

YouGov / Royal College of Nursing Survey Results



Sample Size: 1752 UK Adults
Fieldwork: 23rd - 25th April 2021

	Vote In 2019 GE			2016 EU Ref		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region						
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
Weighted Sample	1752	605	414	156	728	694	761	991	136	703	438	475	1051	701	143	619	378	407	155	50
Unweighted Sample	1752	605	414	156	728	694	761	991	136	703	438	475	1051	701	143	619	378	407	155	50
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about the announcement that NHS staff in England would receive a 1% pay rise, do you think this is too much, too little, or about the right amount for nurses?

Too much	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2
Too little	72	58	86	85	82	63	69	75	71	72	70	76	73	72	73	74	71	72	70	72
About the right amount	18	31	8	11	12	26	21	15	14	16	20	19	19	16	17	18	17	19	15	16
Don't know	8	8	5	3	5	7	7	8	14	9	8	4	6	10	7	6	10	6	14	10

In your opinion, do you think nurses deserve more or less recognition for the work they do, or do they receive the right amount already?

Deserve more recognition	71	59	80	83	77	64	65	75	66	70	69	74	71	70	73	72	69	69	68	72
Deserve less recognition	2	2	0	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
They receive the right amount of recognition	23	36	17	13	18	31	26	20	19	21	26	23	23	22	20	22	24	24	23	18
Don't know	5	3	2	2	3	4	6	5	11	7	3	2	4	6	6	5	4	5	7	8

As far as you are aware, what qualification(s) do people need to qualify as a nurse in Britain? (Please tick all that apply)

GCSEs/ National 5 or equivalent	34	38	34	31	30	38	30	36	48	32	32	33	35	32	32	35	38	34	19	30
Apprenticeship	5	6	5	1	4	6	6	5	12	6	4	4	6	5	6	6	4	7	1	0
A level/ Scottish Highers or equivalent	20	18	23	18	22	16	15	23	38	23	16	13	21	18	17	19	15	22	27	32
Foundation degree	18	20	16	21	19	19	17	19	12	19	18	17	19	16	12	16	17	23	19	18
Undergraduate degree	35	31	43	44	42	28	27	41	55	36	32	29	40	26	43	34	30	37	32	40
Master's degree	3	2	5	1	3	3	2	4	10	3	3	1	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	2
Doctorate (PhD)	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Other [See Tab 1]	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Don't know	28	27	23	24	24	28	34	23	21	27	27	31	22	37	24	30	27	27	32	10

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about what you have seen or heard about nurses in the media during the pandemic, which of the following best reflects your view?

My understanding of what nurses do has improved	25	25	26	29	26	25	25	26	27	21	23	33	26	24	29	28	22	26	20	24
My understanding of what nurses do has worsened	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	3	6
No difference – I did and still do understand what nurses do	63	67	65	63	65	66	61	64	48	65	69	60	64	61	59	62	67	61	68	64
No difference – I didn't and still don't understand what nurses do	3	1	4	3	2	2	4	3	7	3	2	2	3	3	5	2	2	4	3	2
Don't know	6	4	4	4	5	5	8	5	14	9	4	3	5	9	6	6	7	6	6	4

In the previous question you said that your understanding of what nurses do has improved. Why would you say that is?

*[Asked only to those who said their understanding of what nurses do has improved; N=446]
[See Tab 2 for open-end responses]*

Media coverage/ more exposure	32	32	38	36	39	26	38	27	49	27	37	28	37	25	37	36	33	26	22	16
Their role during the COVID-19 pandemic	22	27	15	17	17	27	22	23	18	17	27	27	17	31	19	22	26	22	28	19
Better understanding of their role and responsibilities	13	7	17	13	16	10	10	16	14	17	10	10	12	15	12	9	14	17	17	42
Seeing how hard they work	11	13	10	9	10	13	11	11	4	12	13	11	10	12	11	11	9	15	5	11
Seeing their long hours	7	11	4	14	5	12	7	8	2	7	9	9	9	6	12	9	1	7	11	0
Personal experience	6	8	6	2	5	6	6	6	10	3	5	9	7	5	5	6	6	6	5	9
Seeing the risks they take	5	8	7	0	2	10	6	5	2	7	3	7	6	4	7	5	5	6	9	0
Seeing that they do work previously done by doctors	4	3	6	5	5	5	5	3	6	3	4	4	5	2	0	5	2	5	0	19
Seeing their dedication	4	5	5	7	4	7	6	3	0	2	3	10	6	2	9	4	6	3	0	0
Having a relative(s) who is a nurse	3	4	4	2	3	4	3	3	5	1	2	6	4	3	8	1	1	5	6	8
I am a nurse/ work for the NHS	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	9
Other	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	4	1	0	2	1	2	0	3	1	3	9
Don't know	8	3	10	16	10	4	9	7	8	12	7	5	8	9	4	9	7	10	11	8

For each of the following, please state whether you think nurses in Britain do or do not do them:

Lead treatment in Intensive Care Units

Nurses in Britain do this	69	71	72	71	71	71	63	73	57	69	71	70	70	67	73	65	71	70	71	66
Nurses in Britain do not do this	14	14	14	16	13	14	19	10	17	13	14	13	14	13	11	16	12	14	12	14
Don't know	18	15	14	13	15	15	18	17	26	17	16	17	16	20	16	19	17	16	17	20

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Play a leading role in running COVID-19 vaccination trials

Nurses in Britain do this	57	57	60	62	58	57	53	59	63	56	58	54	57	55	59	53	60	56	57	62
Nurses in Britain do not do this	17	19	18	17	17	18	22	14	13	18	17	16	18	15	16	19	17	17	14	12
Don't know	26	25	22	21	25	25	25	27	24	26	25	30	24	29	24	28	23	26	29	26

Co-ordinate the running of COVID-19 vaccination programmes

Nurses in Britain do this	58	58	64	59	62	57	54	62	56	59	58	59	61	54	56	55	60	60	62	68
Nurses in Britain do not do this	17	20	16	19	15	20	22	14	18	17	21	15	18	17	19	16	20	17	16	8
Don't know	24	21	20	22	22	23	24	24	26	24	22	26	21	29	25	28	20	22	22	24

Run outreach centres / care for people who experience homelessness during the pandemic

Nurses in Britain do this	35	33	42	42	40	30	31	38	40	38	34	31	36	35	36	36	33	35	39	32
Nurses in Britain do not do this	28	29	28	28	27	32	33	24	24	27	30	29	30	26	25	28	30	29	26	26
Don't know	37	38	31	30	33	39	35	38	35	35	36	40	35	40	38	37	37	36	35	42

Thinking about the number of nurses employed by the NHS, which of the following best reflects your view?

There are more than enough nurses to provide safe care to patients	3	6	2	1	1	6	4	2	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	3	1	2
There are just enough nurses to provide safe care to patients	16	20	13	14	13	20	19	14	15	16	15	16	16	16	8	17	15	16	16	16
There are too few nurses to provide safe care to patients	70	65	77	81	78	66	65	74	54	67	74	76	72	68	76	69	69	71	70	72
Don't know	11	10	9	4	8	8	13	10	29	13	8	6	10	13	13	11	12	10	14	10

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

There is currently a shortage of tens of thousands of nurses in the UK. Which one, if any, of the following are you most concerned about regarding your or your family's care?

I / they may not get the care that is required when needed	28	30	29	35	31	27	23	31	23	26	27	32	29	26	25	29	24	31	25	26
The care might not be of a safe standard	11	10	13	9	13	10	10	13	9	13	11	9	12	11	13	10	10	12	13	26
There may not be enough nurses to help with treatment	20	14	27	24	24	16	23	18	18	21	22	20	21	20	26	19	21	18	26	20
I / they may be treated by staff without the right or enough skills and experience	10	13	7	7	8	13	10	10	5	9	11	11	10	9	9	11	10	10	8	12
Nursing staff might not have the time to give me the sufficient treatment information	11	12	9	12	10	12	12	10	11	11	12	10	12	10	8	12	11	11	10	6
They might be discharged too early or too late	5	6	6	4	5	6	6	4	5	4	6	5	5	4	5	5	6	5	3	2
None of these	6	7	2	6	3	9	7	5	9	5	5	7	6	6	5	6	8	5	4	2
Don't know	9	8	7	3	6	8	9	9	20	11	6	5	6	13	9	8	10	9	11	6