



Community nursing contributions to palliative and end-of-life care: national and regional service evaluations

The challenge

Community and district nursing services contributions to palliative and end-of-life care are:

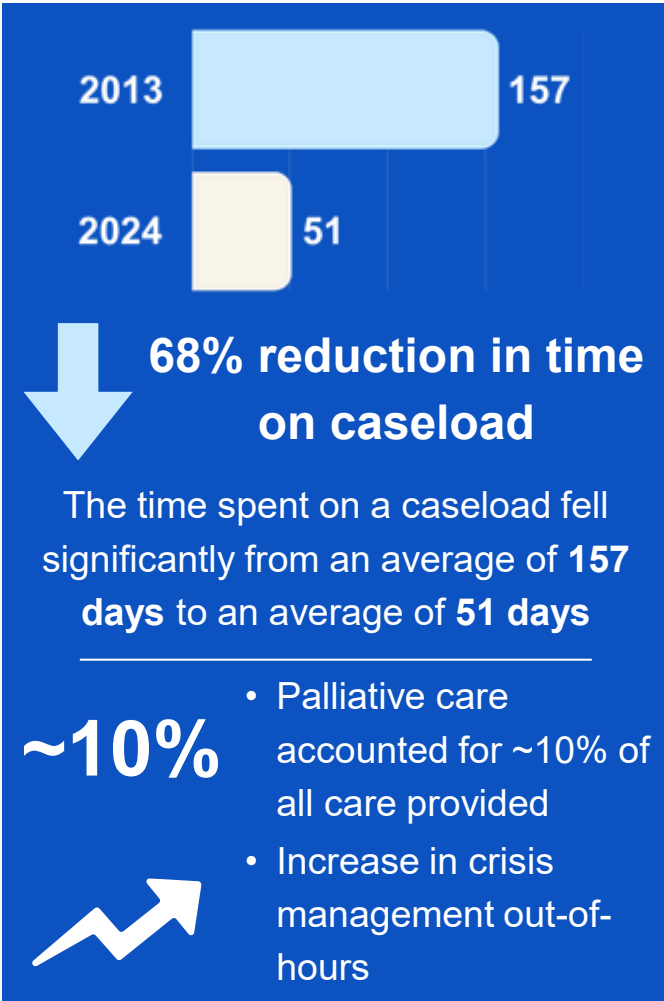
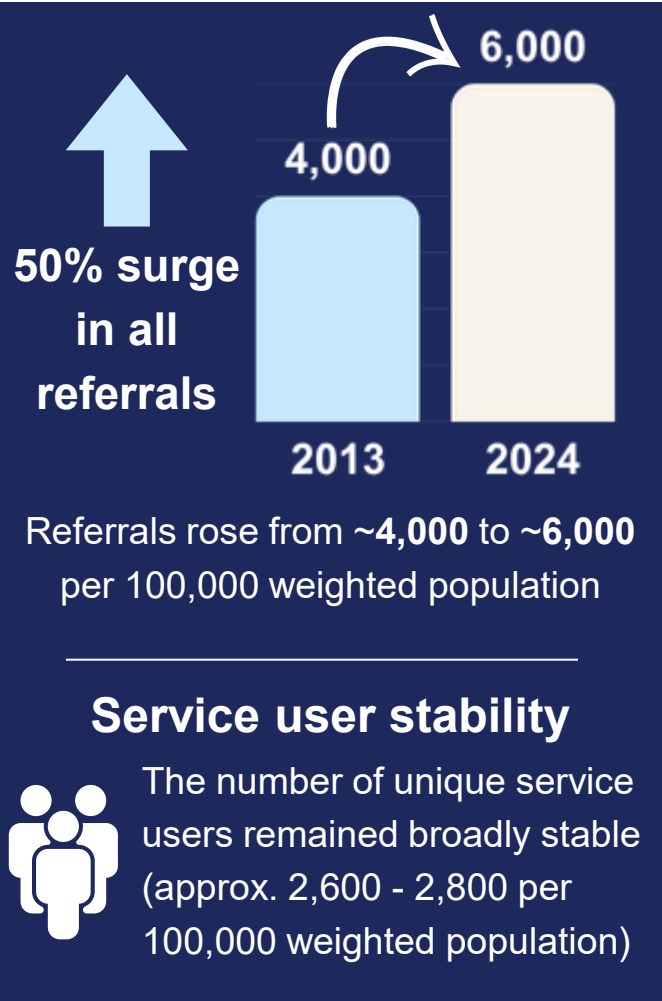
- Under-described
- Difficult to identify and report, especially over time
- Rarely available for research



We addressed this challenge using:

- Over 10 years of national district and community nursing data from the NHS Benchmarking Network (between 2013 and 2024) to examine patterns of service provision over time.
- Three years of regional data (between 2023 and 2025) from 27 community health nursing teams in Birmingham to understand the time spent on palliative and end-of-life care activities in the context of all nursing care provided.

What we found



Why this matters

Provides evidence for workforce planning

Gives better understanding of workforce pressures

Demonstrates increased need for out-of-hours care

Highlights the value of detailed and consistent data



Patient and Public Partners said:

“From our own experiences, we know how difficult and distressing it can be when support is hard to access, particularly at nights, weekends or in a crisis. These findings highlight the vital contribution that community and district nursing services make to help people to stay comfortable at home, and the importance of workforce planning so that everyone can access the care and support they need when they need it.”

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