

Authors: Rebecca Parker, Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, Professor David Thomson, Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
If you are interested in the project please contact us for more information gmcancer.academy@nhs.net

The Cancer Alliance Role in Enhancing Clinical Trials Education Across Greater Manchester to Increase Participation

Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance agreed a set of research principles to better support patient facing healthcare professionals and their knowledge of current cancer clinical trials.

1 Aim

To provide healthcare professionals with up-to-date resources and educational materials to effectively communicate opportunities across all specialties aimed at increasing participation in clinical trials.

2 Methodology

To understand, identify and assess the current educational landscape, an education scoping survey was distributed widely in Greater Manchester. The survey measured the current knowledge of available cancer research and clinical trial opportunities, and the confidence in communicating these to patients.

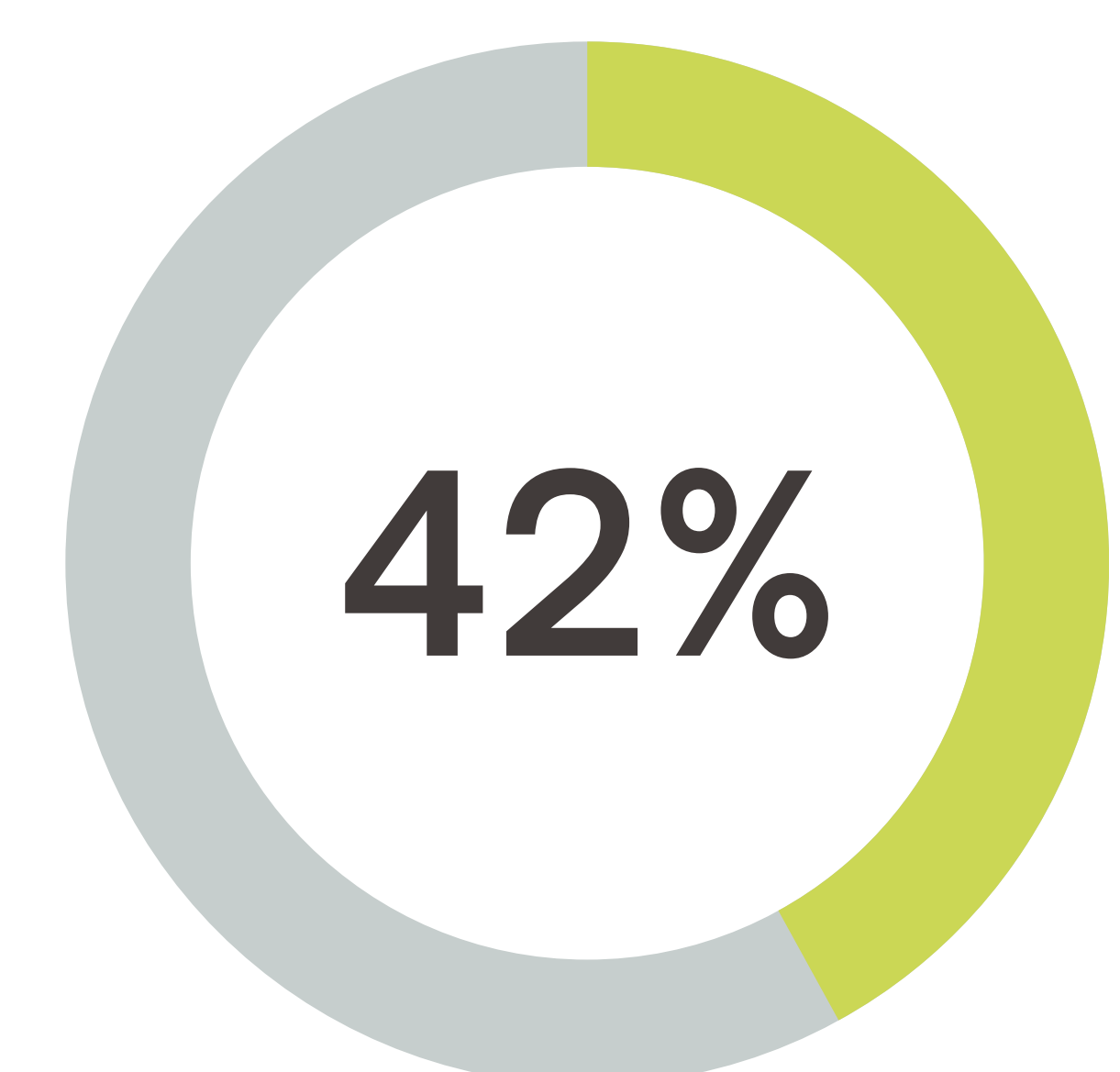
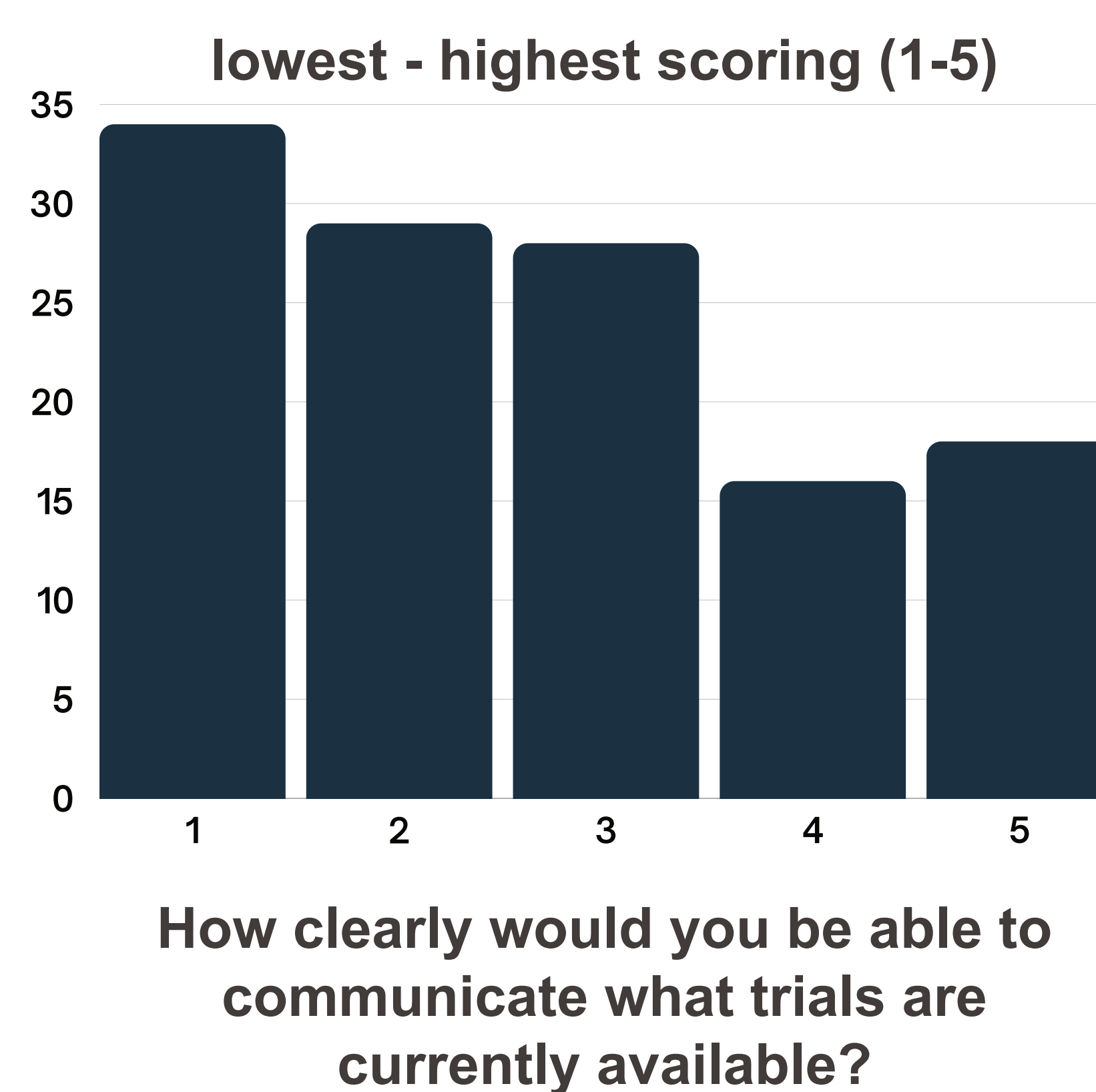
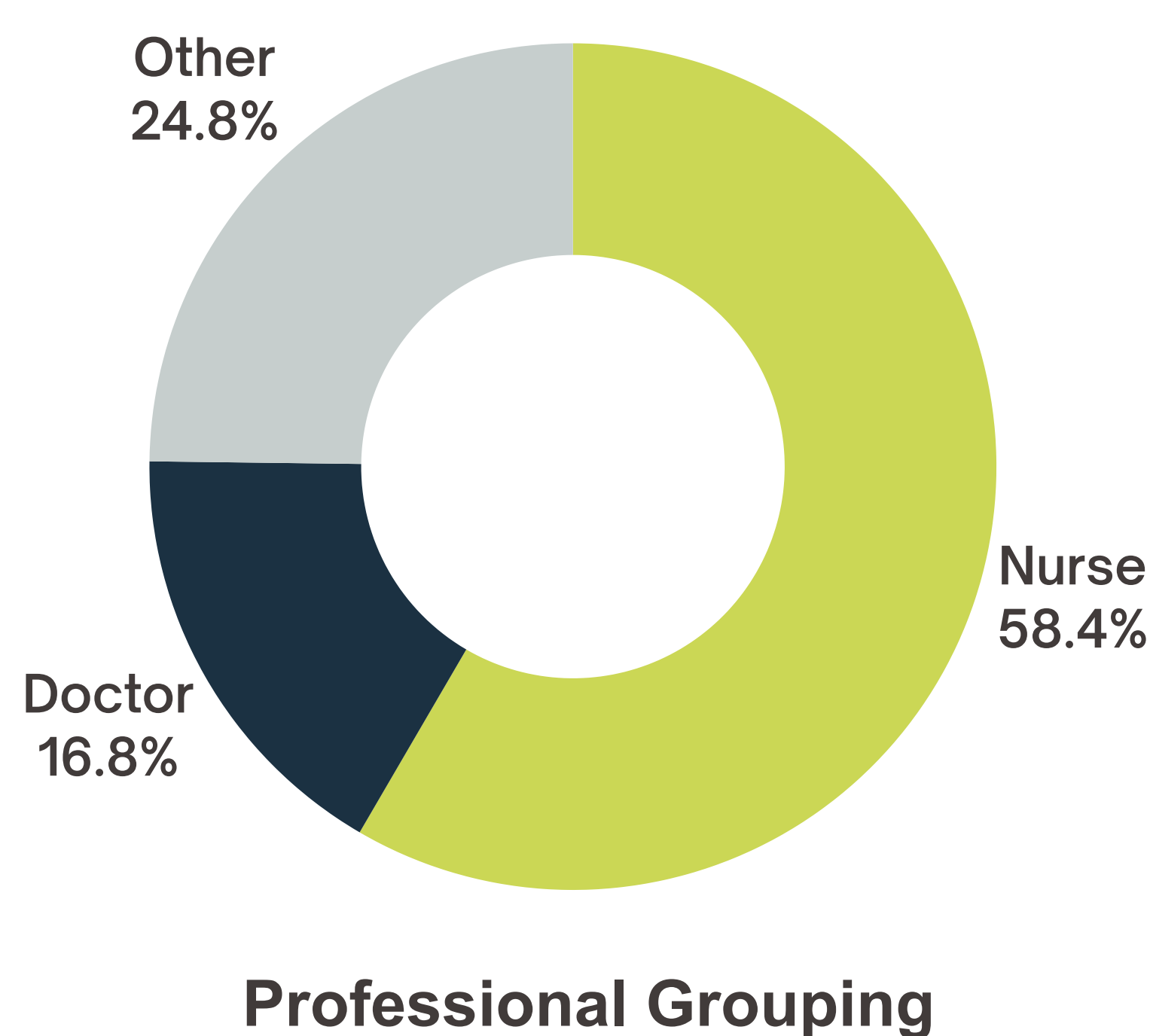
3 Results

Of the current 125 respondents, two-thirds work in secondary care with 73 in a nursing profession. The average rating of confidence when communicating trials with patients is 2.6/5, with only 21% having expert knowledge; 34% do not know where to find updated information about clinical trial availability.

The average rating of identifying and engaging patients from underserved populations to participate in clinical research trials was 2.5/5.

“ Additionally, the scope identified the ability to engage with patients from underserved populations to participate in trials, with the aim of increasing access and diversity. It is important that our workforce can access up to date information on trials available to advocate what is best for patients. ”

4 Analysis



of responders said that they can explain what clinical research trials are but have to signpost to someone else for additional support

74%
of healthcare professionals stated that they require further education around reducing barriers to engage with/increase participation from underserved populations



“ In comparison to the rest of the survey data, identifying and engaging patients from underserved populations to participate in clinical research trials scored the lowest. ”

5 Conclusion

The survey data has evidently highlighted the need for further educational development and resources, particularly around health inequalities. Other data suggests that there is also an educational need to enhance communication skills so that healthcare professionals are able to confidently discuss opportunities across all specialties in cancer.