

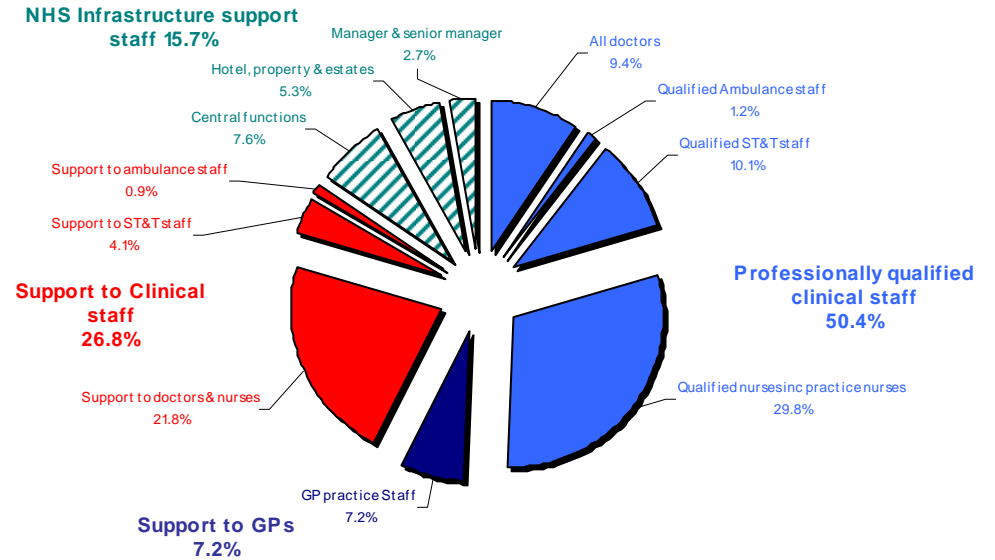
# Staff in the NHS 2006



## An overview

## Number of staff in the NHS and staff groups

This leaflet provides an overview of all staff directly employed by the NHS in Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) and GP practices contracted to the NHS. It excludes high street dentists and ophthalmic practitioners (for definitions of staff groups, see pages 6-7)

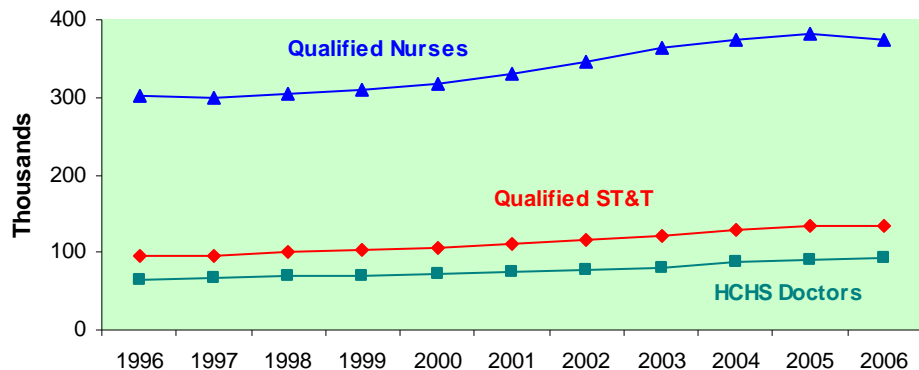


The number of staff in the NHS has grown every year to 2005 with a small fall in 2006. The workforce is now 27% larger than in 1996.

	Thousands	
	1996	2006
<b>Total staff employed</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>1,338</b>
<b>Professionally qualified clinical staff</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>675</b>
All doctors	87	126
GPs	29	35
HCHS medical & dental staff	64	93
Qualified nursing staff (including practice nurses)	319	398
Qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical staff	94	134
Qualified ambulance staff	15	16
<b>Support to clinical staff</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>358</b>
<b>Support to GPs</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>NHS infrastructure support</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>209</b>

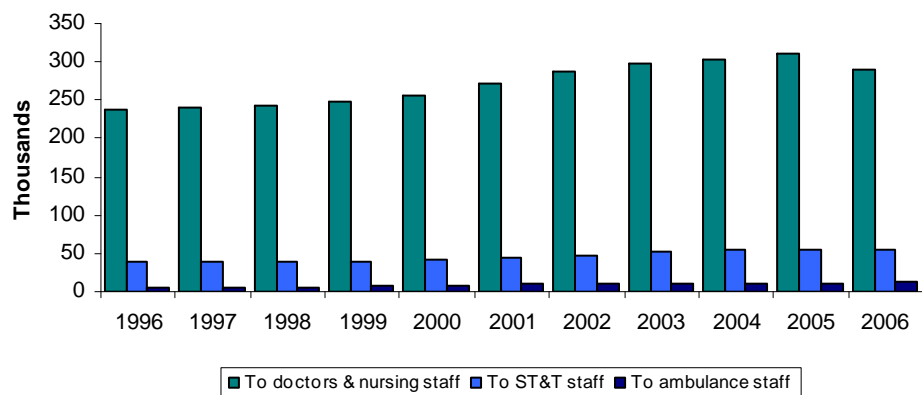
## Trends in staff numbers

### HCHS Qualified Doctors, Nurses and ST&T staff



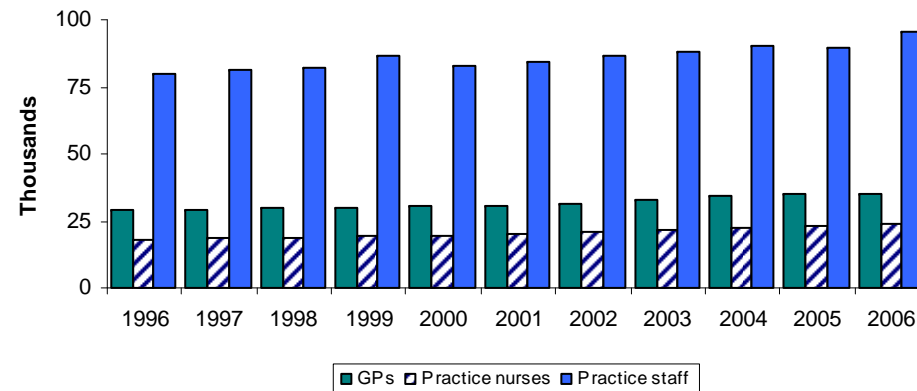
- The number of HCHS doctors has increased by over 29,000 since 1996
- There has been an increase in HCHS qualified nurses of over 73,000 in the last 10 years
- The number of qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical (ST&T) staff has increased by 43% (over 40,000) since 1996

### Support to Clinical staff



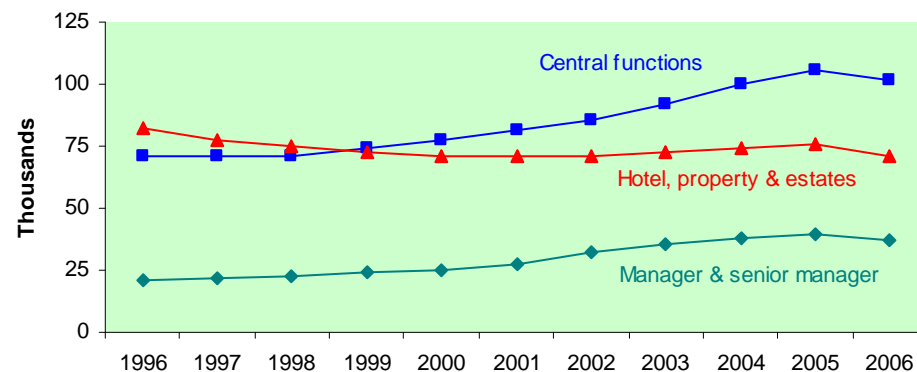
- There has been an increase in all support to clinical staff of over 75,900 since 1996
- The largest proportion of support to clinical staff is within the support to doctors and nursing staff area (70% of total in 2006).

### GPs, Practice Nurses and other Practice staff



- The number of GPs (excluding retainers) has increased by 6,200 over the last ten years
- Since 1996, there has been an increase of 5,900 practice nurses and 16,300 other practice staff.

### NHS Infrastructure Support



- Hotel, property and estates staff have decreased by over 11,500 staff over the last ten years as more services have been contracted out
- Central functions staff have increased by over 31,200 since 1996
- The number of managers and senior managers has increased by 15,400 between 1996 and 2006.

## Definitions of staff groups

**Professionally Qualified Clinical Staff** - consisting of all professional staff with direct patient care.

- **All doctors** – consists of all doctors and dentists working in hospital and the community and GPs (excluding retainers). The figures include all grades of hospital, community and public health doctor or dentist (consultant, registrars, senior house officers, foundation years 1 & 2 staff, staff grades, associate specialists, clinical assistants and hospital practitioners).
- **Qualified nurses including practice nurses** – consists of qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, working in the hospital and community services and general practice. These nurses have at least first level registration. Includes nurse consultants, nurse managers and bank nurses.
- **Qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical staff (ST&T)** – qualified health professionals (includes consultant therapists, ST&T managers and healthcare scientists).

These staff work alongside doctors, nurses and other health professionals and are categorised into the following two groups:

- **Qualified AHPs** – qualified allied health professionals (AHPs) are the following staff:
  - Chiropodists/podiatrists
  - Dieticians
  - Occupational therapists
  - Orthoptists
  - Physiotherapists
  - Radiographers
  - Art/music/drama therapists
  - Speech & language therapists

In primary care, AHPs work in teams with GPs, nurses and other professionals, such as social workers, to provide quick and effective care for patients without the need for them to go into hospital.

- **Other qualified ST&T** – other qualified health professionals including healthcare scientists and pharmacists. These are other staff working in key professional roles.
- **Qualified ambulance staff** – ambulance paramedics, technicians, emergency care practitioners and ambulance service managers, but does not include ambulance trainees. From 2006, ambulance staff are collected under more detailed occupation codes which can't be applied to previous years. Therefore there will be comparability issues.

**Support to Clinical Staff** - Staff working in direct support of clinical staff, often with direct patient care, who free up clinical staff and allow them more time to treat patients

- **Support to doctors & nurses** – nursing assistants/auxiliaries, nursery nurses, health care assistants and support staff in nursing areas. Also includes clerical & administrative staff and maintenance & works staff working specifically in clinical areas, for example medical secretaries and medical records officers. They also include all support workers and healthcare assistants in central functions, as these are mainly general porters involved in moving patients around the hospital.
- **Support to ST&T staff** – ST&T trainees and helper/assistants. Also includes healthcare assistants, support workers, clerical & administrative staff and maintenance & works staff specifically identified as supporting ST&T staff.
- **Support to ambulance staff** – ambulance personnel, trainee ambulance technicians as well as healthcare assistants, support workers, clerical & administrative staff and maintenance & works staff specifically identified as supporting the ambulance service.

**NHS Infrastructure Support** - Staff directly involved in the day-to-day running of the organisation and its infrastructure

- **Central functions** – includes clerical & administrative staff working in central functions. The group includes areas such as personnel, finance, IT, legal services, library services, health education and general management support services.
- **Hotel, property and estates** – includes clerical & administrative staff and maintenance and works staff working in areas such as laundry, catering, domestic services and gardens. This group includes caretakers and labourers.
- **Managers and senior managers** – staff with overall responsibility for budgets, manpower or assets, or accountable for a significant area of work. Senior managers include staff at executive level and those who report directly to the board. These staff are essential to the smooth running of hospitals, Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities. This excludes nursing, ST&T and ambulance managers in posts requiring specific clinical qualifications.

**Support to GP staff** - Staff working in direct support of GPs

- **GP practice staff** – includes a variety of staff who work in practices. These include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, receptionists and practice managers. However, practice nurses are included as qualified nurses within professionally qualified clinical staff instead.

## Further Information

For more detailed information on the following areas, visit our website:

HCHS Medical & Dental, HCHS Non-Medical & GPs and Practice staff:  
[www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-numbers](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-numbers)

Ophthalmic staff, General Dental staff and Pharmacy staff:  
[www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care)

Alternatively you can contact us direct at:

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Press enquiries should be made to the media relations manager

[media@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:media@ic.nhs.uk)

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