

Oral Health for Nurses and Midwives

Progress Report March 2024

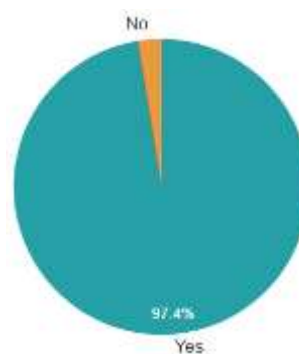


In late 2022, Colgate partnered with C3 Collaborating for Health (C3), the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF), and the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) to provide a continuing professional development module on oral health for nurses and midwives. The initiative was part of Colgate's *Bright Smiles, Bright Futures* Program.

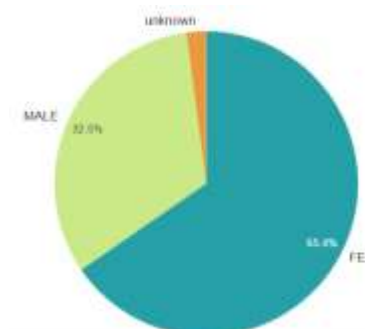
The development of the CPD module for nurses and midwives links directly to the World Health Organisation initiatives on oral health. The World Health Assembly at their 74th session in 2021, approved a resolution on oral health¹ which recommends a shift from the traditional curative approach toward a preventive approach and the inclusion of oral health promotion and prevention interventions in universal health coverage programs and essential health packages.

At the 2022 World Health Assembly, WHO member states endorsed the following vision for oral health: *To achieve universal health coverage for oral health for all individuals and communities by 2030*. A global oral health strategy was approved by the WHA² and a draft Global Oral Health Action Plan³ released in January 2023.

The CPD module, *Oral Health for Nurses and Midwives* was launched 23 April 2023 in Africa. By 10 March 2024, there were 7,339 course completions: 6,976 pass and 363 fail, a 95% completion rate. There was a 19.26% improvement rate between pre- and post-test results, while 97.4% of the 6,976 participants who had passed the course stated they would be able to use their learning in their daily practice (see diagram below).



Of those who successfully completed the course, 65.4% (n=4,560) identified as female; 32.5% (n=2,270) as male; and 2.1% (n=146) did not respond to this question.



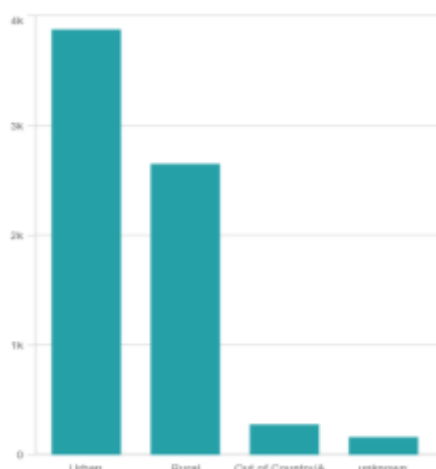
Of those successfully completing the module, 43.5% (n=3,032) as registered nurses; 17.5% (n=1,223) identified as midwives; 9.3% (n=651) as working in the community; 8.8% (n=617) as specialist nurses; 8.0% (n=560) as administrators or managers; 7.9% (n=555) as enrolled nurses; 3.6% (n=249) as nurse practitioners; 1.0% as nurse educators or researchers; and 0.4% as students.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-05-2021-world-health-assembly-resolution-paves-the-way-for-better-oral-health-care>

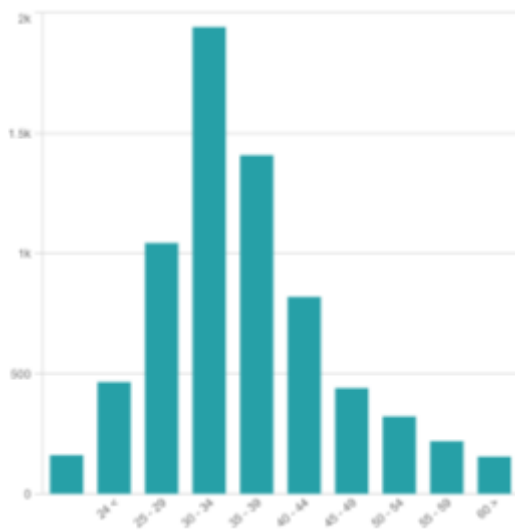
² WHO 2022 Global Oral Health Strategy available from https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA75/A75_10Add1-en.pdf

³ WHO 2023 Global Oral Health Action Plan available from <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/mnd/oral-health/eb152-draft-global-oral-health-action-plan-2023-2030-en.pdf>; [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-global-oral-health-action-plan-\(2023-2030\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-global-oral-health-action-plan-(2023-2030))

Of those successfully completing the module, 55.6% (n=3,880) worked in urban areas; 38.0% (n=2,650) worked in rural areas; 4.0% were from outside Africa; and 2.4% (n=167) did not respond to this question.



The majority of participants who successfully completed the module were in the 30-39 year aged group (48.0% n=3,351), followed by those <24-29 (21.6% n=1,505); 40-49 (18% n=1,259); 50-59 (7.8% n=542); and >60 (2.2% n=155), with 2.4% (n=164) not responding to this question.



The majority of participants who successfully completed the module were from the public sector (55.5% n=3,870). The remainder were from the private sector (11.3% n=785); academia (9.5% n=661); faith based sector (4.7% n=331); non-government sector (2.8% n=199); profession association (1.5% n=108); military sector (1.1% n=74); with 11.0% (n=765) nominating 'other', and 2.6% (n=183) not responding to this question.

Successful completions were spread right across Africa. Botswana had the highest number of successful completions (n=1560), followed by Ghana (n=1,470); Kenya (n=1,110); Nigeria (n=972); Ethiopia (n=785); Rwanda (n=522); and Tanzania (n=173). Of the remainder, Malawi (n=94); Mauritius (n=51); Uganda (n=40); Zambia (n=35); Lesotho (n=32); Seychelles (n=10); Zimbabwe (n=15); Sierra Leone (n=8); South Africa (n=8); eSwatini (n=7); and Namibia (n=4); with 80 successful completions from outside of Africa.

The module is evaluated over eight criteria by participants who have successfully completed. The evaluation of those who agreed or strongly agreed was 98.05%.

Some participant comments appear below:

- *The module was well presented with appropriate pictures and examples.*
- *I have learned a lot about oral health and it has impacted positively on my attitude to oral health. Kudos to the team that put this together.*
- *The module was user friendly and very comprehensive.*
- *Five stars.*
- *Really impressed with the module: background, illustrated pictures, diagrams and tables. Good work. Truly appreciated.*
- *The module is rich in its content and the diagrams were very helpful in understanding the course.*
- *This is by far the most informative text I have read on oral health.*
- *Excellent educational resource.*
- *Beautiful presentation. I like the way of teaching.*
- *Impressive. The content is rich and up to date and presented in a way that is amazingly easy to understand and follow.*
- *The short quiz under each module is very useful in testing one's understanding of the module before moving to the next. Excellent.*

