



Summary of findings from NCMA's 2010 Membership Survey

This report provides an overview of the key findings from the 2010 survey of NCMA members. NCMA undertakes this survey on an annual basis to ensure it maintains an up-to-date understanding of its membership and relevant issues in childminding. Information was collected through structured interviews with 1,001 members in England and Wales during the early months of 2010. Respondents were selected by random sampling of the NCMA membership database, which should ensure that the sample is reflective of the membership as a whole.

Profile of surveyed members

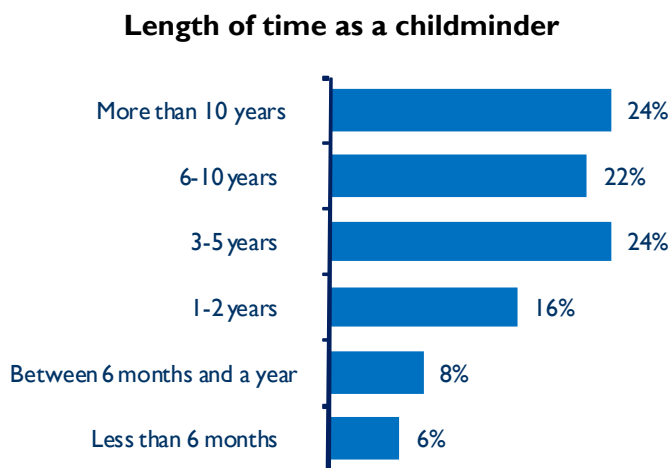
In line with previous years, the vast majority of respondents (99 per cent) were female. Almost four-fifths (79 per cent) were aged 35 or over, with 39 per cent of all respondents falling into the 35-44 age group. The majority of respondents (88 per cent) indicated that they were "white British". The proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) respondents was slightly higher than last year, at 11.7 per cent (up from 9.6 per cent in 2009), compared with a national figure of 12.5 per cent according to the most recent census. Along with data on the breakdown of ethnicity, this indicates that the composition of NCMA's membership is becoming more reflective of that of the population as a whole.

Almost half of respondents (47 per cent) in Wales spoke Welsh to some degree, and the vast majority of these spoke Welsh to the children they cared for. In addition to the respondents who spoke Welsh, just over a quarter of all respondents (27 per cent) reported knowledge of a language other than English. French, German and Spanish were the most frequently mentioned languages, followed by Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.

Childminding business

Just over two-thirds of respondents (70 per cent) had been registered for at least three years. Almost a quarter (24 per cent) had been registered for at least 10 years, while, as in 2009, 14 per cent had registered in the previous 12 months (Fig. 1). Among childminders registered in England, just under three-quarters (72 per cent) had been rated either "outstanding" or "good" in their most recent Ofsted inspection.

Fig. 1



Almost all members were registered to care for at least one child under 8, with 42 per cent registered for the maximum of six children under 8 at any one time; in addition, 4 per cent reported that they were registered to care for more than six children on account of working with an assistant or co-childminder. On average, NCMA members are each caring for five to six children in total (the exact mean average being 5.9 children per member, up from 5.7 in 2009). In total, 40 per cent of respondents reported that they were caring for at least six children at present, with 38 per cent caring for three to five children and 19 per cent caring for one to two children.

Free early years education entitlement

Of all respondents looking after 3- and 4-year-old children, 17 per cent were providing the free entitlement to early years education, up from 15 per cent in 2009. Eight per cent of members in England provided free early years education for 2-year-olds, while 10 per cent of childminders in Wales provided similar care for 2-year-olds under the “Flying Start” scheme.

Pay and conditions

Respondents stated that they worked for an average of 37.5 hours per week, compared with 36.4 in 2009. Just over half of childminders (55 per cent) reported working for 40 hours or more per week.

The mean hourly fee charged by NCMA members was £3.84 per child, up from £3.61 in 2009. As in 2009, members in Greater London (£5.02) and the South-East (£3.95) charged the highest fees, while the East Midlands (£3.40) and West Midlands (£3.38) charged the lowest.

Table 1: Hourly rate per child

Region	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Greater London	4.64	5.02	0.38	8.2
South East	3.9	3.95	0.05	1.3
East of England	3.61	3.81	0.2	5.5
Wales	3.55	3.61	0.06	1.7
South West	3.53	3.52	-0.01	-0.3
North East	3.38	3.52	0.14	4.1
North West	3.32	3.53	0.21	6.3
Yorks & Humber	3.27	3.45	0.18	5.5
East Midlands	3.14	3.4	0.26	8.3
West Midlands	3.1	3.38	0.28	9.0
NCMA Total	£3.61	£3.84	£0.23	6 %

Fewer members than in 2009 reported a turnover of less than £7,000 (30 per cent in 2010, compared with 41 per cent in 2009). Six per cent of childminding businesses reported a turnover of £20,000 or more in 2010, compared with 3 per cent in 2009.

Caring for children with additional needs

Just over one in six members (16 per cent) reported caring for disabled children or those with additional requirements, as in 2009. In total 37 per cent of all respondents had received training in caring for disabled children and those with special educational needs (SEN), a slight increase on 2009's figure of 35 per cent.

Community childminding

15 per cent of members were providing care on behalf of their local authority, an increase from 12 per cent in 2009. This type of provision was typically paid directly by local authority social care, at an average rate of £4.57 per hour. This is 19 per cent higher than the average hourly fee charged by NCMA members for their normal services.

Childminding networks

44 per cent of respondents said that they were part of a formal childminding network or a quality assurance scheme. Of these, respondents were most commonly members of an NCMA Children Come First Network (20 per cent) or a local authority-run network (19 per cent).

Qualifications and training

Half of members (50 per cent) held a level 3 childcare qualification, an increase from 45 per cent in 2009 and 41 per cent in 2008. The most common level 3 qualification was the relevant NVQ Level 3, held by approximately a quarter of members (26 per cent).

Just over three quarters of members (79 per cent) had undertaken some form of childcare training within the past 12 months. Almost two-thirds of these had been provided with training by their local authority.

NCMA membership

Members continued to be very satisfied with NCMA's services: just over four-fifths (82 per cent) of members said that they would be "very likely" to recommend NCMA, while a further 13 per cent would be "quite likely" to do so. The most valued benefit of NCMA membership was reported to be the public liability insurance, followed by Who Minds?, the magazine for members.