

# MIND THE GAP 2018

An Investigation into Maternity Training for Frontline Professionals Across the UK



**Three out of every four** baby deaths and injuries could be prevented with different care.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The tragic human and financial consequences of these incidents however, remain. For more than **two decades**, successive reports have recommended **training for frontline staff** in targeted areas as a key way to improve outcomes. *Mind the Gap* has surveyed the national response to these recommendations and provides the most up-to-date picture of maternity training for healthcare professionals in the UK.

## The National Picture

### Training Attendance



Only **38%** of trusts recorded an attendance rate of 90% or above for all staff groups.

### Training Barriers



The biggest barriers to **training provision** are **staffing** and **finance**



The biggest barriers to **training attendance** are **staffing** and **sickness**



### Training Spending

There was a significant variation in amounts spent on maternity training across NHS trusts.

£1k

£59k  
Average spend

£372k

### Training Assessment

**97%**

of trusts evaluated at least **one topic**

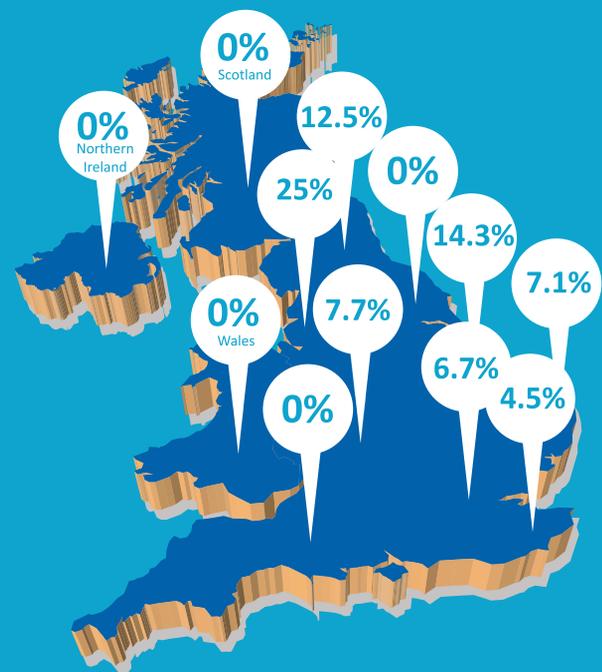


**9%**

of trusts evaluated **all training topics**

## Achieving National Ambitions

**Fewer than 8%** of NHS trusts provided ALL the training components of the Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle.



## Recommendations

Immediately reinstate an ongoing Maternity Safety Training Fund to improve staff attendance and provision of training.



All professionals in clinical areas must undergo regular and relevant training, with competency assessed & recorded.



Develop maternity-specific national training guidance in collaboration with national training bodies and experts.

[1] Draper, E., Kurinczuk, J., and Kenyon, S. (Eds.) on behalf of MBRRACE-UK. (2017). MBRRACE-UK 2017 Perinatal Confidential Enquiry: Term, singleton, intrapartum stillbirth and intrapartum-related neonatal death. Leicester: The Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies, Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester.  
 [2] The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. (2018). Each Baby Counts: Themed report on anaesthetic care, including lessons identified from Each Baby Counts babies born 2015 to 2017. London: The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists