JQ04 – Midwives

Midwives' data is compiled by the Department of Health as part of the Non-Monetary Health Care Statistics, administered jointly by Eurostat, OECD and WHO in fulfilment of the European regulation (EU) 2022/2294. These statistics are compiled and published on an annual basis and refer to the number of practising midwives and midwives licenced to practice in the Republic of Ireland, as at end of the referenced ending calendar year.

Source:

Data for both practising midwives and midwives licensed to practice is compiled from Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) (https://www.nmbi.ie/Home) administrative records.

Definitions:

Midwives licensed to practice are those midwives that have acquired the requisite education and qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery, and include the following:

i. Midwifery professionals and midwifery associate professionals;
ii. Midwives who provide services directly to patients;
iii. Midwives for whom their midwifery education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
iv. Midwives for whom their midwifery education is NOT a prerequisite for the execution of the job;
v. Midwives licensed to practice but who due to various reasons are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired); and
vi. Midwives working abroad.

Practising midwives are those midwives licensed to practice that provide services directly to patients, and include the following

i. Midwifery professionals and midwifery associate professionals;
ii. Persons who have completed their studies/education in midwifery and who are licensed to practice;
iii. Salaried and self-employed midwives delivering services irrespectively of the place of service provision;
iv. Nurses (or nurse midwives) who are working most of the time as midwives; and
v. Foreign midwives licensed to practice and actively practising in the country .

While excluding the following:

i. Students who have not yet graduated;
ii. Midwives working in administration, management, research and in other posts excluding direct contact with patients;
iii. Unemployed midwives and retired midwives; and
iv. Midwives working abroad.

Note that for both categories of midwives, figures include also nurses, since it is not possible to distinguish between nurses and midwives due to all registered midwives also hold registered nursing qualifications.

Year (also referred to as data reference year) is taken as at the end of the calendar year of reference. (31st December).

Measure refers to the different categories of midwives.

Unit refers to the unit of measure applied, which in this case refers to a numerical headcount of relevant category of midwives.

Value refers to the count of practising midwives and midwives licensed to practice for the respective data reference year.

Flag indicates any particular caution or issues with the data worth of note for further data use. The following flags may be applied, along with their definition:

- **Flag M** indicates that the value is missing as it was not collected for that particular instance. This may be due to legal requirements, unavailability of data or data quality issues, among many reasons.
- **Flag B** indicates that the values from that data reference point onwards are not directly comparable with previous data points due to methodological issues which are explained in the coverage section below.
- **Flag E** indicates that the particular data point is based on an estimate and should be compares with other non-estimate data points with caution. Estimation methods applies are explained in the coverage section below.
- **Flag S** indicates that the particular data point has been supressed for confidentiality and/or quality purposes, such as; very small counts or very high variation. This should not be treated as a true zero. Whenever a value is a true zero, this has been indicated and not supressed.

Coverage:

Figures for **midwives licensed to practice** refer to the total number of active registered midwives on the NMBI's register. A midwife on the register has completed a programme of midwifery education and is qualified and authorized to practice midwifery in Ireland. This does not necessarily mean that each midwife is active in the field of midwifery.

Figures for **practising midwives** refer to the total number of self-reported practising registered midwives on the NMBI's register.

Estimation: Not applicable.

Breaks in series: Not applicable.

Suppression: Not applicable.

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Period of time	Figures for practising midwives are taken as at end of calendar year from 2021-2022. Figures for midwives licensed to practice are taken as at end of calendar year from 2017-2022, excluding 2018 which is missing.