

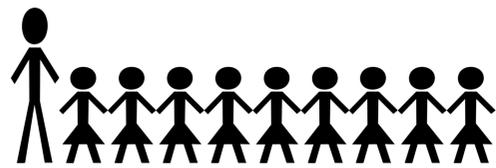


Male Sign Language Interpreters Working in Mental Health Settings



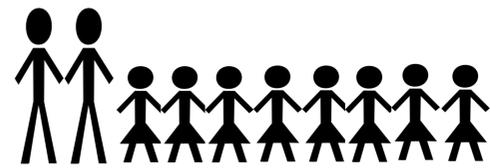
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The Nursing Profession



11% Male & 89% Female registered nurses in 2016 – (NMC, UK)

The Interpreting Profession



17% Male & 83% Female registered SLIs in 2011 – (ASLI, 2011)



34% Male & 66% Female Psychiatric nurses in England (Bowers, L., Jones, J. & Simpson, A., 2009).



37% Male & 63% Female SLIs in the mental health setting I work in.



This preliminary research into male Sign Language interpreters working in mental health settings indicates that the men in the field have experienced situations where male patients will request and respond positively to male interpreters, which may contribute to their recovery. Some interpreters described themselves as not being ‘alpha male’ and being laid back and flexible, which they feel helps in this setting. Although sometimes using size and demeanour can help to pacify certain situations. One research participant expressed that having a large number of men working in this setting may encourage more men to join. However, one challenge can be the fact that there are many clients in one location – Deaf & hearing staff and Deaf & hearing patients, thereby having to consider the “dynamic of Access to Work needs versus interpreting in real life situations”.



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