A NEW VIEW

Pamela Swain, Chief Executive of the British Association for Dental Nurses, reports the results of a recent BADN survey of dental nurses.

The BADN Dental Nurse Survey, conducted recently on the BADN website, showed some interesting results.

Despite the belief that most dental nurses leave after only a few years (the Nuffield Report of 1993 stated that the average working life of a dental nurse was 4 ½ years¹), nearly half of those in our survey had been working for more than 10 years, with another quarter having worked for between 5 and 10 years.

Although the traditional view of the dental nurse is that they are very young, our survey showed that the largest group to respond were those between 25 and 35, followed by the 35-45 age group (figure 1).

More than three quarters of those who completed the survey were already qualified and of those who weren't, 80% were on train-

ing courses. Seventy per cent of the qualified dental nurses surveyed were currently on the Voluntary National Register.

One area where the responses were as anticipated is in the area of dentistry where respondents worked - with the largest number working in general practice (figure 2).

Twenty-seven per cent of respondents cited the ordering of stock and equipment as part of their duties and another 28% listed health and safety (figure 3).

Of course, these results reflect the fact that it is more likely to be the more dedicated, professional dental nurses who bothered to complete our survey. Because the survey was on the public part of the BADN website the survey was open to both members and non-members.

1 Nuffield Foundation. Education and training of personnel auxiliary to dentistry. London: Nuffield Foundation, 1993.

The three prize winners drawn at random were:

Spa day:

Nicola Croton

Decleor cosmetics:

Bobbiejo McKee-Larter

Holiday vouchers:

Alla Farooq

Our thanks to everyone who took part, and to 3M Espe for their sponsorship.

dental nurse survey:

Figure 1: Age of respondents

Figure 2: Area of dentistry worked in

Figure 3: Other responsibilities