



Commission for Health Improvement

NHS national staff survey 2003

Summary of results from
West Suffolk Hospitals
NHS Trust

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Work conducted by Aston Business School on behalf of the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI)

1. Background information about the trust and the respondents

West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust is classified as an acute trust, and the trusts used for comparison in this report are other acute trusts across the country.

West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust had, at the time of distribution, 2848 staff who were eligible to receive the survey.¹ Questionnaires were sent to a randomly selected sample of 798 staff.

Completed questionnaires were received from 486 members of staff, representing a response rate of 61%. Questionnaires were only counted if they were received complete with their ID number.

The occupational group of the respondents is shown in table 1.1, and other work and demographic characteristics are shown in table 1.2:

Table 1.1: Occupational group of respondents

	Number returned	Percentage of respondents
Occupation group		
Nursing (registered)	141	29%
Nursing (unregistered)	9	2%
Midwife	9	2%
Healthcare assistant	54	11%
Allied health professional (including clinical psychologists or occupational therapist)	35	7%
Medical and dental (consultant)	18	4%
Medical and dental (other)	16	3%
General management	10	2%
Scientific and technical	26	5%
Admin and clerical	83	17%
Maintenance/ancillary (hotel services, facilities and estates)	36	7%
Other ²	37	8%
Did not say	12	2%

¹ This includes only staff employed directly by the trust (i.e. excluding staff working for external contractors), and excludes bank staff (unless they are also employed elsewhere in the trust)

² If there were fewer than 5 respondents in a particular occupational group (as listed in the questionnaire), this group has been counted as Other in this table

Table 1.2: Work and demographic characteristics of respondents

	Number returned	Percentage of respondents
Full time/part time		
Full time	280	58%
Part time	196	40%
Did not say	10	2%
Shift work		
Shift worker	217	45%
Non shift worker	262	54%
Did not say	7	1%
Line manager/non line manager		
Line manager	165	34%
Non line manager	306	63%
Did not say	15	3%
Age group		
16-30	79	16%
31-40	142	29%
41-50	140	29%
Over 50	116	24%
Did not say	9	2%
Gender		
Male	76	16%
Female	399	82%
Did not say	11	2%
Ethnic background		
White	432	89%
Non white	40	8%
Did not say	14	3%
Disabled/not disabled		
Disabled	15	3%
Not disabled	458	94%
Did not say	13	3%

2. Summary scores and benchmarks for key variables

This report focuses on 25 key areas covered by the questionnaire. These are mostly summary scores for groups of individual questions which, when taken together, give more information about the area of interest. There are two basic types of scores: percentage scores (Fig 2.1), and scale summary scores (Fig 2.2).

The **percentage scores** are calculated as the percentage of respondents who gave a certain answer to a question (or a series of questions).

Example: “% of staff appraised within previous 12 months” (Fig 2.1) is the percentage of trust staff who responded to the question “Have you had an appraisal or individual performance review in the last 12 months?” by ticking “Yes”.

The **scale summary scores** are calculated by converting staff responses to particular questions into scores. For each of the 11 scales displayed in Figure 2.2, the minimum score is 1 and the maximum score is 5.

Example: “staff job satisfaction” (Fig 2.2) This scale is based on staff responses to a series of questions about their satisfaction with various aspects of their working lives. A score of 1 represents very unsatisfied staff, and a score of 5 represents very satisfied staff.

Each of the 14 percentage scores and 11 scale scores are described in more detail in the document Guide to Interpretation of Trust Feedback Reports (downloadable at <http://www.chi.gov.uk/eng/surveys/nss2003/index.shtml>), along with a more detailed description of the calculation method for scale summary scores.

Please note that in the calculation of these scores, respondents who did not answer particular questions or series of questions have been excluded. The number of respondents answering each question can be found in the spreadsheet of detailed responses, available from the CHI web site.²

What a high or low score means

For most percentage and scale summary scores, a high score means a positive experience, for example, appraised within previous 12 months (Fig 2.1), support from supervisors (Fig 2.2).

However, for the following scores, a low score means a positive experience:-

Figure 2.1: working extra hours, working extra hours due to pressure and job demands, witnessing potentially harmful errors or near misses in previous month, suffering work related injuries or illness, experiencing physical violence in previous 12 months, experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse in previous 12 months

Figure 2.2: work pressure felt by staff, staff intention to leave jobs

How to interpret Figures 2.1 and 2.2, and Tables 2.1 and 2.2

Figures 2.1 and 2.2 display a visual summary of your trust's scores, compared with national benchmarks for trusts of a similar type, on each of the 25 key areas. The same data is then displayed in tabular form in Table 2.1 and 2.2.

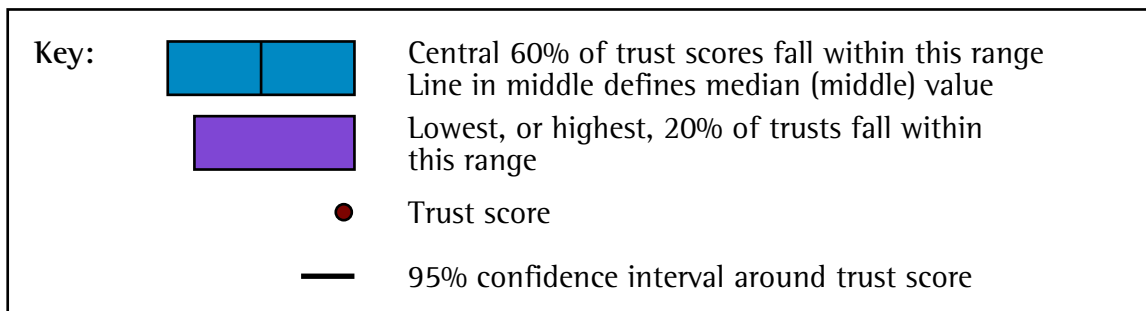
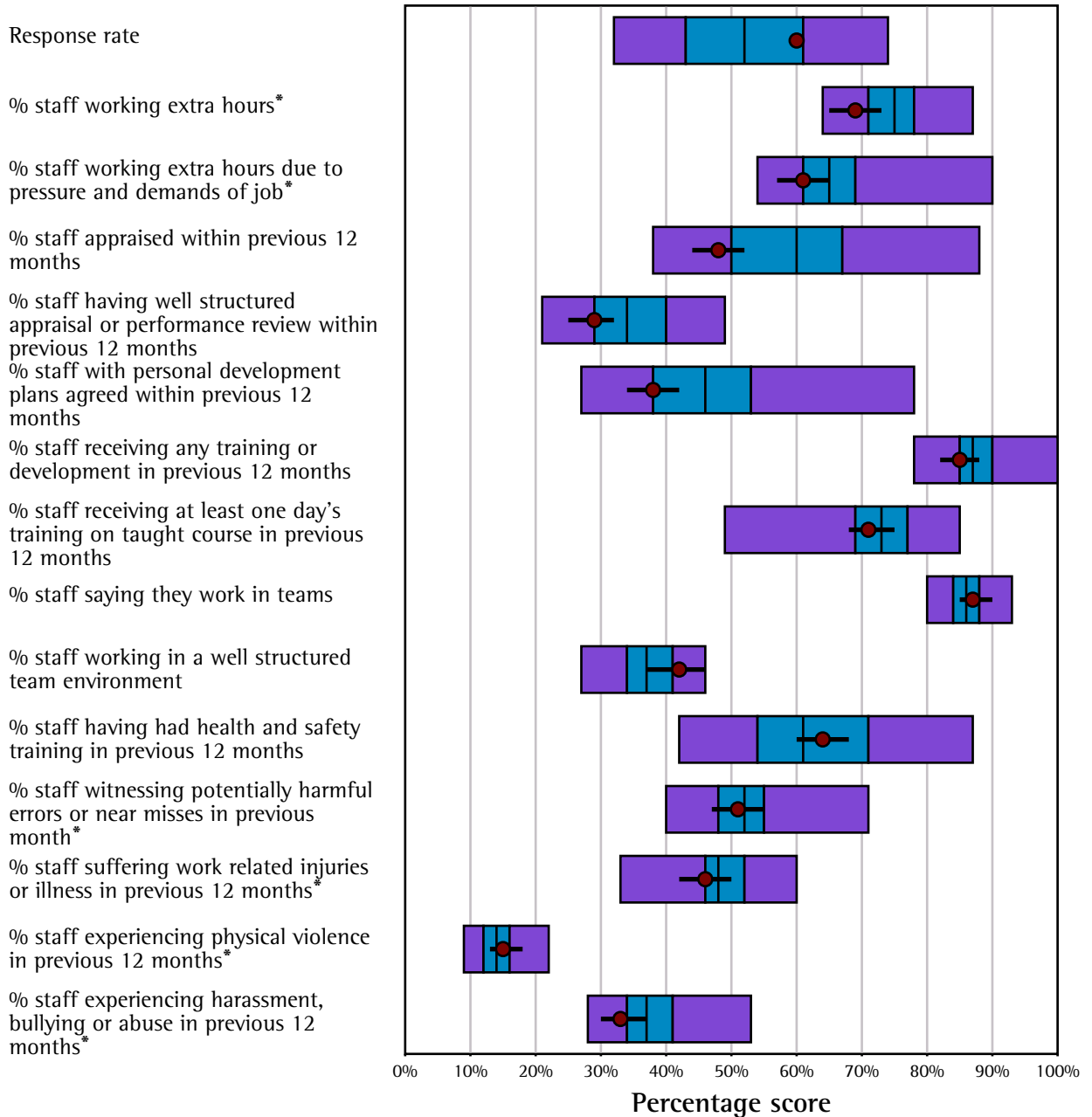
¹ Available from mid March, 2004

² <http://www.chi.gov.uk/eng/surveys/nss2003/index.shtml> - published mid March, 2004

In the figures, your trust's score is represented by a small red circle. The black lines to either side of this circle represent the confidence interval around the trust score (a measure of how accurate the trust score is). The coloured bars behind the circle represent all scores from trusts of a similar type, with the blue sections representing the middle 60% of trusts, and the purple sections representing the top 20% and lowest 20% of trusts. The median trust score is represented by the vertical line within the blue section. (For a more detailed explanation, please see section 1, Interpretation document).

When comparing your trust scores with others, please bear in mind the size of the confidence interval. For instance, it may be that a trust score is above the median score for trusts of a similar type, indicating that the trust falls in the top 50% of trusts. However, if the confidence interval for the score includes that median value, then it cannot be said that the trust score is significantly higher than average.

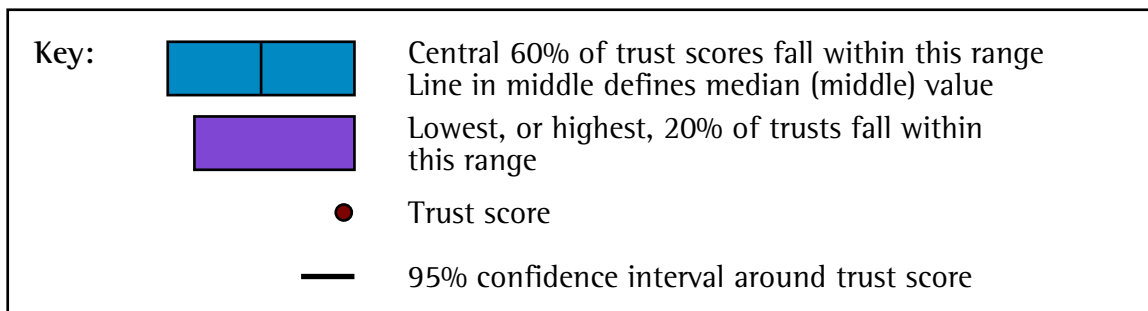
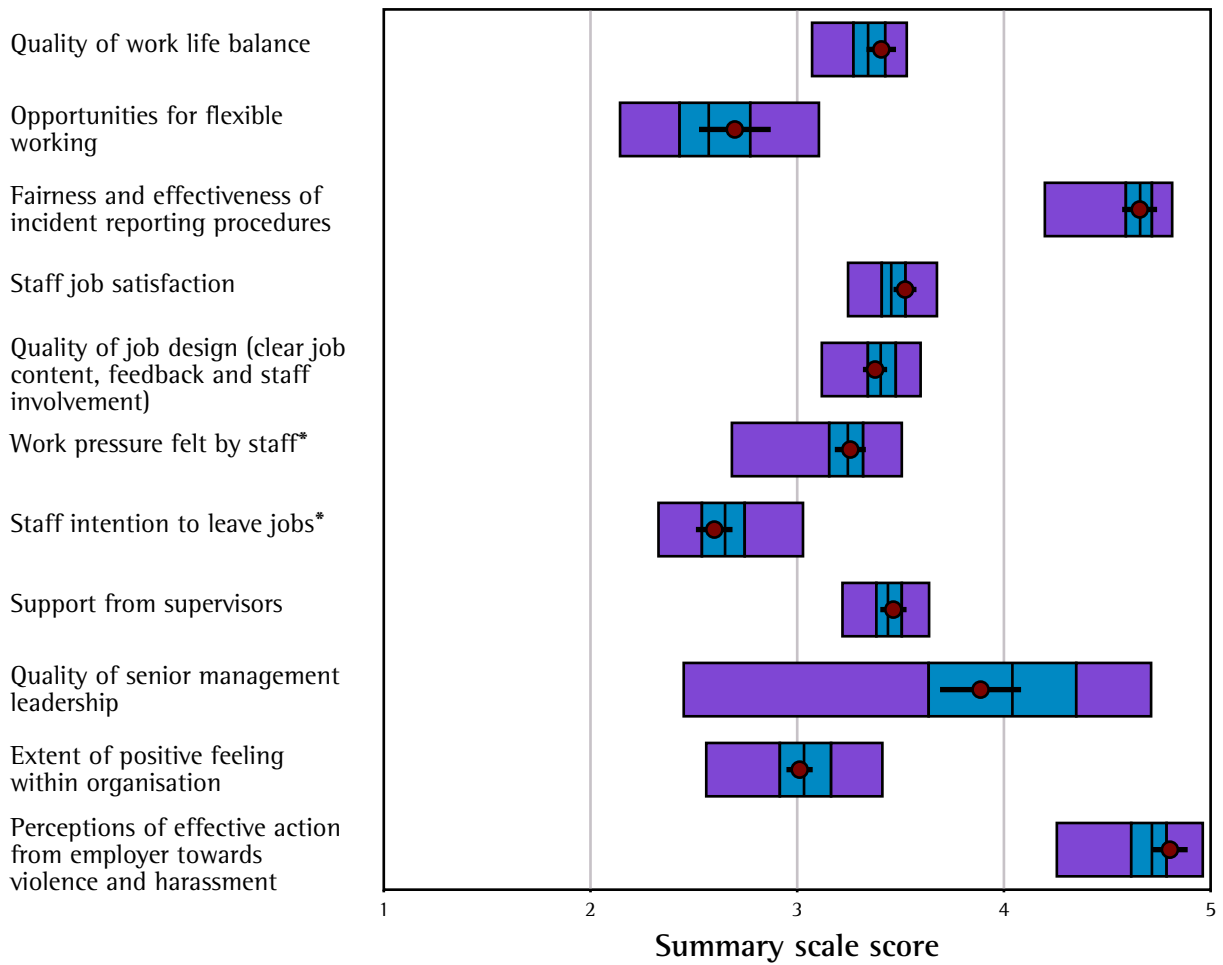
Figure 2.1: Graph showing percentage scores for West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust compared with other acute trusts across the country



Source: National NHS staff survey 2003

* For the asterisked scores above, a low score indicates a positive experience. For all other scores, a high score indicates a positive experience (for more details on how to interpret these scores, see the document Guide to Interpretation of Trust Feedback Reports at <http://www.chi.gov.uk/eng/surveys/nss2003/index.shtml>).

Figure 2.2: Graph showing scale summary scores for West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust compared with other acute trusts across the country



Source: National NHS staff survey 2003

* For the asterisked scores above, a low score indicates a positive experience. For all other scores, a high score indicates a positive experience (for more details on how to interpret these scores, see the document Guide to Interpretation of Trust Feedback Reports at <http://www.chi.gov.uk/eng/surveys/nss2003/index.shtml>).

Table 2.1: Percentage scores for West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust benchmarked against other acute trusts across the country

	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust		National scores for other acute trusts				
	Mean score	95% Confidence Interval	Median score	Threshold for lowest 20%	Threshold for highest 20%	Lowest score attained	Highest score attained
Response rate	61%	-	52%	44%	61%	33%	75%
% staff working extra hours*	69%	[66%, 73%]	75%	71%	79%	65%	88%
% staff working extra hours due to pressure and demands of job*	62%	[58%, 66%]	65%	62%	69%	55%	90%
% staff appraised within previous 12 months	49%	[45%, 53%]	60%	51%	67%	39%	89%
% staff having well structured appraisal or performance review within previous 12 months	29%	[25%, 33%]	35%	29%	41%	22%	50%
% staff with personal development plans agreed within previous 12 months	38%	[34%, 42%]	46%	38%	53%	28%	78%
% staff receiving any training or development in previous 12 months	85%	[82%, 88%]	88%	85%	91%	79%	100%
% staff receiving at least one day's training on taught course in previous 12 months	72%	[68%, 75%]	74%	70%	77%	49%	85%
% staff saying they work in teams	88%	[85%, 91%]	86%	84%	89%	80%	93%
% staff working in a well structured team environment	42%	[38%, 47%]	37%	34%	42%	28%	46%
% staff having had health and safety training in previous 12 months	65%	[61%, 68%]	62%	55%	71%	43%	87%
% staff witnessing potentially harmful errors or near misses in previous month*	52%	[48%, 56%]	52%	48%	55%	41%	71%
% staff suffering work related injuries or illness in previous 12 months*	47%	[43%, 51%]	49%	46%	52%	33%	60%
% staff experiencing physical violence in previous 12 months*	16%	[13%, 19%]	14%	13%	16%	9%	22%
% staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse in previous 12 months*	34%	[30%, 38%]	38%	35%	41%	29%	54%

* For the asterisked scores above, a low score indicates a positive experience. For all other scores, a high score indicates a positive experience (for more details on how to interpret these scores, see the document Guide to Interpretation of Trust Feedback Reports at <http://www.chi.gov.uk/eng/surveys/nss2003/index.shtml>).

Table 2.2: Scale summary scores for West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust benchmarked against other acute trusts across the country

	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust		National scores for other acute trusts				
	Mean score	95% Confidence Interval	Median score	Threshold for lowest 20%	Threshold for highest 20%	Lowest score attained	Highest score attained
Quality of work life balance	3.4	[3.3, 3.5]	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.5
Opportunities for flexible working	2.7	[2.5, 2.9]	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.1	3.1
Fairness and effectiveness of incident reporting procedures	4.7	[4.6, 4.7]	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.2	4.8
Staff job satisfaction	3.5	[3.5, 3.6]	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.7
Quality of job design (clear job content, feedback and staff involvement)	3.4	[3.3, 3.4]	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.6
Work pressure felt by staff*	3.3	[3.2, 3.3]	3.2	3.2	3.3	2.7	3.5
Staff intention to leave jobs*	2.6	[2.5, 2.7]	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.3	3.0
Support from supervisors	3.5	[3.4, 3.5]	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.6
Quality of senior management leadership	3.9	[3.7, 4.1]	4.0	3.6	4.4	2.5	4.7
Extent of positive feeling within organisation	3.0	[2.9, 3.1]	3.0	2.9	3.2	2.6	3.4
Perceptions of effective action from employer towards violence and harassment	4.8	[4.7, 4.9]	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.3	5.0

* For the asterisked scores above, a low score indicates a positive experience. For all other scores, a high score indicates a positive experience (for more details on how to interpret these scores, see the document Guide to Interpretation of Trust Feedback Reports at <http://www.chi.gov.uk/eng/surveys/nss2003/index.shtml>).

3. Summary scores for subgroups

Tables 3.1.1 to 3.4.2 show the scores for several work and demographic categories. Tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 show the scores for each occupational group; tables 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 show the scores for full time and part time workers, those with and without line management responsibility, and for shift workers and non shift workers; tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 show the scores for each age group; and tables 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 show the scores for men and women, disabled and non disabled workers and those from white and non white ethnic backgrounds.

Care should be taken not to over interpret the findings if scores differ only slightly. For example, if medical and dental staff score 3.2 on job satisfaction, and general managers score 3.3, it may appear that general managers are more satisfied than medical and dental staff. However, this difference is very small, and would probably be statistically insignificant. A more sensible interpretation would be that medical and dental staff have similar job satisfaction on average to general managers.

Scores are not shown where the staff group in question has fewer than 21 people. This is for two reasons: firstly, because a score calculated on the basis of so few responses is likely to be unreliable, and secondly to preserve the anonymity of individual staff members.

Table 3.1.1: Percentage scores for different occupational groups

	Occupational group					
	Nursing	Medical and dental	Allied health professional	Scientific and technical	Admin and clerical	Maintenance/ancillary
Number of respondents	213	34	35	26	83	36
% staff working extra hours	67%	87%	74%	78%	67%	57%
% staff working extra hours due to pressure and demands of job	57%	87%	74%	78%	59%	49%
% staff appraised within previous 12 months	50%	79%	80%	52%	30%	11%
% staff having well structured appraisal or performance review within previous 12 months	36%	30%	43%	32%	23%	3%
% staff with personal development plans agreed within previous 12 months	42%	60%	63%	33%	29%	6%
% staff receiving any training or development in previous 12 months	95%	97%	100%	92%	74%	41%
% staff receiving at least one day's training on taught course in previous 12 months	86%	88%	91%	80%	57%	14%
% staff saying they work in teams	92%	94%	97%	100%	80%	78%
% staff working in a well structured team environment	43%	52%	47%	38%	47%	12%
% staff having had health and safety training in previous 12 months	81%	47%	69%	65%	46%	53%
% staff witnessing potentially harmful errors or near misses in previous month	57%	68%	63%	73%	28%	65%
% staff suffering work related injuries or illness in previous 12 months	53%	50%	63%	38%	30%	57%
% staff experiencing physical violence in previous 12 months	31%	15%	6%	4%	1%	8%
% staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse in previous 12 months	49%	33%	31%	16%	16%	22%

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Nursing includes registered and unregistered nurses, health visitors, midwives and healthcare assistants

Medical and dental includes consultants and other medical and dental staff

Responses for the group general management are not shown, as there were fewer than 21 respondents in that group

Table 3.1.2: Scale summary scores for different occupational groups

	Occupational group					
	Nursing	Medical and dental	Allied health professional	Scientific and technical	Admin and clerical	Maintenance/ancillary
Number of respondents	213	34	35	26	83	36
Quality of work life balance	3.5	2.9	3.4	3.7	3.7	2.8
Opportunities for flexible working	2.7	2.0	2.4	2.7	3.2	1.7
Fairness and effectiveness of incident reporting procedures	4.7	4.2	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.0
Staff job satisfaction	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.2
Quality of job design (clear job content, feedback and staff involvement)	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.1
Work pressure felt by staff	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.2	2.8	3.3
Staff intention to leave jobs	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	2.7
Support from supervisors	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	2.9
Quality of senior management leadership	4.0	3.2	2.8		4.8	2.9
Extent of positive feeling within organisation	3.1	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.6
Perceptions of effective action from employer towards violence and harassment	4.6		5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Nursing includes registered and unregistered nurses, health visitors, midwives and healthcare assistants

Medical and dental includes consultants and other medical and dental staff

Responses for the group general management are not shown, as there were fewer than 21 respondents in that group

Table 3.2.1: Percentage scores for different work groups

	Part time/full time		Line managers/ non line managers		Shift workers/ non shift workers	
	Part time	Full time	Line managers	Non line managers	Shift workers	Non shift workers
Number of respondents	196	280	165	306	217	262
% staff working extra hours	61%	74%	83%	60%	68%	69%
% staff working extra hours due to pressure and demands of job	53%	66%	80%	50%	58%	64%
% staff appraised within previous 12 months	39%	53%	62%	41%	50%	47%
% staff having well structured appraisal or performance review within previous 12 months	24%	32%	38%	25%	33%	26%
% staff with personal development plans agreed within previous 12 months	28%	43%	52%	30%	40%	36%
% staff receiving any training or development in previous 12 months	79%	90%	94%	81%	90%	82%
% staff receiving at least one day's training on taught course in previous 12 months	62%	78%	83%	66%	80%	66%
% staff saying they work in teams	84%	91%	93%	86%	90%	87%
% staff working in a well structured team environment	39%	42%	49%	37%	39%	44%
% staff having had health and safety training in previous 12 months	68%	66%	73%	62%	78%	57%
% staff witnessing potentially harmful errors or near misses in previous month	47%	57%	66%	46%	61%	47%
% staff suffering work related injuries or illness in previous 12 months	45%	49%	50%	46%	54%	42%
% staff experiencing physical violence in previous 12 months	18%	17%	21%	15%	32%	5%
% staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse in previous 12 months	32%	37%	42%	30%	46%	26%

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Table 3.2.2: Scale summary scores for different work groups

	Part time/full time		Line managers/ non line managers		Shift workers/ non shift workers	
	Part time	Full time	Line managers	Non line managers	Shift workers	Non shift workers
Number of respondents	196	280	165	306	217	262
Quality of work life balance	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5
Opportunities for flexible working	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.4	2.5	2.8
Fairness and effectiveness of incident reporting procedures	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7
Staff job satisfaction	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Quality of job design (clear job content, feedback and staff involvement)	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4
Work pressure felt by staff	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.2
Staff intention to leave jobs	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.5
Support from supervisors	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.5
Quality of senior management leadership	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.0
Extent of positive feeling within organisation	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0
Perceptions of effective action from employer towards violence and harassment	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.9

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Table 3.3.1: Percentage scores for different age groups

	Age group			
	Age 16-30	Age 31-40	Age 41-50	Over 50
Number of respondents	79	142	140	116
% staff working extra hours	63%	69%	72%	67%
% staff working extra hours due to pressure and demands of job	56%	60%	68%	55%
% staff appraised within previous 12 months	49%	54%	52%	39%
% staff having well structured appraisal or performance review within previous 12 months	34%	34%	27%	23%
% staff with personal development plans agreed within previous 12 months	41%	50%	36%	25%
% staff receiving any training or development in previous 12 months	89%	94%	87%	72%
% staff receiving at least one day's training on taught course in previous 12 months	81%	83%	72%	54%
% staff saying they work in teams	93%	92%	89%	80%
% staff working in a well structured team environment	49%	46%	39%	32%
% staff having had health and safety training in previous 12 months	66%	69%	64%	63%
% staff witnessing potentially harmful errors or near misses in previous month	54%	56%	58%	46%
% staff suffering work related injuries or illness in previous 12 months	44%	41%	53%	52%
% staff experiencing physical violence in previous 12 months	12%	17%	21%	16%
% staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse in previous 12 months	33%	30%	42%	35%

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Table 3.3.2: Scale summary scores for different age groups

	Age group			
	Age 16-30	Age 31-40	Age 41-50	Over 50
Number of respondents	79	142	140	116
Quality of work life balance	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3
Opportunities for flexible working	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7
Fairness and effectiveness of incident reporting procedures	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.5
Staff job satisfaction	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4
Quality of job design (clear job content, feedback and staff involvement)	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3
Work pressure felt by staff	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4
Staff intention to leave jobs	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.5
Support from supervisors	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.3
Quality of senior management leadership	4.0	3.7	3.7	4.0
Extent of positive feeling within organisation	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9
Perceptions of effective action from employer towards violence and harassment	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.8

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Table 3.4.1: Percentage scores for other demographic groups

	Gender		Ethnic background	
	Men	Women	White	Non white
Number of respondents	76	399	432	40
% staff working extra hours	75%	67%	69%	66%
% staff working extra hours due to pressure and demands of job	72%	58%	61%	55%
% staff appraised within previous 12 months	58%	47%	48%	54%
% staff having well structured appraisal or performance review within previous 12 months	27%	30%	29%	41%
% staff with personal development plans agreed within previous 12 months	44%	37%	37%	52%
% staff receiving any training or development in previous 12 months	89%	85%	84%	100%
% staff receiving at least one day's training on taught course in previous 12 months	74%	72%	71%	85%
% staff saying they work in teams	88%	88%	88%	93%
% staff working in a well structured team environment	33%	43%	40%	53%
% staff having had health and safety training in previous 12 months	61%	67%	65%	80%
% staff witnessing potentially harmful errors or near misses in previous month	68%	50%	54%	53%
% staff suffering work related injuries or illness in previous 12 months	46%	47%	47%	48%
% staff experiencing physical violence in previous 12 months	16%	17%	17%	13%
% staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse in previous 12 months	32%	35%	35%	31%

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question

Table 3.4.2: Scale summary scores for other demographic groups

	Gender		Ethnic background	
	Men	Women	White	Non white
Number of respondents	76	399	432	40
Quality of work life balance	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5
Opportunities for flexible working	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.3
Fairness and effectiveness of incident reporting procedures	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.9
Staff job satisfaction	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7
Quality of job design (clear job content, feedback and staff involvement)	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.6
Work pressure felt by staff	3.4	3.2	3.3	2.9
Staff intention to leave jobs	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.5
Support from supervisors	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6
Quality of senior management leadership	3.2	4.0	3.8	4.5
Extent of positive feeling within organisation	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.4
Perceptions of effective action from employer towards violence and harassment	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9

Any blank spaces indicate fewer than 21 responses for that question