

Interpretation of the word “PARITY” amongst Obstetricians and Midwives in Wales.

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AIM

To evaluate the interpretation of the term ‘parity’ in clinical practice within Wales.

METHOD

Clinician survey and literature review.

Survey conducted by electronic questionnaire sent to all O&G doctors in Wales and midwives in North Wales.

RESULTS

- 143 responses received (63 doctors and 80 midwives).
- 9.15% defined parity as number of previous pregnancies irrespective of outcome.
- 61.27% (44.30% midwives, 95.24% doctor) defined as number of previous pregnancies, after 24 completed weeks irrespective of outcome.
- 29.58% (49.36% midwives, 4.76% doctors) as number of previous pregnancies ending in live births after 24 completed weeks.
- 83.92% (95% midwives, 69.85% doctors) described having a previous twin delivery as G2P2.
- 16.08% (5% midwives, 30.15% doctors) responded G2P1.

DISCUSSION

- Parity is considered during risk assessment for VTE and postpartum haemorrhage or when assessing suitability for midwife lead care. Literature review (medical dictionaries, text books, RCOG enquiry, patient information leaflet, journals) consistently defined parity as the number of pregnancies that attained the gestation of viability irrespective of outcome.
- There were however inconsistent definitions when applied to the situation of previous multiple pregnancy. Many UK professional bodies avoid defining parity.
- In an article published in BJOG in 2007 authors stated that it is their opinion that parity count should not be dependent on the number of babies delivered (outcome)and that multiple pregnancy that attained the gestation of viability should be a single parous event.
- American College of O&G states in cases of multiple pregnancies, parity is only increased with birth of the last fetus. Patient information UK states, multiple gestation counts as a single event and multiple birth should be interpreted as a single parous event. Overall, the most reliable sources including the RCOG seem to define the delivery of previous multiple pregnancy as a single parous event ie **a previous twin delivery is para 1.**

CONCLUSION

There is a widespread but largely unrecognised problem associated with inadequate standardisation of the term parity. Inconsistent interpretation may have serious patient safety concerns and medico-legal implications. A consensus definition of the term parity is essential for standardisation of record keeping and appropriate patient care.

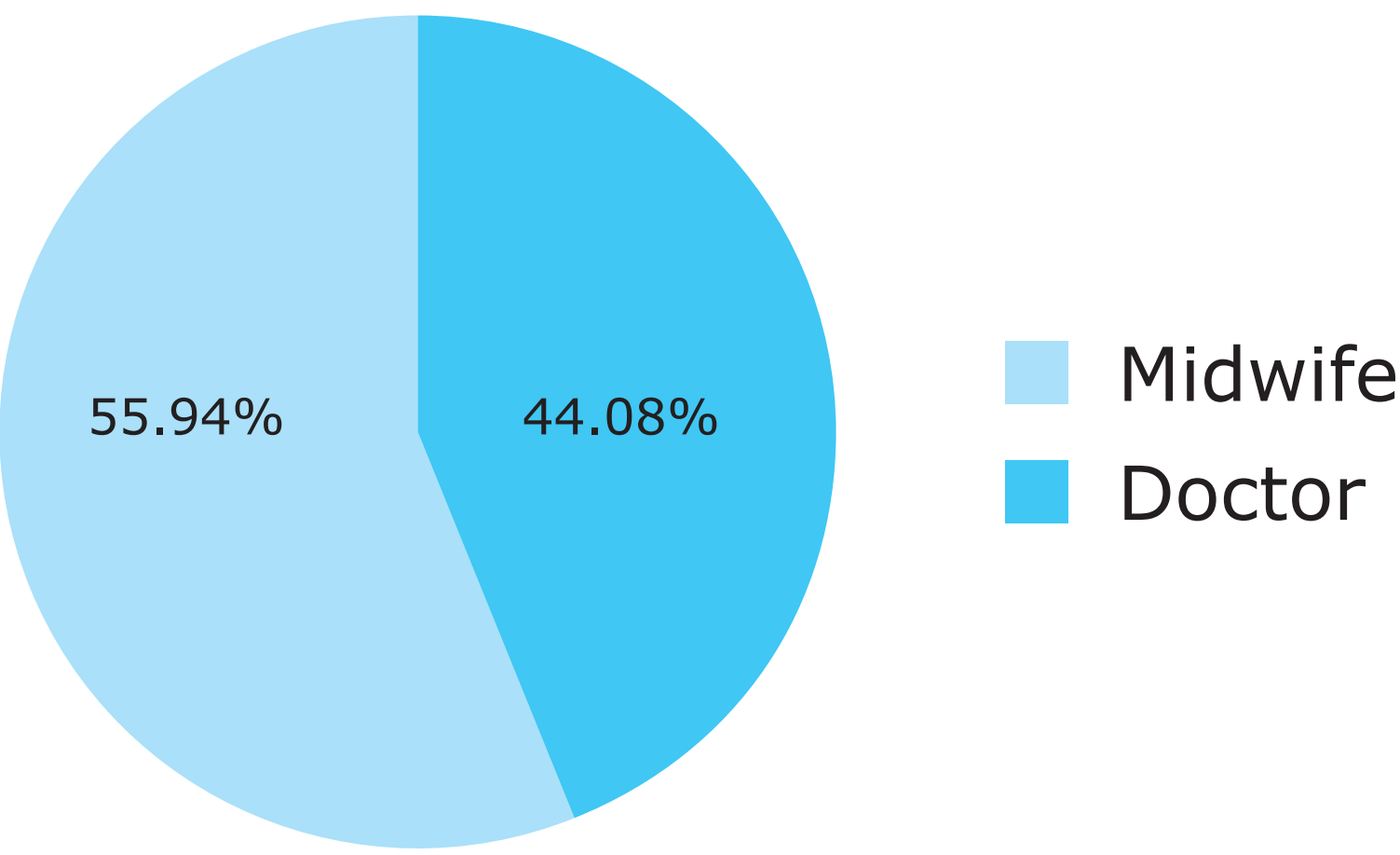
REFERENCE

- The interpretation and clinical application of the word ‘parity’: a survey. (BJOG-2007)
- Defining obstetrics terms: need for gold standards (Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology-2008)
- Gravidity and parity definitions and their implications in risk assessment (Authored by Dr.Colin Tidy; Reviewed by Dr.John Cox - 3/2/2014)



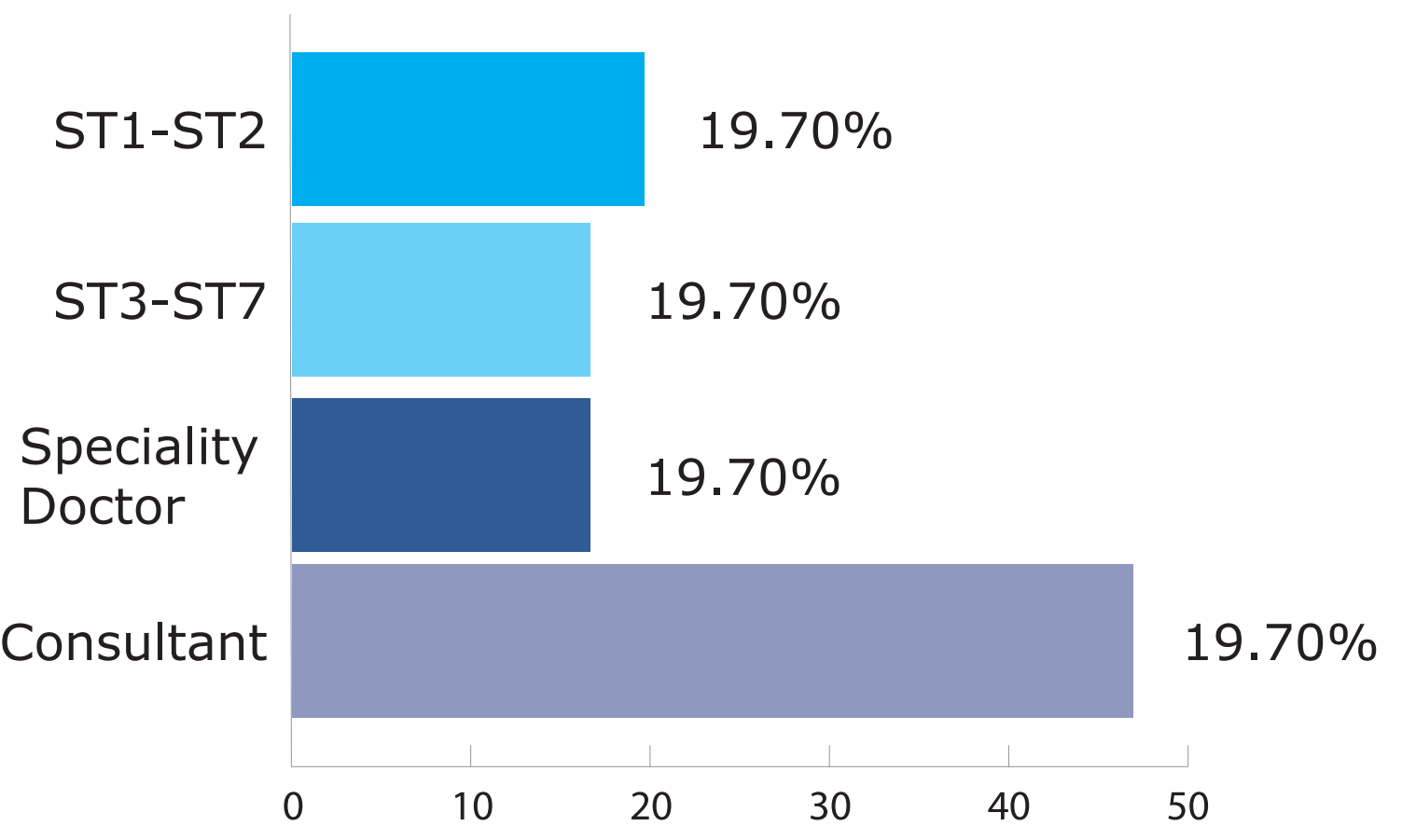
Q1 OCCUPATION

Answered 143 Skipped 0



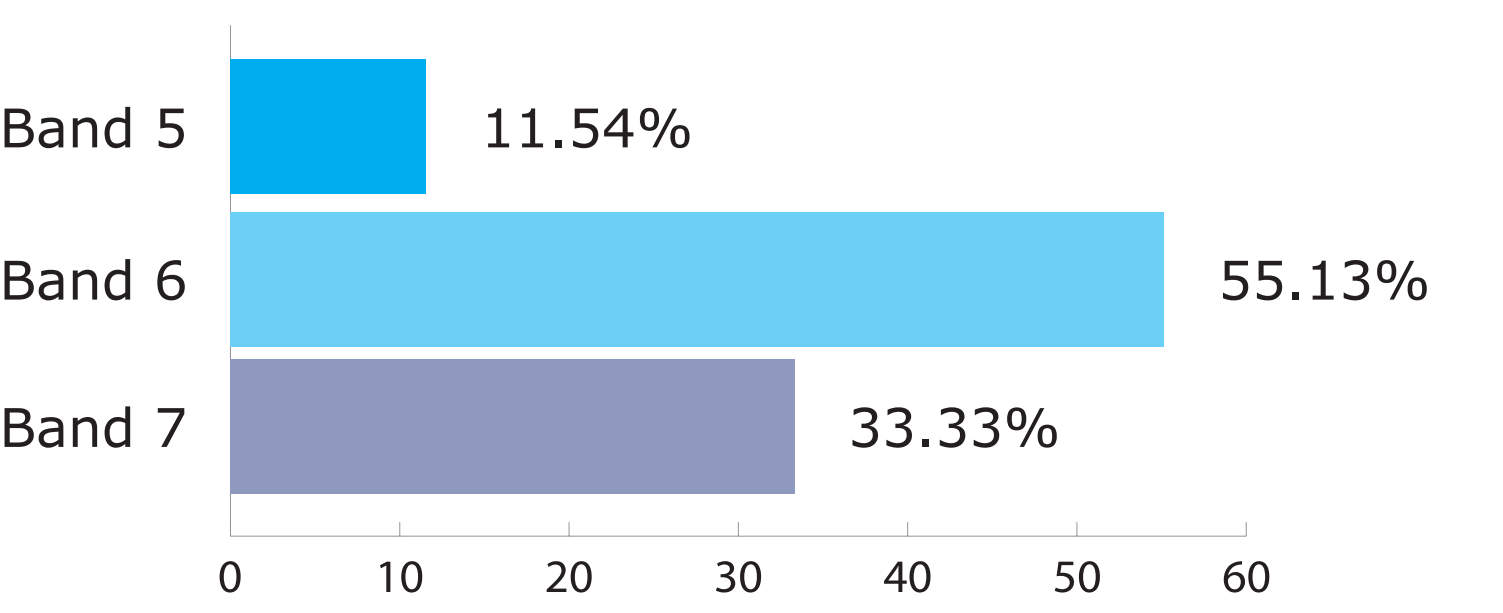
Q2 GRADE FOR DOCTORS

Answered 66 Skipped 77



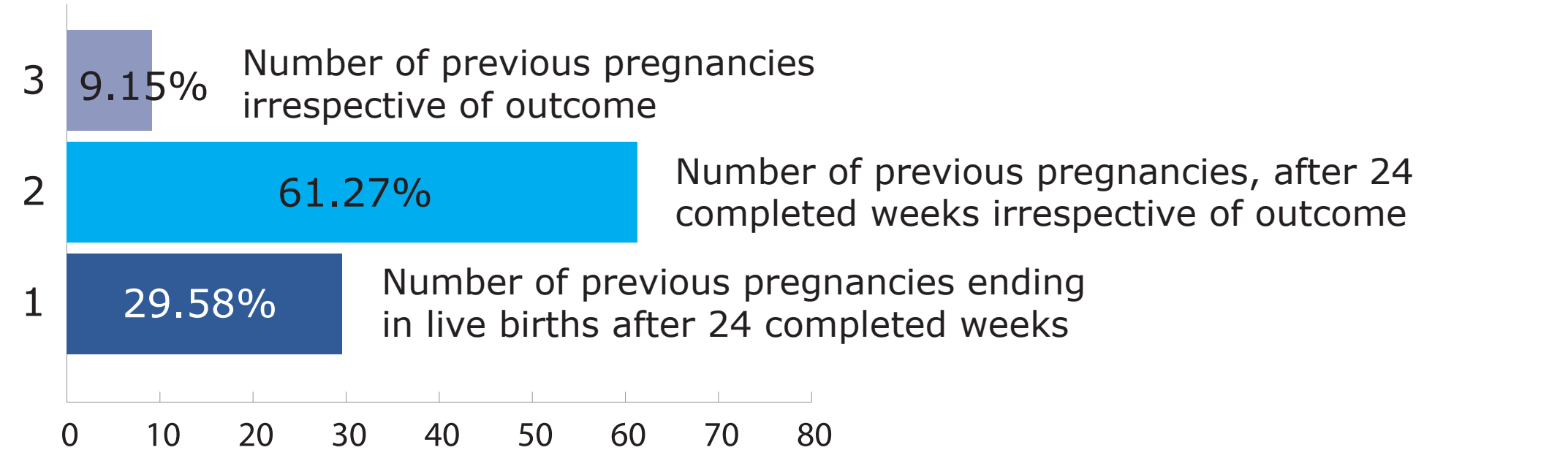
Q3 GRADE FOR MIDWIVES

Answered 78 Skipped 65



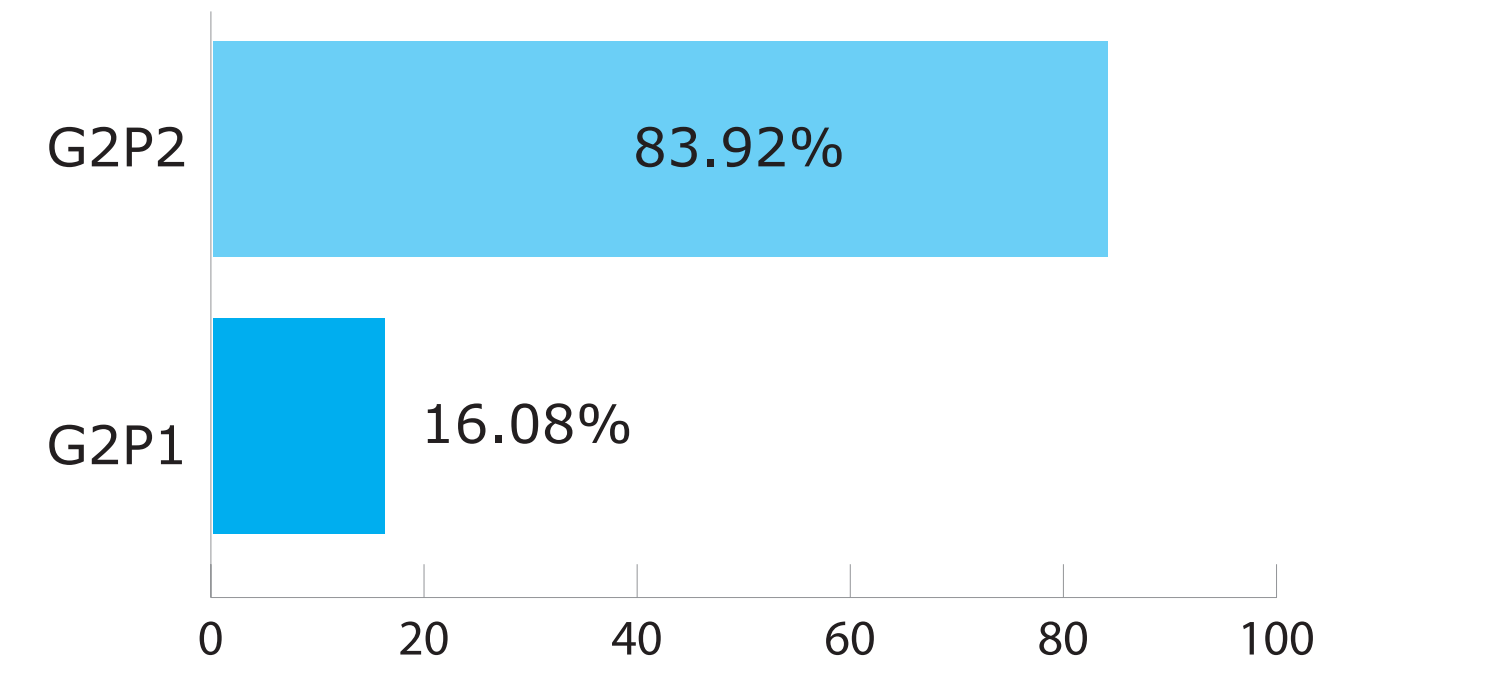
Q4 Which of the following best explains the word PARITY

Answered 142 Skipped 1



Q5 A woman is pregnant for the second time. She delivered twins (two live births) at term in her first pregnancy. Is she

Answered 143 Skipped 0



Definition of the word parity				A Woman is pregnant second time, previous live twin delivery at term	
Profession (Percentage)	Number of Previous pregnancies Irrespective of outcome	Number of previous pregnancies after 24 completed weeks irrespective of outcome	Number of previous pregnancies ending with live births after 24 completed weeks	G2P2	G2P1
Midwife (55.94)	6.23%	44.30%	49.36%	95%	5%
Doctor (44.06)	0%	95.24%	4.76%	69.85%	30.15%