The majority of these

practitioners were formerly unrestricted or restricted principals. Within this group, there are also a small minority of practitioners who were formerly unrestricted principals, who have not entered into a contract with a PCT. These practitioners cannot be identified separately.

29. **PMS Other** doctors work in PMS pilots and are the equivalents of salaried doctors.

30. **GMS Other** doctors (who happen to be salaried) work within partnerships and were formally known as assistants.

32. **GP Retainers** are practitioners who provide service sessions in general practice. They are employed by the partnership to undertake sessions and are allowed to work a maximum of 4 sessions of approximately half a day each week.

33. A **GP Registrar** (previously called a 'trainee') is a fully registered practitioner who is being trained for general practice under an arrangement approved by the Secretary of State.

34. The **primary medical qualification** used to identify the country of qualification is based on information held on each individual doctor on the GMC register. The countries are grouped into UK, European Economic Area (EEA) and Elsewhere. Figures for all years have been revised to allow for the recent enlargement of the EU. The EEA covers Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Cyprus, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Estonia, Slovakia and Lithuania. Switzerland is also shown in the EEA following the coming into force

of the bilateral agreement between Switzerland and the EU in the Free Movement of Persons Agreement (FMPPA) in 1 June 2002. Swiss national have similar rights to EU citizens to work in the UK, they are included in the EEA figures.

35. **Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)** are free standing statutory bodies and have their own budget for local health care. They commission the bulk of hospital and community health services for their local population and are able to provide health and other services.

36. A **Single Handed Contracted & Salaried GP** is one who has no partners, although they may have a GMS/PMS Other, GP Registrar or GP Retainer.

37. A **Single Handed Practitioner** has no partners although may have a GP registrar or GP retainer

38. **Full Time Equivalent (FTE)** The term full time equivalent replaces whole time equivalent (wte) used in previous bulletins. FTE Practitioners are estimated from the results of the 1992-93 GMP workload survey using factors of 1.0 full time and 0.6 part-time. FTE Retainers have been estimated using a factor of 0.12 per session.

39. Prior to 2004, FTE figures were estimated using factors of: full time = 1.0 FTE; three quarter time = 0.69 FTE; job share = 0.65 FTE and half time = 0.6 FTE. The new GP contractual arrangements only stipulate full time and part time GPs. Therefore, the FTE figures since 2004 may not be fully comparable with previous years.

40. **FTE Practice staff** are calculated by aggregating the total number of hours staff in a grade are contracted to work and dividing by the standard hours for

that grade. In this way, part-time staff are converted into an equivalent number of full time staff.

41. A **Partnership** is a financial arrangement between two or more bodies of which one must be a practitioner. A **Single-handed Practitioner** is one who has no partners, although he/she may work with a GP registrars or GP retainer.

42. The **average number of Patients per Practitioner** is the total number of patients for whom the partnership is responsible divided by the number of Practitioners who belong to or work in that partnership.

43. A **Dispensing Doctor** is one who is authorised to prescribe and dispense prescriptions for patients who either have difficulty reaching a chemist due to inadequate means of transportation or who live in a rural area.

44. Doctors are able to employ **Practice staff** to assist them with the provision of general medical services. Their PCT or SHA may reimburse a proportion of the cost of employing these staff through either the SFA or PMS contract. Information collected on practice staff changed in 1998; the staff group categories were combined. Figures for previous years have been aggregated into the new categories to allow comparisons.

#### **Notes on the tables and text**

45. Unless stated otherwise, all figures in this bulletin relate to England at 1 October (1995-2000) or 30 September (2001-2005).

46. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

47. Population projections for mid year 2005 figures (2001 based) issued by the Office of National Statistics have been used to calculate the number of Practitioners per 100,000 population in Table 1a.

48. Where tables refer to numbers, the figures represent a count of contracts. Some doctors may have more than one contract and hence will be included more than once in the figures. In 2005, there were 266 such GPs.

49. The statistical bulletin was revised last year to appropriately present the changes to data following the new primary Medical Care contractual arrangements from 1 April 2004. The bulletin now focuses on Practitioners rather than on the Unrestricted Principals & Equivalentents (UPE) group which is no longer identified or relevant under the new arrangements.

### **Further information**

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52. A copy of the bulletin is available on the internet at:  
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53. This publication is produced by The Information Centre. Previous editions were published by the Department of Health and can be accessed via The Information Centre's website

**Table 1a: General Medical Practitioners: Analysis by sex and status, 1995-2005**

| England   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | Numbers <sup>(1)</sup> and percentages |  |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
|   | 1995   | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   | % change<br>2004-2005                  | Average<br>annual<br>% change<br>1995-2005 |
| <b>Total</b>  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| Practitioners <sup>(2)</sup>  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 30,959 | 31,369 | 31,835 | 32,292 | 33,564 | 34,855 | 35,944 | 3.1                                    | ..   |
| Practitioners (excluding GP retainers)  | 28,869 | 29,116 | 29,389 | 29,697 | 29,987 | 30,252 | 30,685 | 31,182 | 32,593 | 34,085 | 35,302 | 3.6                                    | 2.0  |
| Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)                              | 27,465 | 27,811 | 28,046 | 28,251 | 28,467 | 28,593 | 28,802 | 29,202 | 30,358 | 31,523 | 32,738 | 3.9                                    | 1.8  |
| Contracted & Salaried GPs   | 26,829 | 26,970 | 27,200 | 27,489 | 27,681 | 27,791 | 27,938 | 28,117 | 28,646 | 28,781 | 29,340 | 1.9                                    | 0.9  |
| of which GMS  | 26,829 | 26,970 | 27,200 | 27,128 | 26,800 | 26,523 | 24,134 | 21,633 | 18,547 | 18,643 | 19,528 | 4.7                                    | -3.1                                       |
| PMS   | ..     | ..     | ..     | 361    | 881    | 1,268  | 3,804  | 6,484  | 10,099 | 10,138 | 9,812  | -3.2                                   | ..   |
| GMS Others  | 636    | 841    | 846    | 701    | 650    | 638    | 489    | 455    | 456    | 1,333  | 1,981  | 48.6                                   | 12.0                                       |
| GP Registrars   | 1,404  | 1,305  | 1,343  | 1,446  | 1,520  | 1,659  | 1,883  | 1,980  | 2,235  | 2,562  | 2,564  | 0.1                                    | 6.2  |
| Salaried Doctors (Para 52 SFA)  | ..     | ..     | ..     | 52     | 94     | 133    | 137    | 87     | 105    | ..     | ..     | ..                                     | ..   |
| PMS Other   | ..     | ..     | ..     | 9      | 42     | 31     | 238    | 543    | 914    | 1,409  | 1,417  | 0.6                                    | ..   |
| GP Retainers  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 972    | 1,117  | 1,150  | 1,110  | 971    | 770    | 642    | -16.6                                  | ..   |
| Flexible Career Scheme/ GP Returners  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 237    | ..     | ..     | ..                                     | ..   |
| <b>Males</b>  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| Practitioners <sup>(2)</sup>  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 19,840 | 19,763 | 19,743 | 19,696 | 20,019 | 20,336 | 20,662 | 1.6                                    | ..   |
| Practitioners (excluding GP retainers)  | 20,007 | 19,925 | 19,909 | 19,802 | 19,815 | 19,744 | 19,721 | 19,673 | 20,003 | 20,311 | 20,633 | 1.6                                    | 0.3  |
| Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)                              | 19,402 | 19,354 | 19,322 | 19,194 | 19,185 | 19,080 | 18,990 | 18,892 | 19,107 | 19,288 | 19,598 | 1.6                                    | 0.1  |
| Contracted & Salaried GPs   | 19,165 | 19,006 | 18,968 | 18,914 | 18,881 | 18,742 | 18,624 | 18,450 | 18,464 | 18,296 | 18,437 | 0.8                                    | -0.4                                       |
| GMS Other   | 237    | 348    | 354    | 262    | 252    | 257    | 194    | 171    | 168    | 412    | 604    | 46.6                                   | 9.8  |
| GP Registrars   | 605    | 571    | 587    | 608    | 630    | 664    | 731    | 781    | 896    | 1,023  | 1,035  | 1.2                                    | 5.5  |
| Salaried Doctors (Para 52 SFA)  | ..     | ..     | ..     | 16     | 38     | 70     | 67     | 33     | 42     | ..     | ..     | ..                                     | ..   |
| PMS Other   | ..     | ..     | ..     | 2      | 14     | 11     | 105    | 238    | 383    | 580    | 557    | -4.0                                   | ..   |
| GP Retainers  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 25     | 19     | 22     | 23     | 16     | 25     | 29     | 16.0                                   | ..   |
| Flexible Career Scheme/ GP Returners  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 50     | ..     | ..     | ..                                     | ..   |
| <b>Females</b>  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| Practitioners <sup>(2)</sup>  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 11,119 | 11,606 | 12,092 | 12,596 | 13,545 | 14,519 | 15,282 | 5.3                                    | ..   |
| Practitioners (excluding GP retainers)  | 8,862  | 9,191  | 9,480  | 9,895  | 10,172 | 10,508 | 10,964 | 11,509 | 12,590 | 13,774 | 14,669 | 6.5                                    | 5.2  |
| Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)                              | 8,063  | 8,457  | 8,724  | 9,057  | 9,282  | 9,513  | 9,812  | 10,310 | 11,251 | 12,235 | 13,140 | 7.4                                    | 5.0  |
| Contracted & Salaried GPs   | 7,664  | 7,964  | 8,232  | 8,575  | 8,800  | 9,049  | 9,314  | 9,667  | 10,182 | 10,485 | 10,903 | 4.0                                    | 3.6  |
| GMS Other   | 399    | 493    | 492    | 439    | 398    | 381    | 295    | 284    | 288    | 921    | 1,377  | 49.5                                   | 13.2                                       |
| GP Registrars   | 799    | 734    | 756    | 838    | 890    | 995    | 1,152  | 1,199  | 1,339  | 1,539  | 1,529  | -0.6                                   | 6.7  |
| Salaried Doctors (Para 52 SFA)  | ..     | ..     | ..     | 36     | 56     | 63     | 70     | 54     | 63     | ..     | ..     | ..                                     | ..   |
| PMS Other   | ..     | ..     | ..     | 7      | 28     | 20     | 133    | 305    | 531    | 829    | 860    | 3.7                                    | ..   |
| GP Retainers  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 947    | 1,098  | 1,128  | 1,087  | 955    | 745    | 613    | -17.7                                  | ..   |
| Flexible Career Scheme/ GP Returners  | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 187    | ..     | ..     | ..                                     | ..   |
| Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)<br>per 100,000<br>population | 56.8   | 57.3   | 57.6   | 57.9   | 58.1   | 58.1   | 58.2   | 58.8   | 60.9   | 62.9   | 64.9   |  |  |

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents a count of contracts, some doctors may have more than one contract. In September 2005 there were 266 GPs who appear more than once.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes GP retainers

Data as at 1 October 1995 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005

Figures exclude GP locums

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**Table 1b: Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) and GP Retainers: Estimated FTE <sup>(1)</sup> 1995-2005**

| England  | Full Time Equivalent & percentages |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                       |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|--|
|  | 1995                               | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   | % change<br>2004-2005 | Average<br>annual<br>% change<br>1995-2005 |
| Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) | 26,114                             | 26,272 | 26,359 | 26,455 | 26,558 | 26,557 | 26,628 | 26,833 | 27,624 | 28,308 | 29,248 | 3.3                   | 1.1  |
| GP Retainers <sup>(2)</sup>                              | ..                                 | ..     | ..     | ..     | 321    | 390    | 415    | 416    | 307    | 259    | 219    | -15.5                 | ..   |

<sup>(1)</sup> Full Time Equivalent (FTE) data have been estimated using the results from the 1992-93 GMP Workload Survey;

For 1995-2003- Contracted GPs- 'Full time = 1.00 fte; three quarter time = 0.69 fte; job share = 0.65 fte; and half time = 0.60 fte; Other GP types 'Full time = 1.00 fte; Part time = 0.6 fte

For 2004-2005- All GPs- Full Time 1.0 fte; Part time= 0.6 fte, and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years

<sup>(2)</sup> FTE GP Retainers have been estimated using a factor of 0.12 per session for 1995-2005

Data as at 1 October 1995 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005

Figures exclude GP locums

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**Table 2: Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers), selected statistics, 1995-2005**

| England  | Numbers and percentages |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | 1995                    | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   |
| Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)   | 27,465                  | 27,811 | 28,046 | 28,251 | 28,467 | 28,593 | 28,802 | 29,202 | 30,358 | 31,523 | 32,738 |
| of which, percentage   |                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| female   | 29.4                    | 30.4   | 31.1   | 32.1   | 32.6   | 33.3   | 34.1   | 35.3   | 37.1   | 38.8   | 40.1   |
| dispensing   | 15.0                    | 15.1   | 15.3   | 14.9   | 15.5   | 15.6   | 15.8   | 15.9   | 15.8   | 15.8   | 13.1   |
| aged under 30  | 1.8                     | 1.4    | 1.4    | 1.4    | 1.2    | 1.1    | 1.1    | 1.4    | 1.7    | 1.6    | 1.4    |
| aged 60 and over   | 6.3                     | 6.4    | 6.5    | 6.4    | 6.6    | 6.8    | 6.7    | 6.9    | 7.2    | 8.0    | 8.6    |
| Average number of Patients per Practitioner (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)             | 1,835                   | 1,820  | 1,815  | 1,809  | 1,788  | 1,795  | 1,780  | 1,764  | 1,736  | 1,666  | 1,613  |
| Average Dispensing Patients per Dispensing Practitioner (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) | 766                     | 759    | 748    | 764    | 738    | 687    | 722    | 716    | 701    | 634    | 741    |
| Practice Staff (FTE) per Practitioner (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) <sup>(1)</sup>    | 2.2                     | 2.1    | 2.2    | 2.2    | 2.2    | 2.2    | 2.3    | 2.3    | 2.3    | 2.3    | 2.2    |
| Number of GP Practices   | 9,188                   | 9,113  | 9,102  | 9,090  | 9,034  | 8,965  | 8,910  | 8,833  | 8,833  | 8,542  | 8,451  |
| Single Handed Contracted & Salaried GP <sup>(2)</sup>  | 2,919                   | 2,854  | 2,817  | 2,779  | 2,721  | 2,662  | 2,626  | 2,566  | 2,578  | 2,285  | 2,176  |
| Single Handed Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) <sup>(3)(4)</sup>           | ..                      | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | ..     | 1,949  | 1,828  |

<sup>(1)</sup> 2002 Practice staff totals include imputed data for 8 PCTs who did not submit returns.

<sup>(2)</sup> A Single Handed Contracted & Salaried GP is one who has no partners, although they may have a GMS/PMS Other, GP Registrar or GP Retainer.

<sup>(3)</sup> A Single Handed Practitioner (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) has no partners although may have a GP registrar or GP retainer

<sup>(4)</sup> Figures can not be calculated prior to 2004 for Single Handed Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers).

Data as at 1 October 1995 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005

Figures exclude GP locums

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**Table 3: Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers), contractual commitment by sex, 1995-2005**

| England              | Numbers and percentages |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                      | 1995                    | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   |
| Total (number)       | 27,465                  | 27,811 | 28,046 | 28,251 | 28,467 | 28,593 | 28,802 | 29,202 | 30,358 | 31,523 | 32,738 |
| of which, percentage |                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Full Time            | 86.2                    | 84.5   | 83.2   | 82.2   | 81.2   | 80.1   | 78.9   | 77.3   | 75.3   | 74.5   | 73.3   |
| Part Time            | 13.8                    | 15.5   | 16.8   | 17.8   | 18.8   | 19.9   | 21.1   | 22.7   | 24.7   | 25.5   | 26.7   |
| Males (number)       | 19,402                  | 19,354 | 19,322 | 19,194 | 19,185 | 19,080 | 18,990 | 18,892 | 19,107 | 19,288 | 19,598 |
| of which, percentage |                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Full Time            | 94.6                    | 93.9   | 93.3   | 93.2   | 92.6   | 91.9   | 91.3   | 90.5   | 89.6   | 89.2   | 88.4   |
| Part Time            | 5.4                     | 6.1    | 6.7    | 6.8    | 7.4    | 8.1    | 8.7    | 9.5    | 10.4   | 10.8   | 11.6   |
| Females (number)     | 8,063                   | 8,457  | 8,724  | 9,057  | 9,282  | 9,513  | 9,812  | 10,310 | 11,251 | 12,235 | 13,140 |
| of which, percentage |                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Full Time            | 65.9                    | 63.0   | 60.7   | 58.8   | 57.7   | 56.4   | 54.9   | 53.2   | 50.9   | 51.4   | 50.9   |
| Part Time            | 34.1                    | 37.0   | 39.3   | 41.2   | 42.3   | 43.6   | 45.1   | 46.8   | 49.1   | 48.6   | 49.1   |

Data as at 1 October 1995 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005

Figures exclude GP locums

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**Table 4: Practice Staff by type 1995-2005**

| England  | Numbers and percentages |        |         |         |         |         |         |             |                |         |         |
|--|-------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|----------------|---------|---------|
|  | 1995                    | 1996   | 1997    | 1998    | 1999    | 2000    | 2001    | (1)<br>2002 | (1)(2)<br>2003 | 2004    | 2005    |
| Total Practice Staff   |                         |        |         |         |         |         |         |             |                |         |         |
| Number   | 97,794                  | 97,379 | 100,048 | 100,975 | 105,828 | 102,270 | 104,319 | 107,275     | 110,091        | 112,254 | 112,094 |
| FTE  | 59,255                  | 59,318 | 60,579  | 61,332  | 63,087  | 62,583  | 64,998  | 67,107      | 69,140         | 72,006  | 72,990  |
| FTE Practice Staff by type   |                         |        |         |         |         |         |         |             |                |         |         |
| Practice Nurse   | 9,745                   | 9,821  | 10,082  | 10,359  | 10,689  | 10,711  | 11,163  | 11,998      | 12,967         | 13,563  | 13,793  |
| Direct Patient Care  | 1,577                   | 1,486  | 1,521   | 1,745   | 1,876   | 1,866   | 2,090   | 2,511       | 3,031          | 3,591   | 4,140   |
| Admin & Clerical   | 47,353                  | 47,637 | 48,341  | 48,887  | 49,990  | 49,529  | 51,390  | 51,444      | 52,250         | 53,290  | 53,517  |
| Other  | 579                     | 374    | 635     | 342     | 531     | 477     | 355     | 1,154       | 891            | 1,561   | 1,540   |
| Percentage Breakdown of FTE Staff                                  |                         |        |         |         |         |         |         |             |                |         |         |
| Total  | 100.0                   | 100.0  | 100.0   | 100.0   | 100.0   | 100.0   | 100.0   | 100.0       | 100.0          | 100.0   | 100.0   |
| Practice Nurse   | 16.4                    | 16.6   | 16.6    | 16.9    | 16.9    | 17.1    | 17.2    | 17.9        | 18.8           | 18.8    | 18.9    |
| Direct Patient Care  | 2.7                     | 2.5    | 2.5     | 2.8     | 3.0     | 3.0     | 3.2     | 3.7         | 4.4            | 5.0     | 5.7     |
| Admin & Clerical   | 79.9                    | 80.3   | 79.8    | 79.7    | 79.2    | 79.1    | 79.1    | 76.7        | 75.6           | 74.0    | 73.3    |
| Other  | 1.0                     | 0.6    | 1.0     | 0.6     | 0.8     | 0.8     | 0.5     | 1.7         | 1.3            | 2.2     | 2.1     |
| Practice Staff per Practitioner (excluding Registrars & Retainers) |                         |        |         |         |         |         |         |             |                |         |         |
| FTE  | 2.2                     | 2.1    | 2.2     | 2.2     | 2.2     | 2.2     | 2.3     | 2.3         | 2.3            | 2.3     | 2.2     |
| Number   | 3.6                     | 3.5    | 3.6     | 3.6     | 3.7     | 3.6     | 3.6     | 3.7         | 3.6            | 3.6     | 3.4     |

(1) 2002 and 2003 Practice staff totals include imputed data based on the previous census for a number of PCTs who did not submit returns.

(2) Figures have been amended from previously published  
 Totals may not equal sum of components due to rounding  
 Data as at 1 October 1995 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005  
 Figures exclude GP locums

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**Table 5: Coverage of GMS and PMS, 1998-2005 <sup>(1)</sup>**

| England  |                | Numbers <sup>(2)</sup> and percentages <sup>(3)</sup> |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--|----------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|  |                | 1998  | 1999       | 2000       | 2001       | 2002       | 2003       | 2004       | 2005       |
| Practitioners (excluding GP Retainers)   | GMS number     | 29,296  | 28,989     | 28,850     | 26,333     | 23,658     | 20,783     | 21,627     | 23,235     |
|  | GMS percentage | 98.6  | 96.7       | 95.4       | 85.8       | 75.9       | 63.8       | 63.5       | 65.8       |
|  | PMS number     | 401   | 998        | 1,402      | 4,352      | 7,524      | 11,810     | 12,458     | 12,067     |
|  | PMS percentage | 1.4   | 3.3        | 4.6        | 14.2       | 24.1       | 36.2       | 36.5       | 34.2       |
| Practitioners (excluding GP Registrars and GP Retainers)   | GMS number     | 27,881  | 27,544     | 27,294     | 24,760     | 22,175     | 19,345     | 19,976     | 21,509     |
|  | GMS percentage | 98.7  | 96.8       | 95.5       | 86.0       | 75.9       | 63.7       | 63.4       | 65.7       |
|  | PMS number     | 370   | 923        | 1,299      | 4,042      | 7,027      | 11,013     | 11,547     | 11,229     |
|  | PMS percentage | 1.3   | 3.2        | 4.5        | 14.0       | 24.1       | 36.3       | 36.6       | 34.3       |
| Estimated FTE Practitioners (excluding GP Registrars and GP Retainers) <sup>(4)</sup>            | GMS number     | 26,118  | 25,703     | 25,355     | 22,923     | 20,458     | 17,654     | 18,004     | 19,275     |
|  | GMS percentage | 98.7  | 96.8       | 95.5       | 86.1       | 76.2       | 63.9       | 63.6       | 65.9       |
|  | PMS number     | 338   | 855        | 1,202      | 3,705      | 6,375      | 9,970      | 10,305     | 9,973      |
|  | PMS percentage | 1.3   | 3.2        | 4.5        | 13.9       | 23.8       | 36.1       | 36.4       | 34.1       |
| FTE Practice Staff <sup>(5) (6)</sup>  | GMS number     | 60,414  | 59,848     | 59,511     | 55,929     | 50,691     | 41,914     | 40,398     | 41,030     |
|  | GMS percentage | 98.5  | 94.9       | 95.1       | 86.0       | 75.5       | 60.6       | 56.1       | 56.2       |
|  | PMS number     | 918   | 3,239      | 3,072      | 9,068      | 16,416     | 27,226     | 31,608     | 31,959     |
|  | PMS percentage | 1.5   | 5.1        | 4.9        | 14.0       | 24.5       | 39.4       | 43.9       | 43.8       |
| Patients <sup>(7) (8)</sup>  | GMS number     | 50,479,024  | 49,323,527 | 49,079,419 | 44,241,627 | 39,583,713 | 34,172,734 | 33,976,253 | 35,152,210 |
|  | GMS percentage | 98.8  | 96.9       | 95.6       | 86.3       | 76.8       | 64.8       | 64.7       | 66.6       |
|  | PMS number     | 638,622   | 1,575,421  | 2,257,393  | 7,013,206  | 11,941,181 | 18,541,046 | 18,551,484 | 17,665,290 |
|  | PMS percentage | 1.2   | 3.1        | 4.4        | 13.7       | 23.2       | 35.2       | 35.3       | 33.4       |
| Average List Size of All Practitioners (excluding GP Registrars and GP Retainers) <sup>(7)</sup> | GMS number     | 1,811   | 1,791      | 1,798      | 1,787      | 1,785      | 1,766      | 1,701      | 1,634      |
|  | PMS number     | 1,726   | 1,707      | 1,738      | 1,735      | 1,699      | 1,684      | 1,607      | 1,573      |

<sup>(1)</sup> At 1 October 1998 and 1999, and 30 September 2000 to 2005

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents a count of contracts, some doctors may have more than one contract. In September 2005 there were 266 GPs who appear more than once.

<sup>(3)</sup> Percentages of total, (GMS plus PMS).

<sup>(4)</sup> FTE Practitioners are estimated using the results from the 1992-93 GMP Workload Survey. See definitions, para 38

<sup>(5)</sup> The split between PMS and GMS may be slightly inaccurate in 1999 due to underrecording in PMS practices in 12 HAs, and where estimates were made.

<sup>(6)</sup> 2002 and 2003 Practice staff totals include imputed data based on the previous census for a number of PCTs who did not submit returns.

<sup>(7)</sup> GMS/PMS split for patient data has been estimated for 2003, using information from partnership data

<sup>(8)</sup> 2003 patient data has been amended from previously published

Figures exclude GP locums

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**Table 6: Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) by country of primary medical qualification, 1995-2005**

| <b>England</b>   | Numbers & Percentages |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | 1995                  | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   |
| Practitioners (excluding GP retainers and GP registrars) | 27,465                | 27,811 | 28,046 | 28,251 | 28,467 | 28,593 | 28,802 | 29,202 | 30,358 | 31,523 | 32,738 |
| Country of Qualification Group:                          |                       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| UK   | 22,040                | 22,386 | 22,556 | 22,807 | 22,987 | 23,072 | 23,474 | 23,751 | 24,707 | 25,590 | 26,363 |
| EEA  | 804                   | 812    | 852    | 881    | 943    | 996    | 1,070  | 1,198  | 1,321  | 1,496  | 1,627  |
| Elsewhere  | 4,621                 | 4,613  | 4,638  | 4,563  | 4,537  | 4,525  | 4,258  | 4,253  | 4,330  | 4,437  | 4,748  |
| Percentage breakdown                                     |                       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Practitioners (excluding GP retainers and GP registrars) | 100                   | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    |
| UK   | 80.2                  | 80.5   | 80.4   | 80.7   | 80.7   | 80.7   | 81.5   | 81.3   | 81.4   | 81.2   | 80.5   |
| EEA  | 2.9                   | 2.9    | 3.0    | 3.1    | 3.3    | 3.5    | 3.7    | 4.1    | 4.4    | 4.7    | 5.0    |
| Elsewhere  | 16.8                  | 16.6   | 16.5   | 16.2   | 15.9   | 15.8   | 14.8   | 14.6   | 14.3   | 14.1   | 14.5   |

Data as at 1 October 1995 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005

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**Table 7: Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers), Joiners and Leavers, 2000-2005**

| England   | <i>Numbers and Percentages</i> |               |               |               |               |               |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | 2000                           | 2001          | 2002          | 2003          | 2004          | 2005          |
| <b>Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)</b> | <b>28,593</b>                  | <b>28,802</b> | <b>29,202</b> | <b>30,358</b> | <b>31,523</b> | <b>32,738</b> |
| <i>of which</i>   |                                |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>Joiners in this year</b>                                     | <b>1,408</b>                   | <b>1,737</b>  | <b>2,112</b>  | <b>2,647</b>  | <b>2,930</b>  | <b>2,864</b>  |
| <b>Males</b>  | <b>716</b>                     | <b>848</b>    | <b>931</b>    | <b>1,135</b>  | <b>1,168</b>  | <b>1,272</b>  |
| Under 30  | 74                             | 105           | 96            | 121           | 101           | 102           |
| 30-34   | 234                            | 278           | 290           | 343           | 319           | 337           |
| 35-39   | 149                            | 162           | 208           | 196           | 216           | 255           |
| 40-44   | 77                             | 84            | 115           | 129           | 141           | 177           |
| 45-49   | 44                             | 77            | 61            | 88            | 94            | 150           |
| 50-54   | 52                             | 54            | 56            | 83            | 79            | 65            |
| 55-59   | 41                             | 37            | 51            | 61            | 72            | 79            |
| 60-64   | 18                             | 33            | 36            | 58            | 72            | 52            |
| 65-69   | 18                             | 11            | 13            | 33            | 39            | 30            |
| 70+   | 9                              | 7             | 5             | 23            | 35            | 24            |
| Unknown   | -                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1             |
| <b>Females</b>  | <b>692</b>                     | <b>889</b>    | <b>1,181</b>  | <b>1,512</b>  | <b>1,762</b>  | <b>1,592</b>  |
| Under 30  | 131                            | 133           | 192           | 235           | 242           | 202           |
| 30-34   | 261                            | 333           | 457           | 529           | 590           | 588           |
| 35-39   | 133                            | 181           | 232           | 292           | 376           | 325           |
| 40-44   | 68                             | 132           | 140           | 229           | 285           | 238           |
| 45-49   | 46                             | 64            | 78            | 101           | 147           | 118           |
| 50-54   | 25                             | 28            | 39            | 65            | 68            | 52            |
| 55-59   | 12                             | 7             | 22            | 32            | 29            | 36            |
| 60-64   | 5                              | 6             | 17            | 20            | 11            | 18            |
| 65-69   | 7                              | 5             | 2             | 5             | 8             | 7             |
| 70+   | 4                              | -             | 2             | 4             | 6             | 4             |
| Unknown   | -                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 4             |
| <i>Joiners as a % of workforce</i>                              | <i>4.9%</i>                    | <i>6.0%</i>   | <i>7.2%</i>   | <i>8.7%</i>   | <i>9.3%</i>   | <i>8.7%</i>   |
| <b>Leavers from this year</b>                                   | <b>1,528</b>                   | <b>1,712</b>  | <b>1,491</b>  | <b>1,765</b>  | <b>1,649</b>  | <b>..</b>     |
| <b>Males</b>  | <b>931</b>                     | <b>1,033</b>  | <b>917</b>    | <b>1,013</b>  | <b>938</b>    | <b>..</b>     |
| Under 30  | 6                              | 13            | 6             | 12            | 16            | ..            |
| 30-34   | 49                             | 76            | 60            | 76            | 86            | ..            |
| 35-39   | 82                             | 70            | 96            | 109           | 108           | ..            |
| 40-44   | 69                             | 94            | 91            | 99            | 93            | ..            |
| 45-49   | 58                             | 81            | 62            | 94            | 85            | ..            |
| 50-54   | 98                             | 122           | 116           | 124           | 92            | ..            |
| 55-59   | 232                            | 259           | 183           | 228           | 181           | ..            |
| 60-64   | 198                            | 201           | 175           | 147           | 152           | ..            |
| 65-69   | 125                            | 103           | 108           | 106           | 88            | ..            |
| 70+   | 14                             | 14            | 20            | 18            | 37            | ..            |
| Unknown   | -                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | ..            |
| <b>Females</b>  | <b>597</b>                     | <b>679</b>    | <b>574</b>    | <b>752</b>    | <b>711</b>    | <b>..</b>     |
| Under 30  | 22                             | 18            | 28            | 40            | 28            | ..            |
| 30-34   | 127                            | 128           | 113           | 162           | 172           | ..            |
| 35-39   | 135                            | 154           | 109           | 150           | 152           | ..            |
| 40-44   | 76                             | 105           | 94            | 118           | 103           | ..            |
| 45-49   | 48                             | 48            | 49            | 77            | 60            | ..            |
| 50-54   | 52                             | 66            | 50            | 62            | 67            | ..            |
| 55-59   | 64                             | 91            | 63            | 76            | 70            | ..            |
| 60-64   | 50                             | 46            | 42            | 46            | 39            | ..            |
| 65-69   | 19                             | 22            | 21            | 19            | 13            | ..            |
| 70+   | 4                              | 1             | 5             | 2             | 7             | ..            |
| Unknown   | -                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | ..            |
| <i>Leavers as a % of workforce</i>                              | <i>5.3%</i>                    | <i>5.9%</i>   | <i>5.1%</i>   | <i>5.8%</i>   | <i>5.2%</i>   | <i>..</i>     |

The figures in the table above are arrived at by checking if a Practitioners GMC number appears in consecutive years of the census.  
A joiner is a practitioner whose GMC number was present in a census but not observed in the previous census a leaver's GMC number was in 2003 but not 2004.  
These figures are therefore snapshots from two specific points in time and only represent the national position at these times.  
They do not cover movement in and out of the NHS between these two points, nor do they relate to the local level turnover of staff between NHS Trusts.  
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