

Research and development leadership in nursing across the UK: A longitudinal study

Nursing and midwifery professoriate survey - 2009

Since 2003, the RCN have kept a record of nurses, midwives and health visitors who hold tenured chairs in UK Higher Education Institutions. The numbers of nurses holding professorial positions in the UK may serve as a proxy indicator of the development of nursing research and academic leadership within the professions, particularly when compared with cognate professional groups.

The last comprehensive survey was conducted in 2008-9. A 75% response rate was achieved.

Nursing and midwifery professoriate survey 2009 - Some key facts

Year	Number of chairs
2009	202
2005	171
2003	132

Year	Funding of chair - joint
2009	21
2005	32
2003	12

Year	Gender and ethnicity
2009	70% female, 30% male 13 people identified themselves as BME - 7%
2005	Information not collated
2003	Information not collated

Questions asked in the Nursing and Midwifery Professoriate Survey 2009

- Name:
- Job Title:
- Place of Work:
- Type of chair: (Personal / Appointed / Emeritus):
- Funding of Chair: (University/NHS/Joint):
- Gender:
- Do you identify yourself as being a member of the BME community (Y/N):

Related material

O'Carroll (2009) Research and development leadership in nursing across the UK: A biennial review. Presentation given at the RCN 2009 research conference, 24-27 March 2009, Cardiff, UK

Research and development leadership in nursing across the UK: A biennial review

Data collected (via email questionnaire and follow-up) September 2008 - February 2009, Royal College of Nursing Research & Development Co-ordinating Centre, March 2009. For more information about this poster, please contact Dave O'Carroll, email: david.ocarroll@rcn.org.uk

Background

81 academic institutions which offer a health-related (pre- or post-registration) course were identified. Of these, 63 institutions had at least one chair, and a contact from each of these was contacted asking for a complete list of nursing/midwifery chairs within the institution. 53 respondents identified a total of 199 chairs. The websites of the remaining 10 institutions were referenced to check the validity of current information held. The same process was done with the 18 institutions which had no chairs identified. 3 further chairs were identified, coming from organisations where the affiliated University could not be ascertained. All 202 chairs were sent questionnaires.

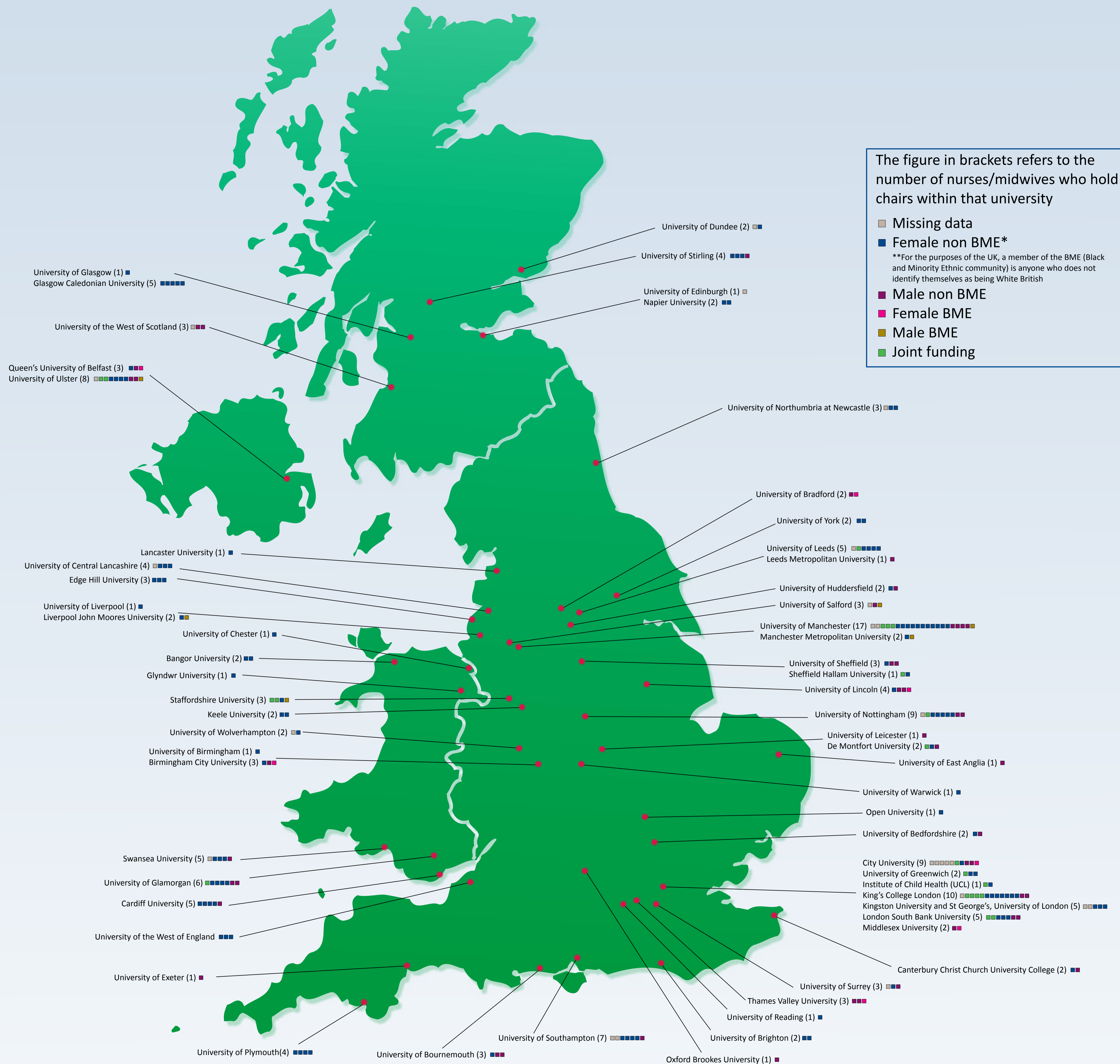


Table 1 - Number of chairs

	2003	2005	2009
Number of chairs reported...as a percentage of the nursing and midwifery workforce	132 0.02%	171 0.02%	202 0.03%
Number of medical chairs...as a percentage of the medical workforce	1,042 0.47%	1,146 0.52%	1,269 0.54%

[Source: RCN (2009), NMC (2007), CHMS (2007), GMC (2009)]

Conclusions:

1. There has been a small % increase in the number of Nursing and Midwifery chairs in relation to the nursing and midwifery workforce
2. This continues to compare unfavourably with the medical profession

Table 2 - Number of Joint appointments*

	2003	2005	2009
Of those who identified funding arrangements (58% in 2003, 70% in 2005, 87% in 2009), number of joint appointments	12	32	21
...as a percentage of the number of chairs	9.1%	18.8%	12%

Conclusion:

1. The trend towards jointly-funded chairs has reversed

* By joint appointments, we are referring to those chairs who have a clinical role within the NHS as well as an academic role within a Higher Education Institute

Table 3 - Gender and ethnicity*

	2009
Of those who identified gender and ethnicity (87%, 2009), number and percentage of female and male Professors	70% (122) Female, 30% (53) Male
...compared with percentage of female/male in the nursing and midwifery workforce	91% Female. 9% Male
number and percentage of Professors who identify themselves as being a member of the black and minority ethnic community (BME)	7% (13) BME
...compared with percentage of BME in the nursing and midwifery workforce	12 % BME

* Figures not available for 2003 and 2005

Conclusion

1. Women and the BME community are under-represented in the nursing and midwifery professoriate

Table 4 - RAE 2008 and the nursing professoriate

University of Manchester has 17 chairs, 5 other universities have 7 or more, and a further 7 universities have 5 or more chairs

Looking at the RAE 2008 Unit of Assessment 11 (Nursing and Midwifery) Power Rankings Analysis*, the top 5 places are occupied by 5 of the 6 universities which have 7 or more chairs (the 6th university did not submit under UoA 11). One other university with 5 or more chairs did not submit to UoA 11, and the remaining 6 universities with 5 or more chairs are spread throughout the rankings (from 7th to 31st of a total of 36 submissions)

Conclusion

1. Further analysis needs to be done, but there appears to be a correlation between success in the RAE 2008, and a high number of nursing chairs
2. Once the number of chairs drops below 7, the correlation disappears

* Research Fortnight (2008)