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Maternity Services in a Changing World

Professor Cathy Warwick CBE

RCM General Secretary

16 November 2010

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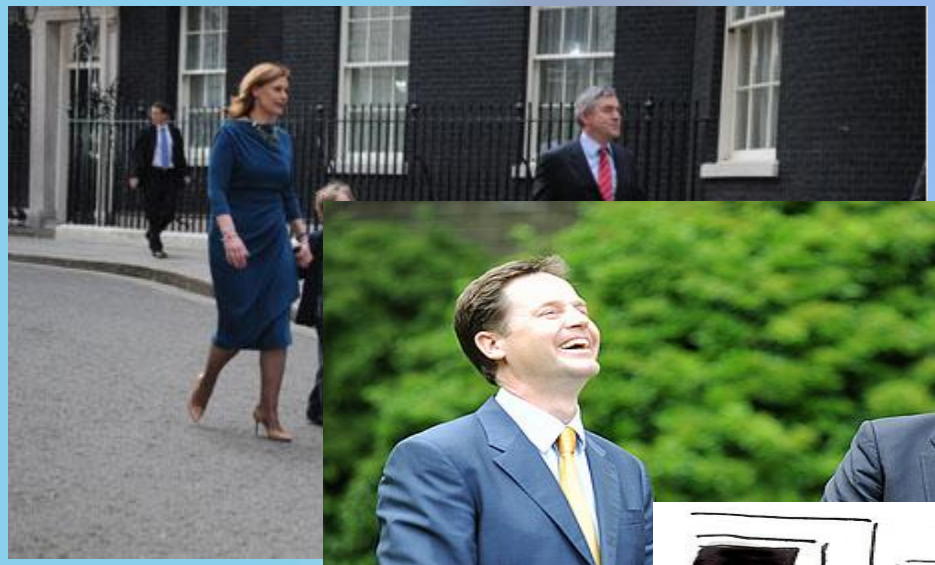

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RCM Heads of Midwifery Survey 2010

- 67% of HOMs say midwifery establishment not enough to meet activity levels
- 30% of HOMs report midwifery budget cut
- 85% of midwives report an increased workload in the last year
- 42% of HOMs say morale has deteriorated in last year

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Cuts to maternity services

- Birth centres threatened with closure
- Withdrawal of funding for new MLUs
- Downbanding of midwife posts
- Vacancy freezes and cuts to staffing
- Attack on sickness and disciplinary procedures

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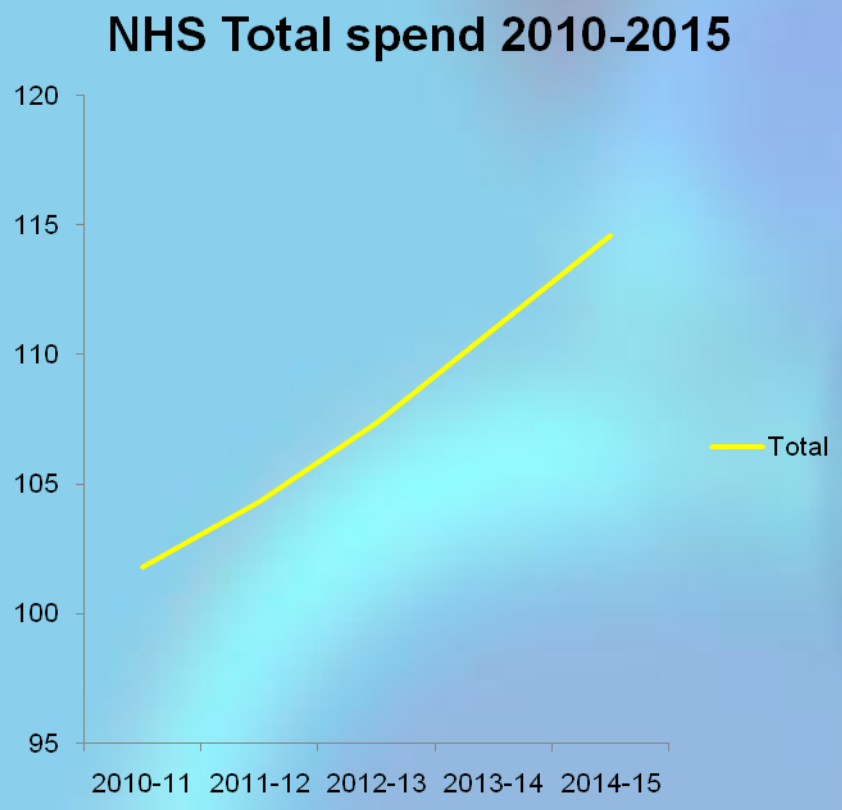

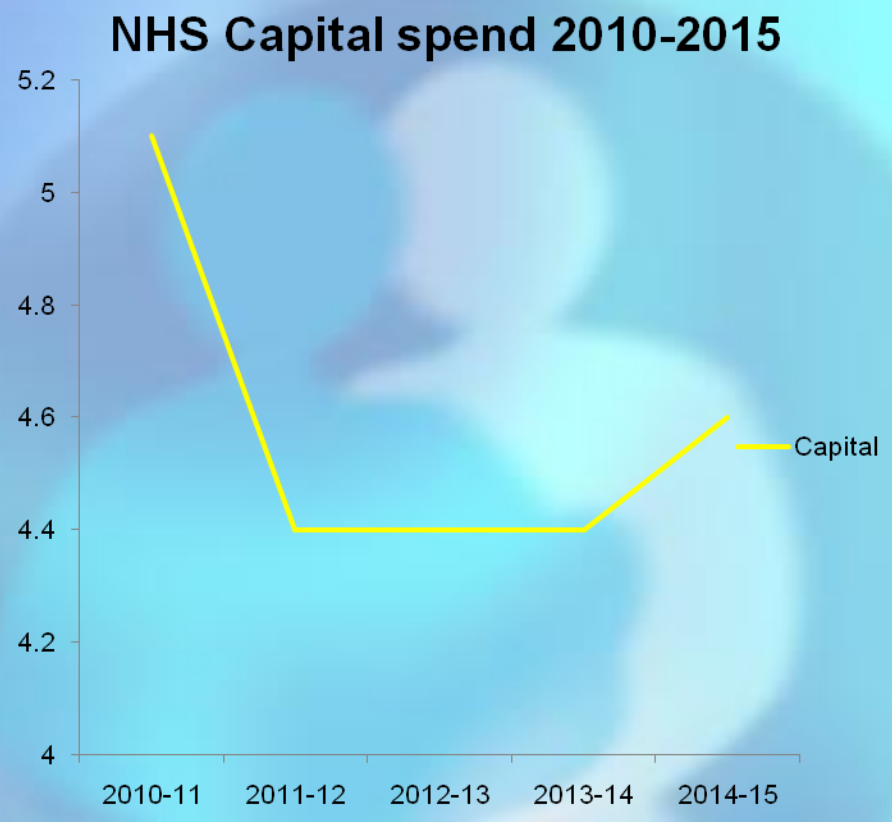

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Cuts across Britain

- **Scotland:** NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde: 1200 jobs to go, including 670 'nursing and midwifery posts'; NHS Lothian: 700 job cuts

- **Wales:** Health budget to be cut by 3% per year from 2011/12 to 2013/14; Health Boards asked to save £7m per month

- **Northern Ireland:** Trusts required to make enormous efficiency savings; savings not ploughed back into trust budgets.

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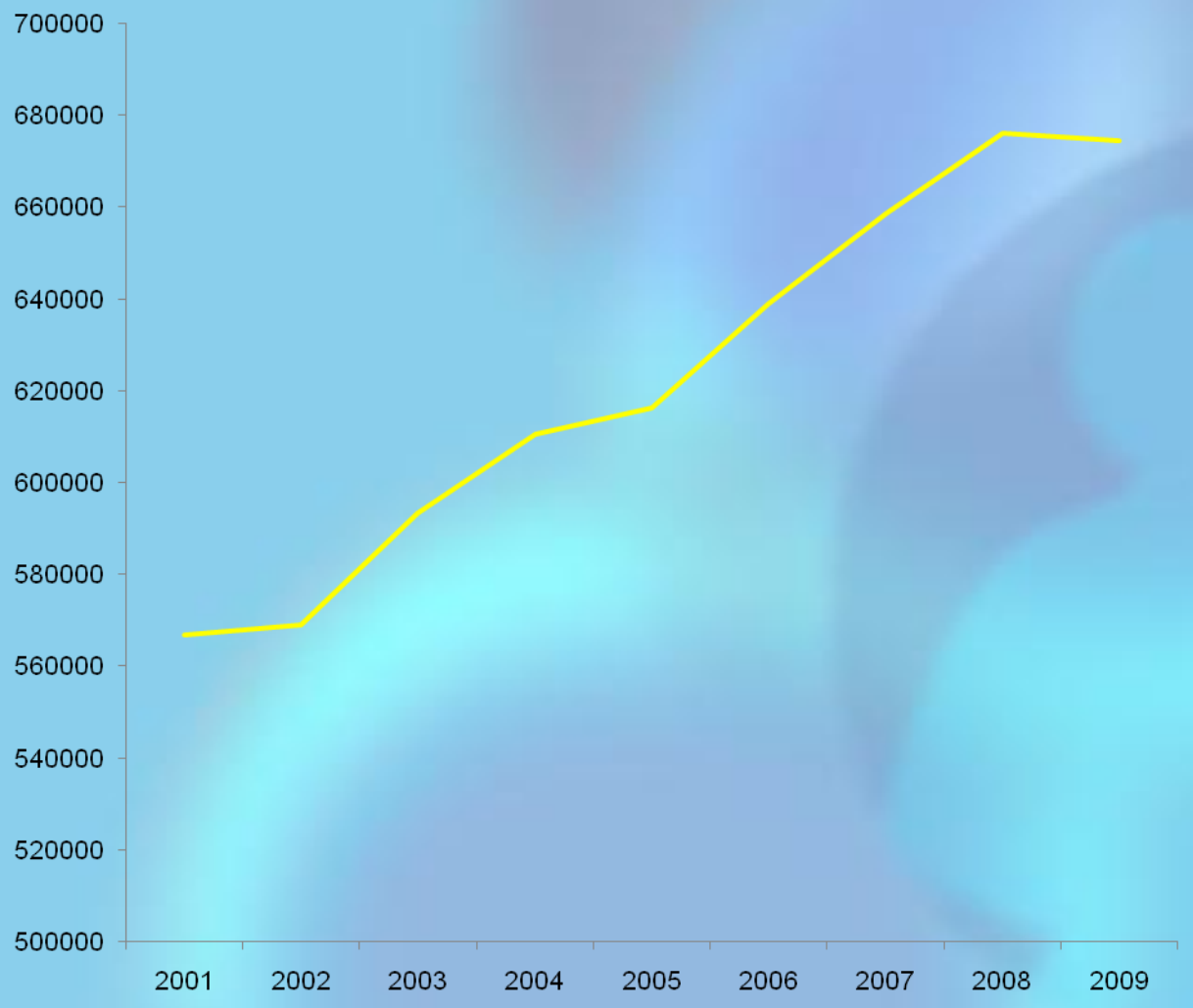
Births England 2001-2009



19%

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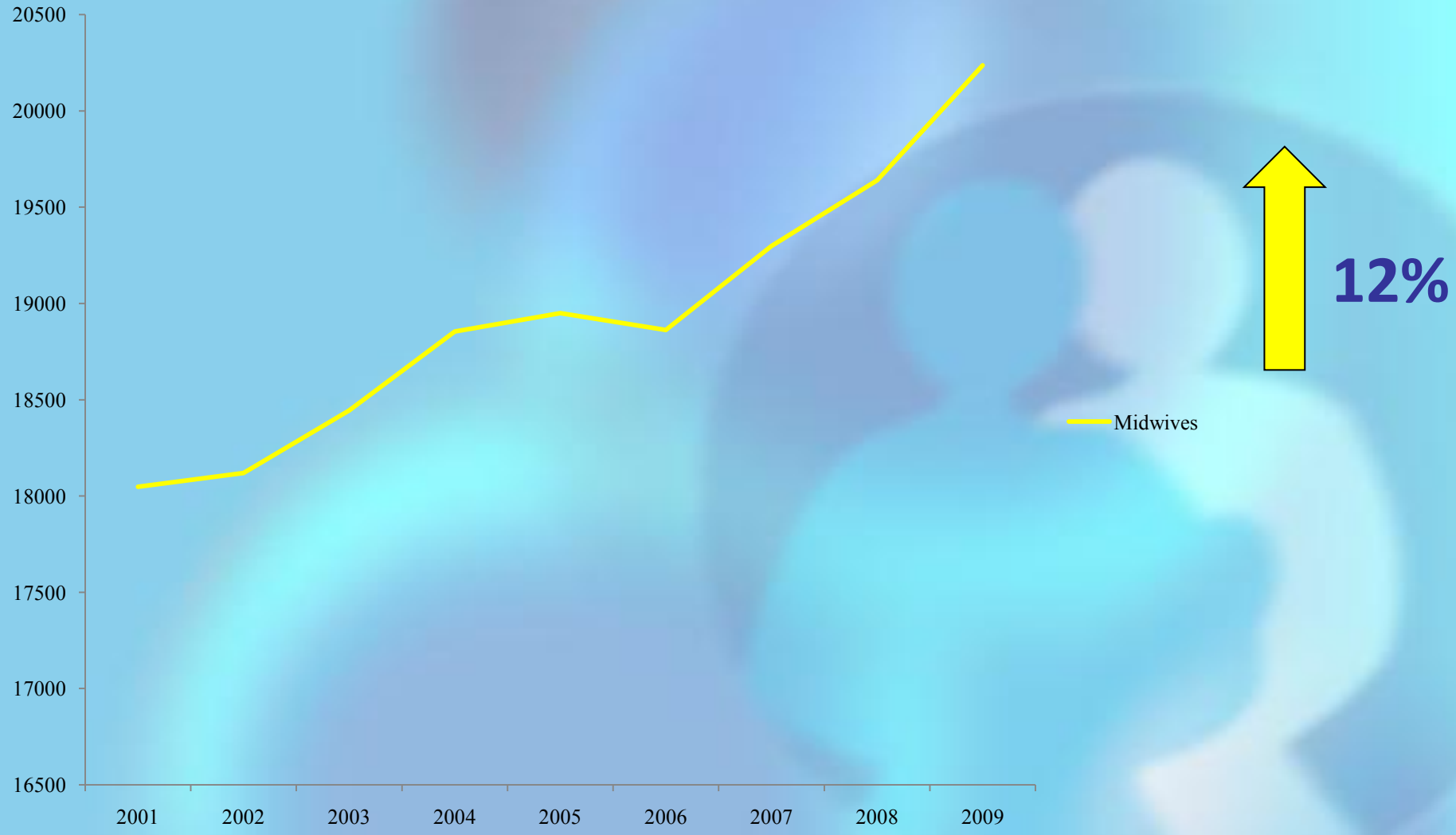
FTE Midwives England 2001-2009



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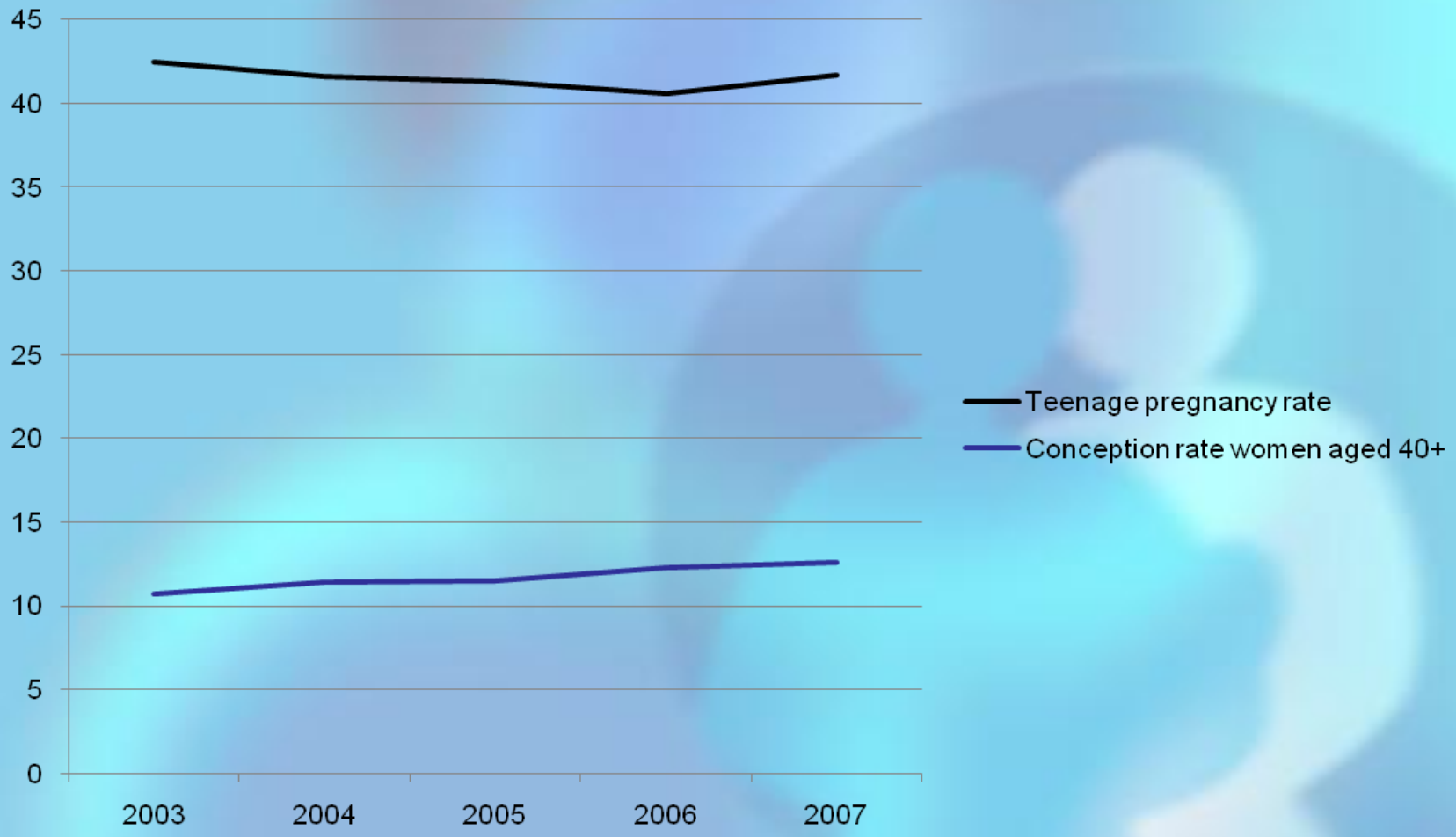
Conception rates for teenage parents and older mothers, 2003 to 2007



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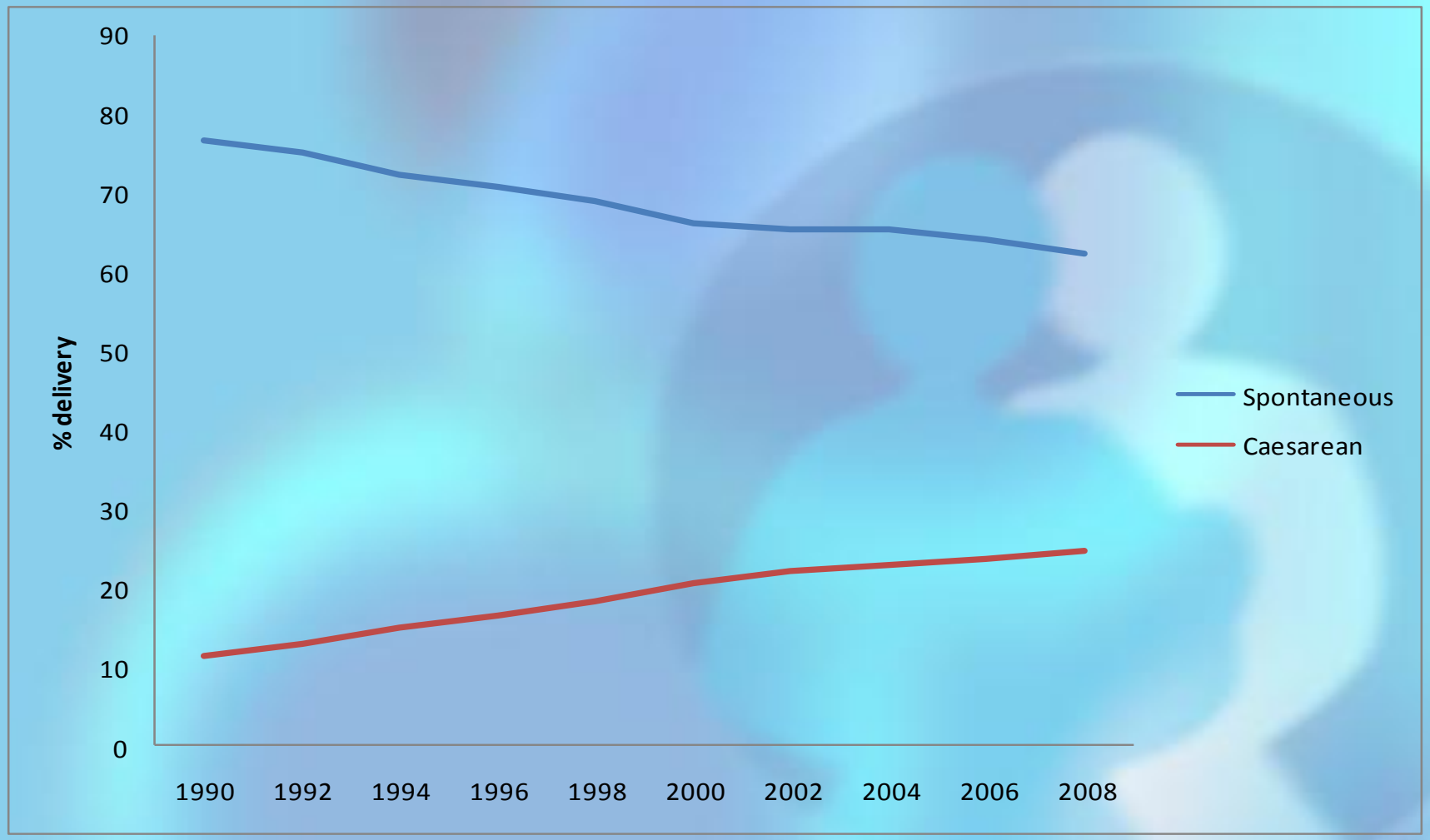
Method of delivery 1990-2008



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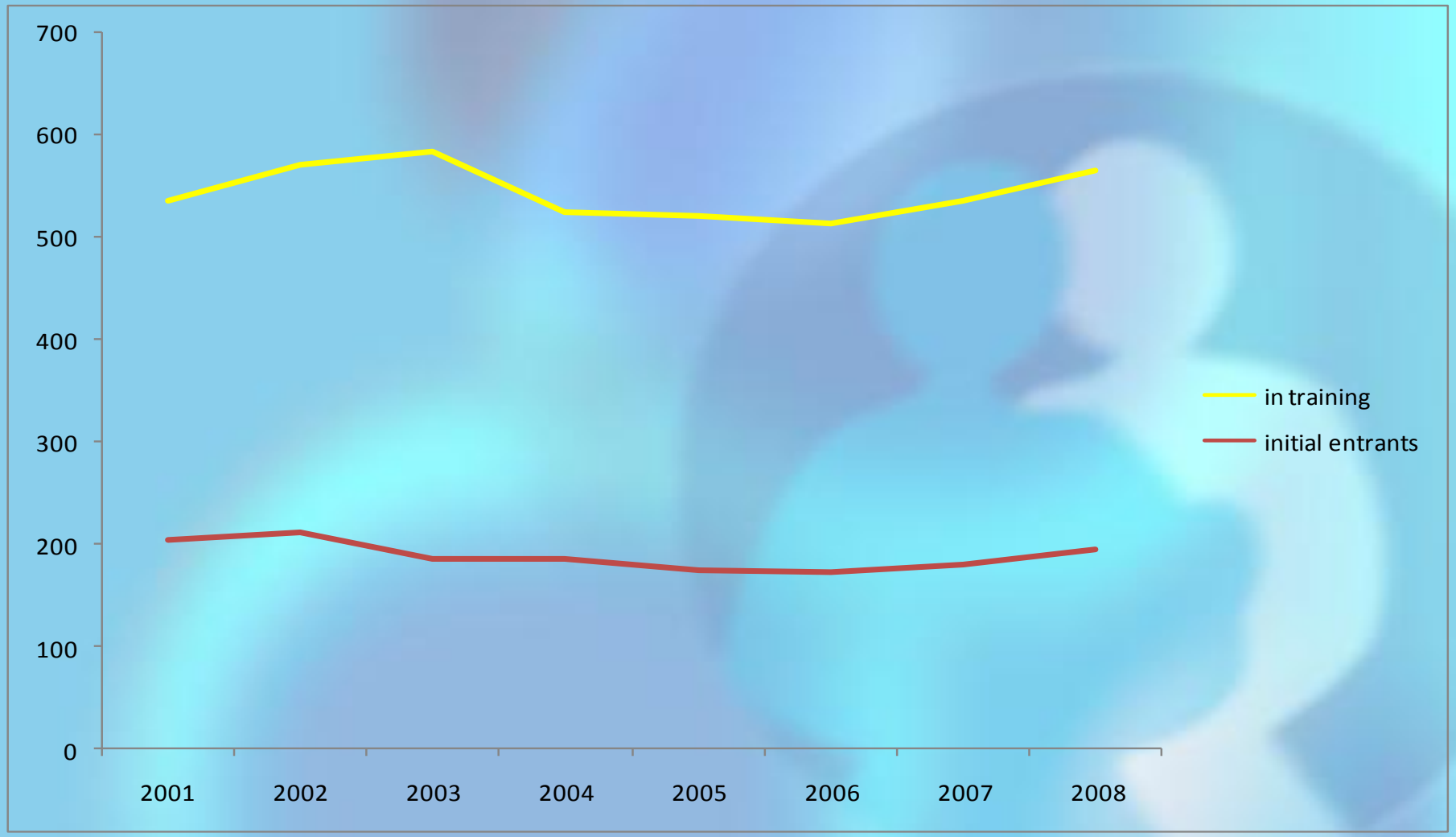
Student midwife numbers Scotland



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Challenges and threats

- Terms and conditions for NHS Midwives
- Viability of independent midwifery
- Overemphasis on risk

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International challenges

- Every minute, a woman dies of pregnancy related complications
- 1.5 million newborns die within first 24 hours of life
- Every year 10 million women suffer debilitating illnesses and lifelong disabilities

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Opportunities for maternity services: the NHS White Paper

- More accessible information; greater use of patient experience and staff feedback
- Fewer targets, more outcome measures
- Professional ownership of training and education
- Extension of maternity choice via development of maternity networks

Opportunities for maternity services: UK developments

- Scotland: refreshing the Framework for Maternity Services

- Northern Ireland: review of maternity services; creation of CMUs at Downpatrick and Lagan Valley

- Wales: RCM involved in National Overview Group

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MIDWIFERY 2020

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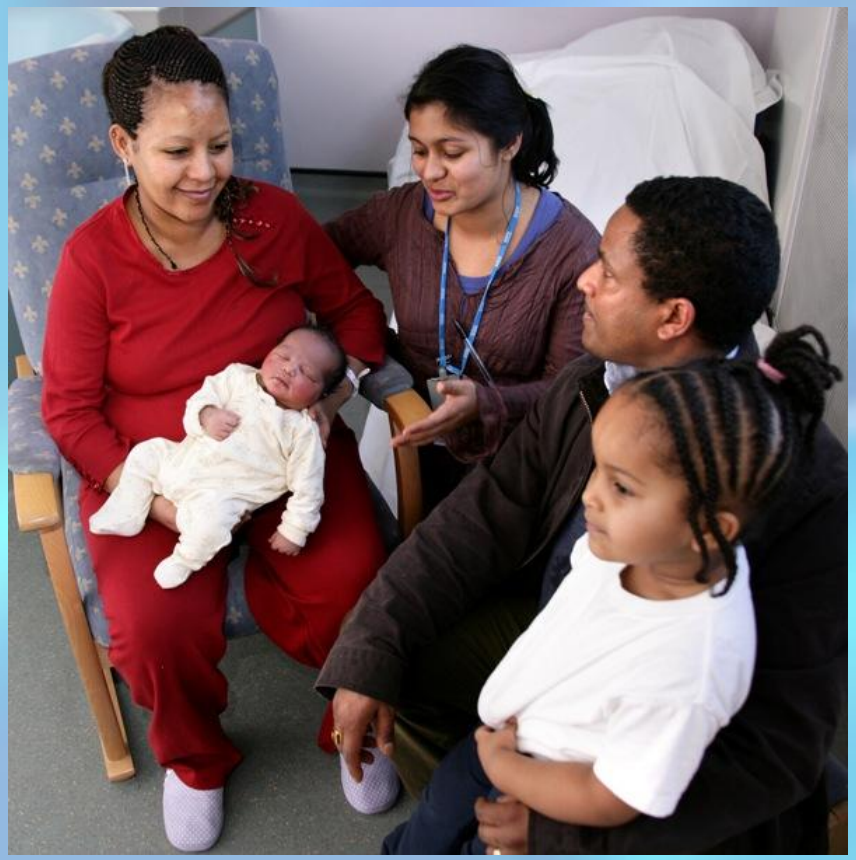

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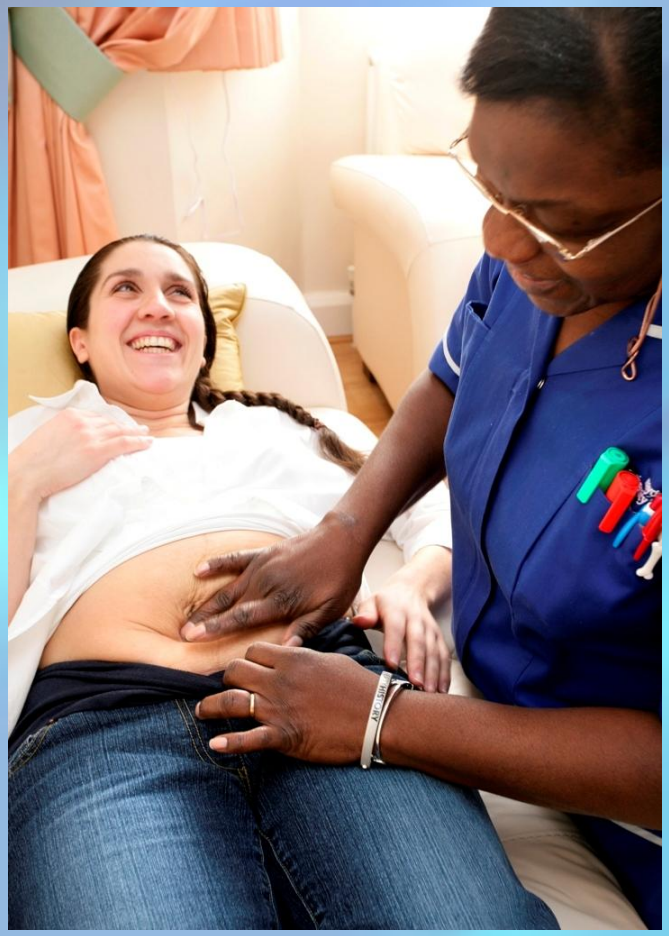

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Factors underpinning success

Leadership

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Factors underpinning success

Thinking flexibly

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Factors underpinning success

Team work

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Factors underpinning success

Working with women

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Factors underpinning success

Challenge risk

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