

INTRODUCTION

The HCPC has assessed the length of time that UK route registrants remained registered for following their first registration. Registrants who came through the UK route must have completed an approved training course in a UK institution. This analysis is hoped to contribute to wider workforce planning efforts.

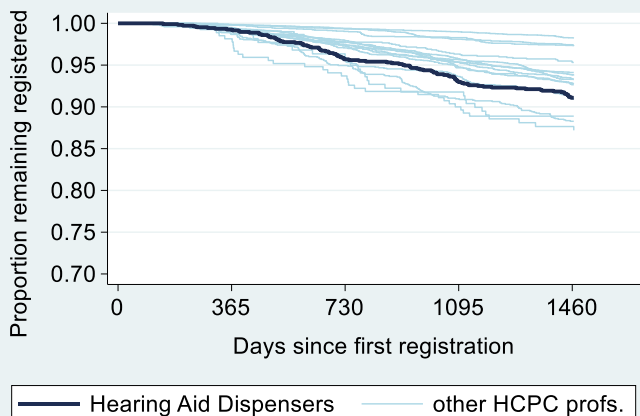
METHODS

All new UK route Hearing Aid Dispensers who made their first registration between 01 May 2014 and 30 April 2018 were included in the analysis and their registration status at least four years later determined (n=1,071). The Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate the percent remaining registered and the corresponding 95% confidence intervals for those estimates.

RESULTS

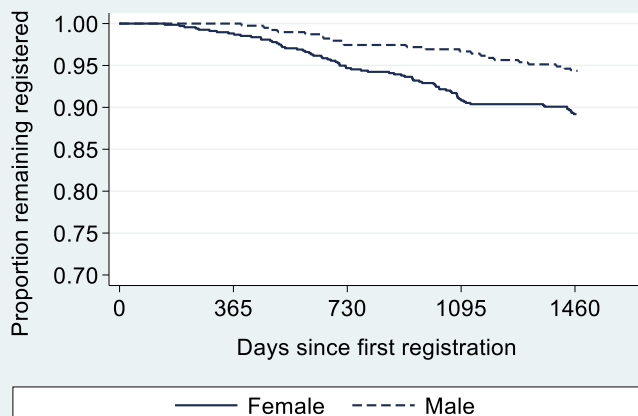
Overall retention

After two years 95.7% (95% CI: 94.3 to 96.8) of new Hearing Aid Dispensers remained on the HCPC register and after four years 91.1% (95% CI: 89.2 to 92.7) remained registered.



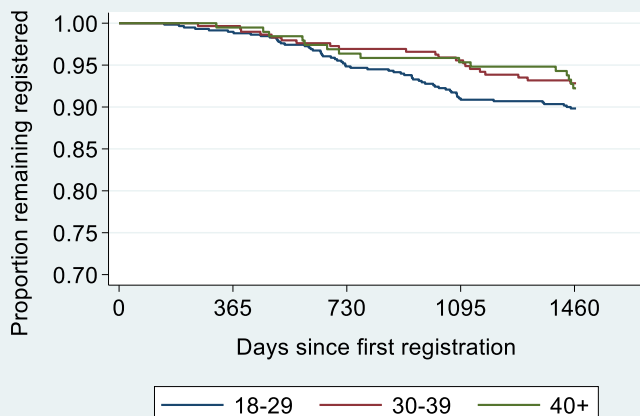
Gender / Sex

There was a significant difference between the proportions of females (89.2%) and of males (94.4%) remaining registered after four years. The majority of new Hearing Aid Dispenser registrants were female (63%).



Age

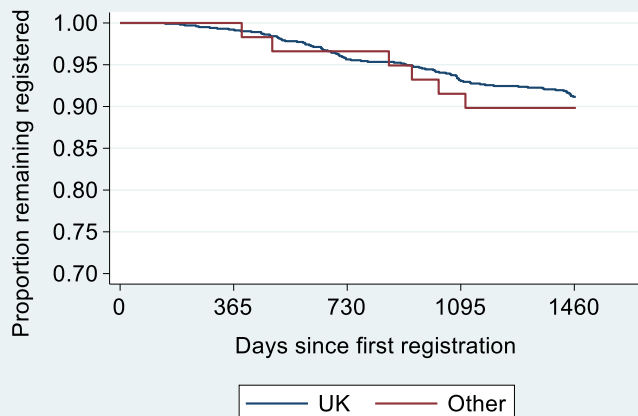
There were small differences in retention rates between age groups at first registration. The majority (55%) of new Hearing Aid Dispensers were aged 18-29, 27% were aged 30-39 and 18% were aged 40+.



Nationality

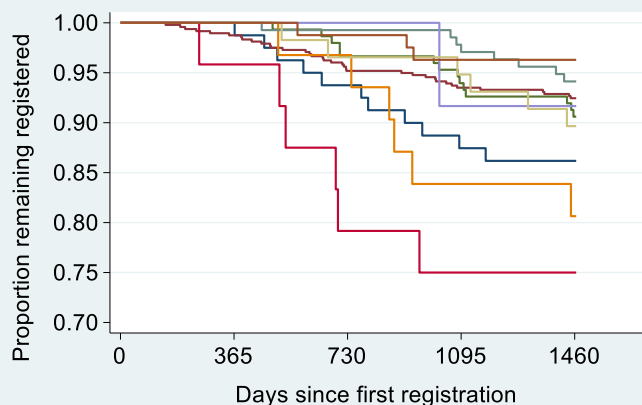
Retention varied relatively little by nationality:

- UK = 91.2% retention (94% of registrants)
- Other = 89.8% (5% of registrants)

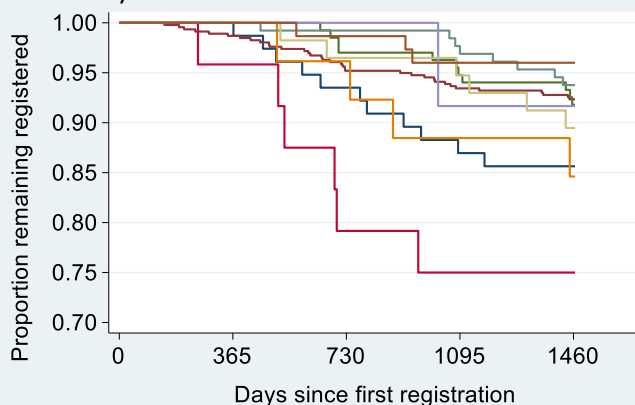


Location of training course provider

Retention rates varied considerably between locations of training course providers with a 21.3% gap between the location with the highest rate (Northern Ireland, 96.3%) and the location with the lowest rate (South West, 75.0%).



Restricting the analysis of training provider location to new UK route registrants of UK nationality made little difference, reducing the gap to 21.0% between the location with the highest rate (Northern Ireland, 96.0%) and the location with the lowest rate (South West, 75.0%).



Location of institution providing qualification used for registration	n	% total	% UK nationality	Retention: all nationalities		Retention: UK nationality only	
				%	95% CI	%	95% CI
North East & Yorkshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North West	81	7.7	96.3	86.2	76.4 to 92.1	85.6	75.6 to 91.8
Midlands	480	45.6	95.8	92.5	89.7 to 94.5	92.3	89.5 to 94.4
East of England	149	14.2	89.9	90.6	84.7 to 94.3	91.8	85.7 to 95.4
London	31	2.9	83.9	80.7	61.9 to 90.8	84.6	64.0 to 93.9
South East	137	13.0	94.2	94.1	88.6 to 97.0	93.8	87.9 to 96.8
South West	24	2.3	100	75.0	52.6 to 87.9	75.0	52.6 to 87.9
Wales	12	1.1	100	91.7	53.9 to 98.8	91.7	53.9 to 98.8
Scotland	58	5.5	98.2	89.7	78.4 to 95.2	89.5	78.1 to 95.1
Northern Ireland	81	7.7	92.6	96.3	89.0 to 98.8	96.0	88.1 to 98.7

CONCLUSIONS

The vast majority of new UK route Hearing Aid Dispensers remained on the HCPC register four years after their first registration with around 1 in 11 having left by then.

The greatest variation was observed in gender / sex, with males having a significantly higher retention rate than females. Unlike many HCPC professions there was no particular nationality effect.

The considerable variation in retention rates between locations of training course providers was not explainable by restricting the analysis to UK nationality only.