

The History of the NHS



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Staff Numbers

	Nurses	Doctors
Year 1948	68,000	11,700
Year 2018	217,000	115,000

- Now 1.7m people employed by the health service across the UK, making it the fifth largest employer in the world.
- The biggest group in the workforce are nurses. The numbers employed have trebled.
- There are now 10 times as many working for the health service, as there were when it was created.
- This partly reflects how quickly medicine has advanced and how demand has increased, meaning many more medical experts are needed to care for patients.
- Roles have changed too. The job nurses do today has become much more specialised - it is now a degree-level profession.
- The basic personal care they used to provide is now much more likely to be done by healthcare assistants, with nurses involved in providing complex care that was once the preserve of doctors.

Budget

	£bn
Year 1949	12.9
Year 2018	149.2

- Of course, as the number of staff has grown, so has the budget. The amount spent on health is now 12 times bigger than it was when the NHS started - and that's after you take inflation into account.
- And the pot is set to grow even further. The government announced the budget for the NHS in England would be increasing by 3.4% annually over the next five years.

Public Purse

	Spent on NHS
Year 1955 - 56	11.2 %
Year 2016 -17	30.1%

- Governments over the years have had to invest more and more of their money into the health service. Today 30p out of It has meant falls in other areas of spending - among the biggest losers have been defense and housing.
- Every £1 spent on services goes on health.
- The early years were tough. The budget had to be cut in the early 1950s as the government struggled to keep up with demand.
- It forced ministers to introduce charges for prescriptions, dental work and spectacles.

Prescription Charges

Year 1948	Free
Year 1952	5p (1 Shilling)
Year 1961	10p (2 Shilling)
Year 2018	£8.80 – England

Free in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

- Today prescriptions cost £8.80 (and there are many exemptions, covering children, older people and those with certain conditions).
- Elsewhere in the UK they have been made free again.
- This is just one of the consequences of devolution, which has seen individual administrations given control over health policy.

Bed Numbers

Year 1948	480,000
Year 2018	120,000

- Not everything has gone up. The most obvious example is the number of beds. There are now four times fewer beds than there were originally.
- This is because much more can be done in the community.
- And patients also spend much less time in hospital than they once did.
- Women who give birth today now tend to leave on the same day or the day after. After the creation of the NHS, as birth became medicalised, women would spend a week in hospital.
- It is a similar story for operations. The first hip replacement was carried out in late 1948. The patient spent weeks in hospital. Now the operation can be done as a day case.

Life Expectancy

	Male	Female
Year 1948	65.9	70.3
Year 2018	79.5	83.1

- At the heart of the story of the NHS, is its impact on the nation's health.
- People now live 13 years longer than they did 70 years ago.
- Better access to healthcare has played a key role. But it is also worth noting that in the 70 years before the creation of the NHS, life expectancy actually increased by double what it has since.
- Access to clean water and construction of sewers were two of the biggest factors in that.

Infant Mortality

	UK children under one year old, per 1,000 live births
Year 1948	36
Year 2016	3.9

- Infant mortality - defined as deaths before the baby's first birthday - has improved dramatically.
- There are five key influences - congenital anomalies, prematurity, sudden infant death syndrome, maternal complications and birth injuries.
- The creation of the NHS, meaning births moved from home into a medical environment, and the advancement of medicine have been hugely influential.

Causes of Death

	Year 1948	Year 2018
Heart Disease	28.8%	15.7%
Cancer	16.8%	27.8%
Stroke	11.2%	6.2%
Tuberculosis	4.7%	0%
Diabetes	0.8%	1.1%

- Improved healthcare and immunisation have meant the conditions people are dying of have changed.
- Infectious diseases, heart attacks and strokes are no longer claiming the number of lives they once did.
- Instead, people are more likely to be living with long-term conditions for which there are no cures.
- The most notable of these is dementia.
- Supporting people who can face many years of poor and deteriorating health is perhaps the biggest challenge for the next 70 years.

So What Now.....

Ipswich and Colchester Merged

- Money
- Workforce
- Technology
- Care Closer to Home
- Clinical Reconfiguration