

# **Current Status of IPC Training**

## **A South African Assessment**

**4<sup>th</sup> FIDDSA Congress  
8-11 September 2011**



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# Quality Care and Safety

- Competency levels of IPC officers need to be strengthened so that high standards of practice are established and maintained
- Right number of IPC officers with the right skills in the right places at the right time
- Proactive workforce planning



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# Motivation for Assessment

- IPC is one of the six priority areas for fast-track improvement (SA NDoH)
- In May 2010: National IPC Programme
- Do we have the capacity to deliver on this programme?



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# SA National IPC Policy and Strategy

- IPC The number of trained IPC officers should ideally be one IPC officer per 200 patient beds
  
- Who is a trained IPC officer?



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# Professional Standards

- Describe a level of individual competence in the professional role
- Professionals are expected to incorporate 'practice standards' to their role
- Qualifications and professional development



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# Recommended Qualifications to practice in IPC

- A professional with a health sciences background – nurse only?
- Becomes certified in IPC through a specific IPC Certification Board?
- Maintains certification?
- Accreditation of training institutions?



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# Professional Development

- Acquires and maintains current knowledge and skills in the IPC field
  
- Indicators for practice standards?



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# An Assessment of HR Capacity to manage IPC Services in Public Health Facilities in South Africa



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# Objectives

1. To determine the professional profiles of the existing pool of IPC officers at facility level
2. To assess the number of existing IPC officers (recommended versus actual number)
3. To identify the most frequent tasks, responsibilities (full-time versus part-time) and level of competencies
4. To assess the organisation of IPC structures at facility level
- 5. To identify the IPC training core curriculum, determine training gaps as well as the relevant training institutions**
6. To generate data for advocacy to statutory health professional councils for recognition of IPC qualifications



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# Methodology (I)

- A self-administered tool was used to collect cross-sectional data among IPC officers through their relevant provincial and district coordinators
- Provincial HR officials were informed through the NDoH HR Policy, Planning and Research Directorate



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# Methodology (II)

- Survey instrument consisted of 3 parts:
  - details of the HC establishment  
(health district, size, level of service package)
  - profiles of the IPC Officer  
(incl. IPC training levels)
  - IPC organization and activities
- 2 phases: **Nov-Dec 2010** and June 2011-present



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# Results

**Table 1:** Distribution of the 253 Infection Prevention and Control Officers per Province

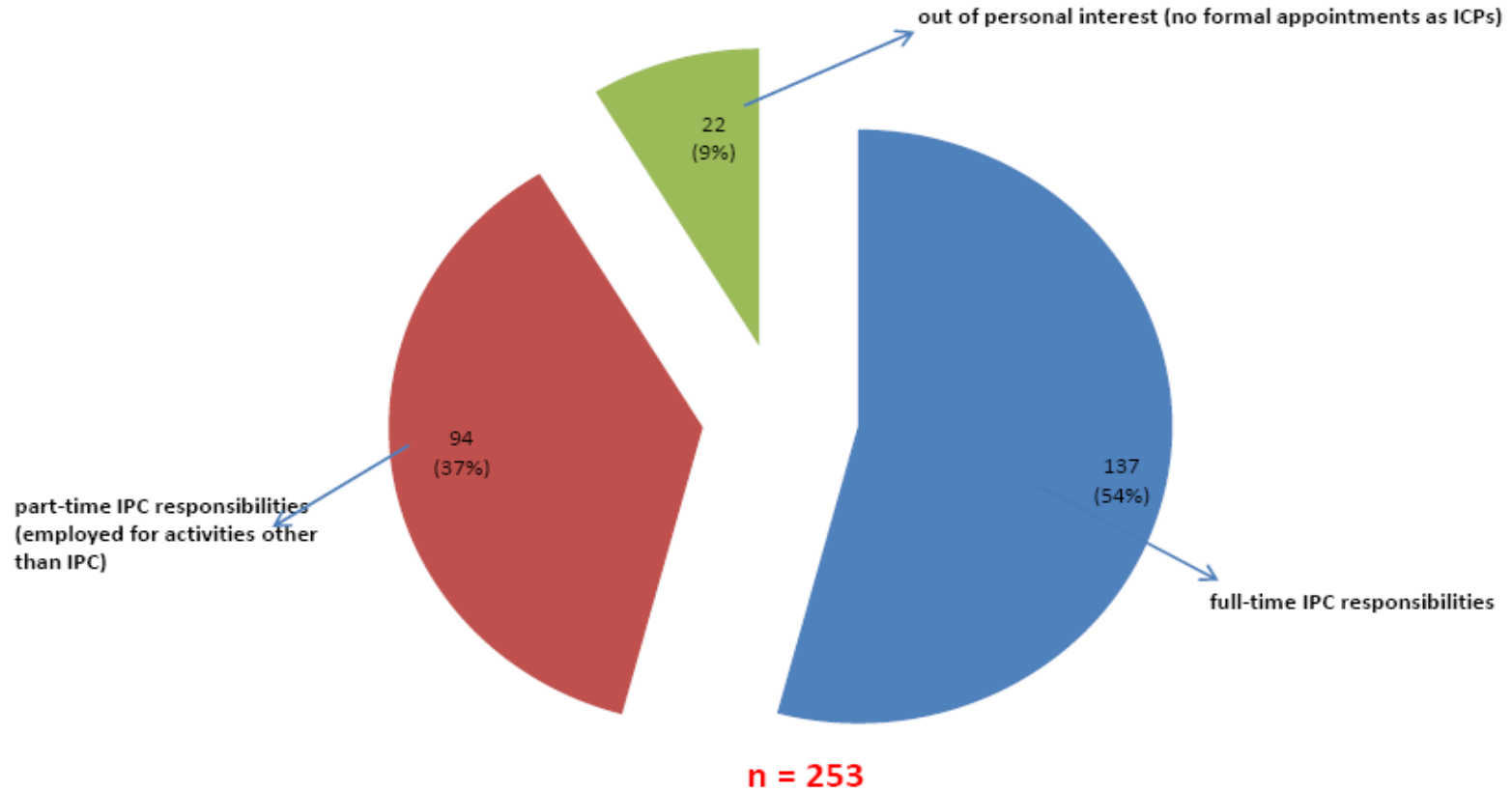
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	total
PHC facilities		4	41	6		2	5		58
district hospitals	2	25	6	33	12	17	11	1	107
provincial hospitals		1	11	6		5	3	2	28
regional hospitals		6	2	5					13
tertiary / academic hospitals		2	12	2	1	1			18
district / provincial offices		4	4	1			1		10
specialised facilities									
tuberculosis hospitals			1	3					4
oral /dental			5						5
psychiatric			2	4					6
others (not specified)				2	2				4
<b>total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>253</b>



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# Profiles of IPC Officers



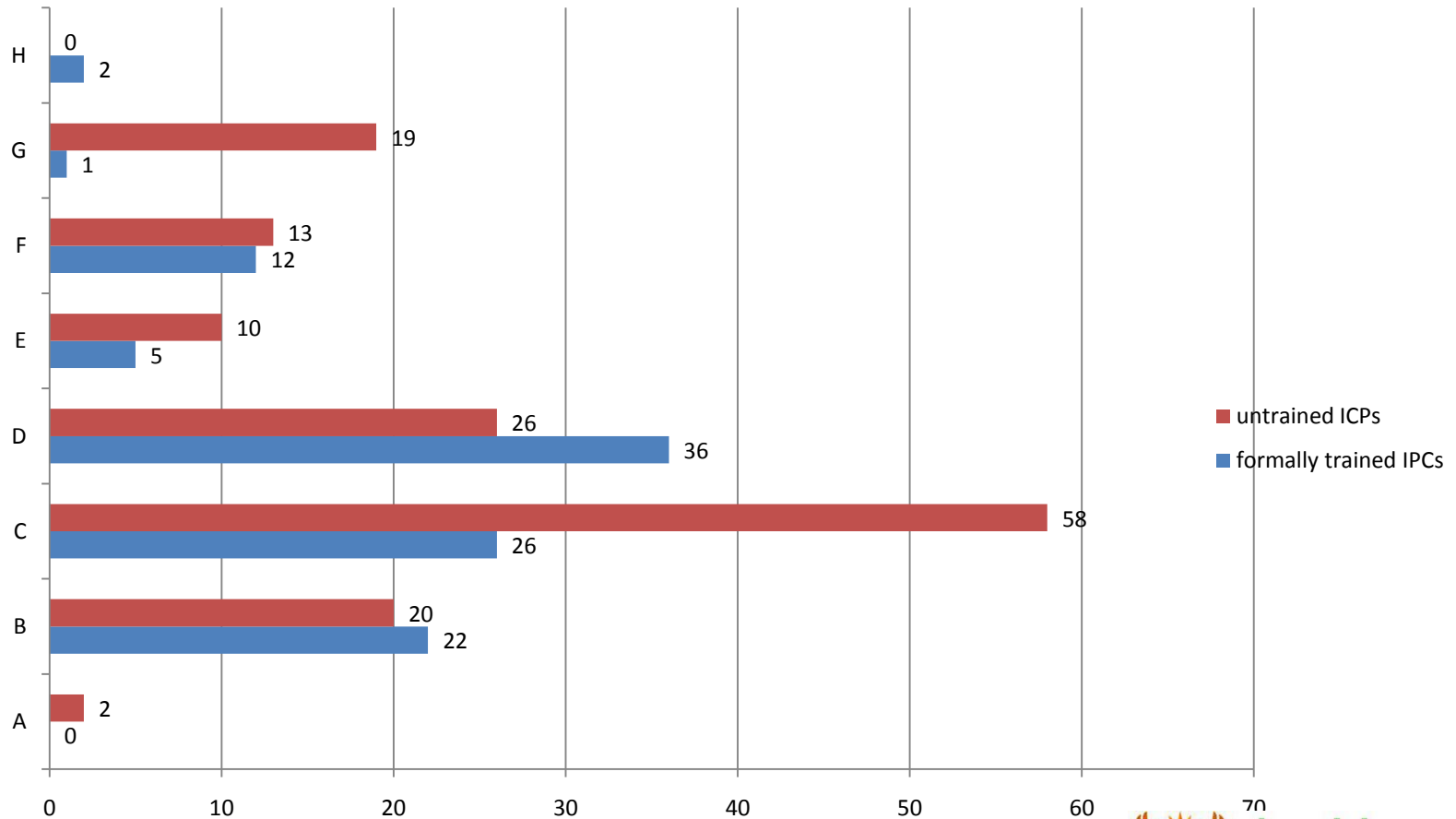
\*\* Only 94 IPC nurses out of 253 (37%) receive support from a medical doctor with an IPC insight



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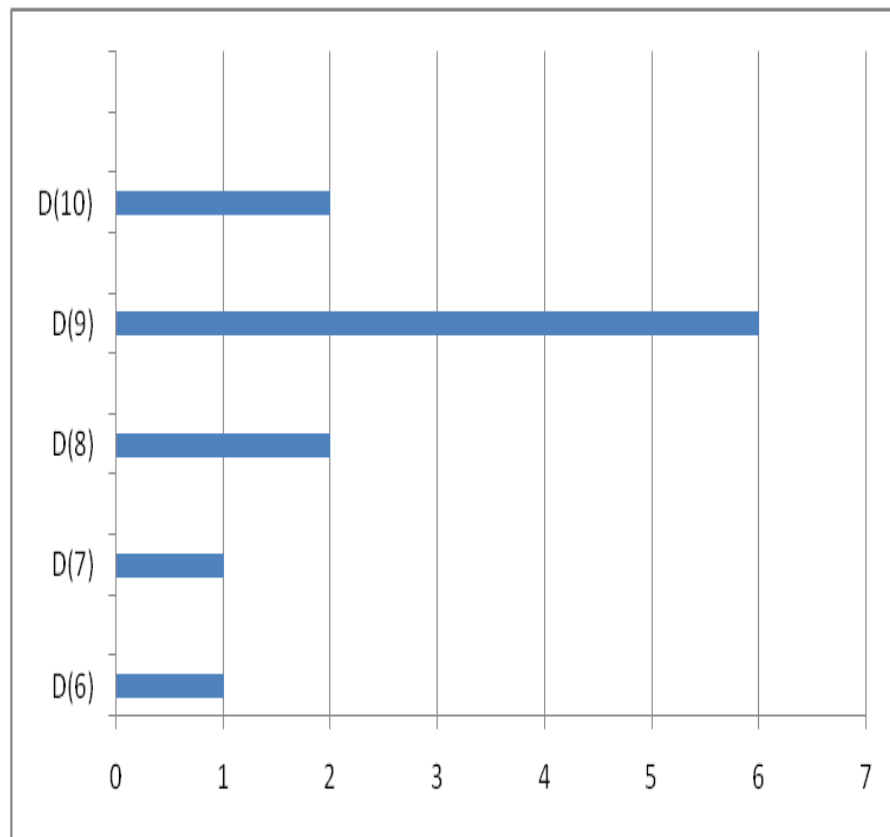
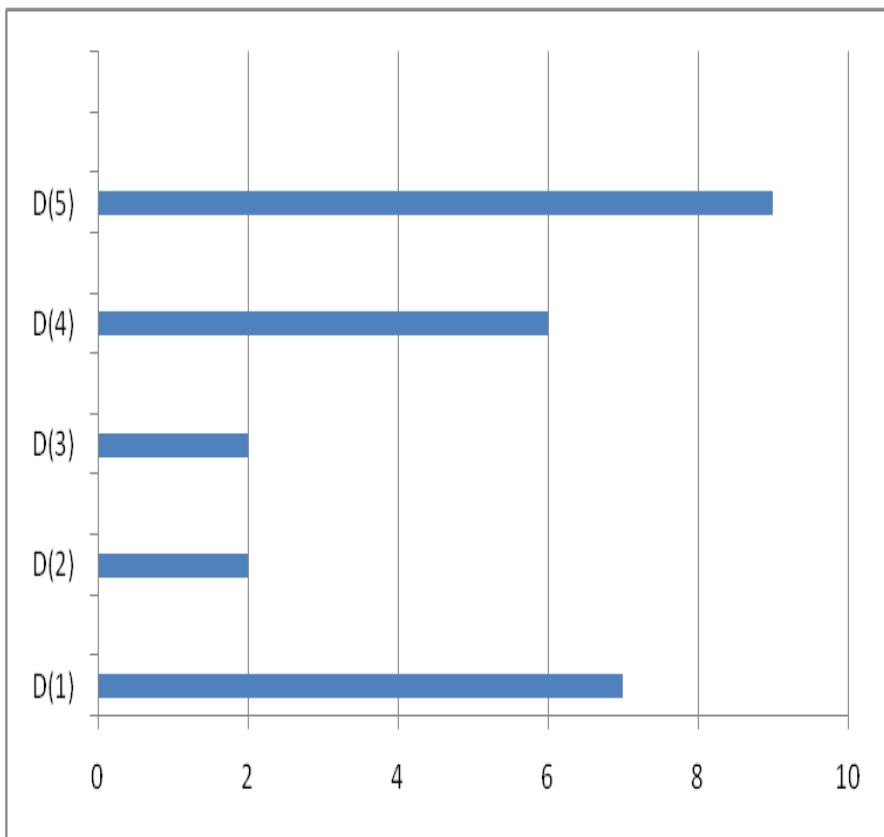
# Trained versus Untrained IPC Officers per Province



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# Distribution of the Trained IPC Officers per Health (D Province)



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# Training Levels of IPC Officers

Profiles of formally trained Infection Control Professionals: 104 out of 253 (41%) participants

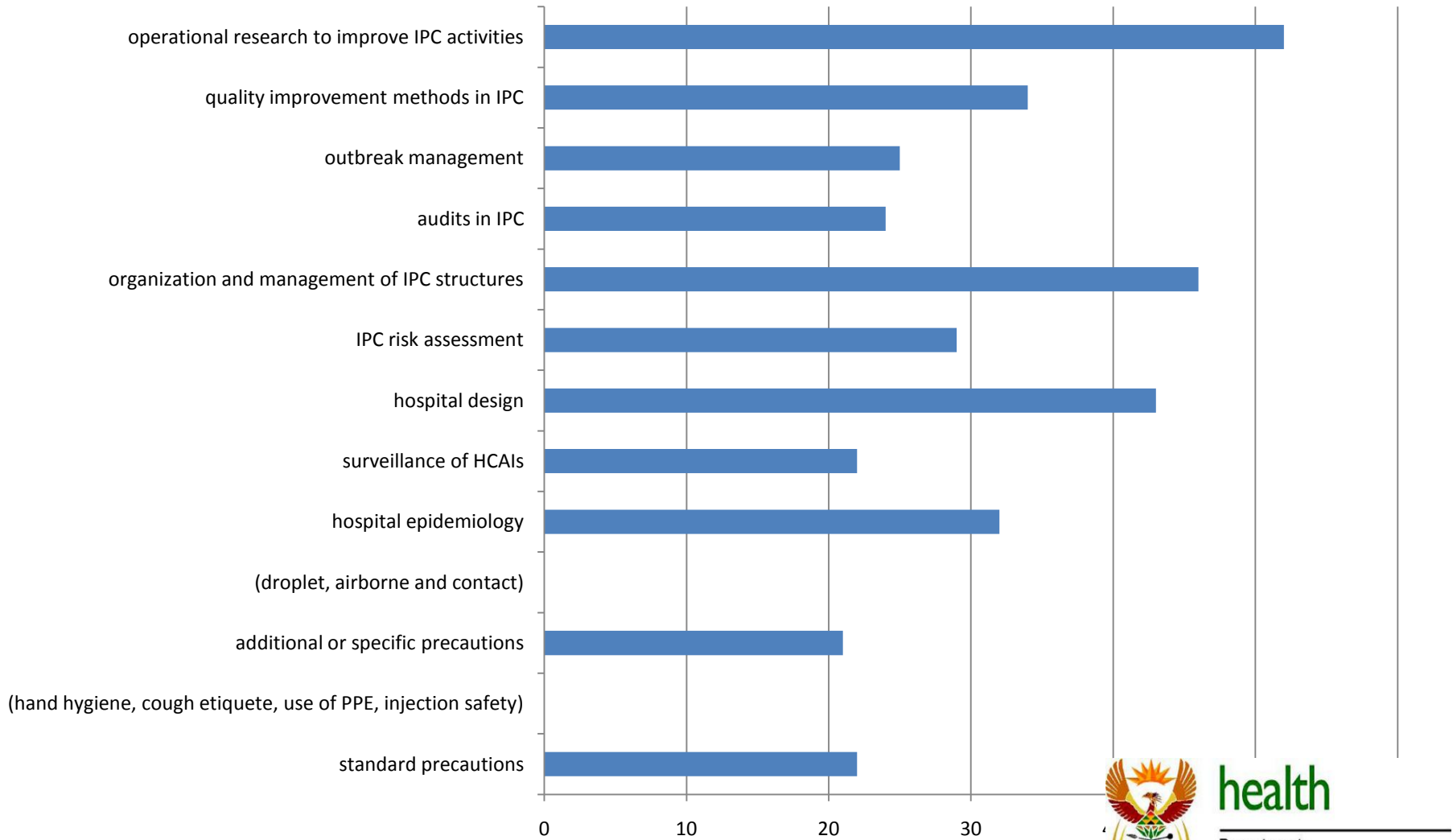
level of training	n	training institution	duration
certificate IPC	<b>n = 78</b>		
	34	Wits University	1 year, part-time
	26	Netcare training Academy	6 months, part-time
	11	C.M Johannesburg hospital	6 months, full-time
	2	University of Stellenbosch	6 months, part-time
	2	Medical University of SA	1 year, part-time
	2	Lifemed (Afrox)	6 months, part-time
	1	Greys hospital (KZN)	1 year, part-time
Diploma IPC nursing Science	<b>n = 1</b>	Carinus Nursing College (Cape Town)	1 year, full-time
Post-graduate Diploma IPC	<b>n = 13</b>		
	6	University of Stellenbosch	2 years, part-time
	7	Wits University	2 years, part-time
BSc (Honours) IPC	<b>n = 12</b>	University of KwaZulu-Natal	1 year, full-time



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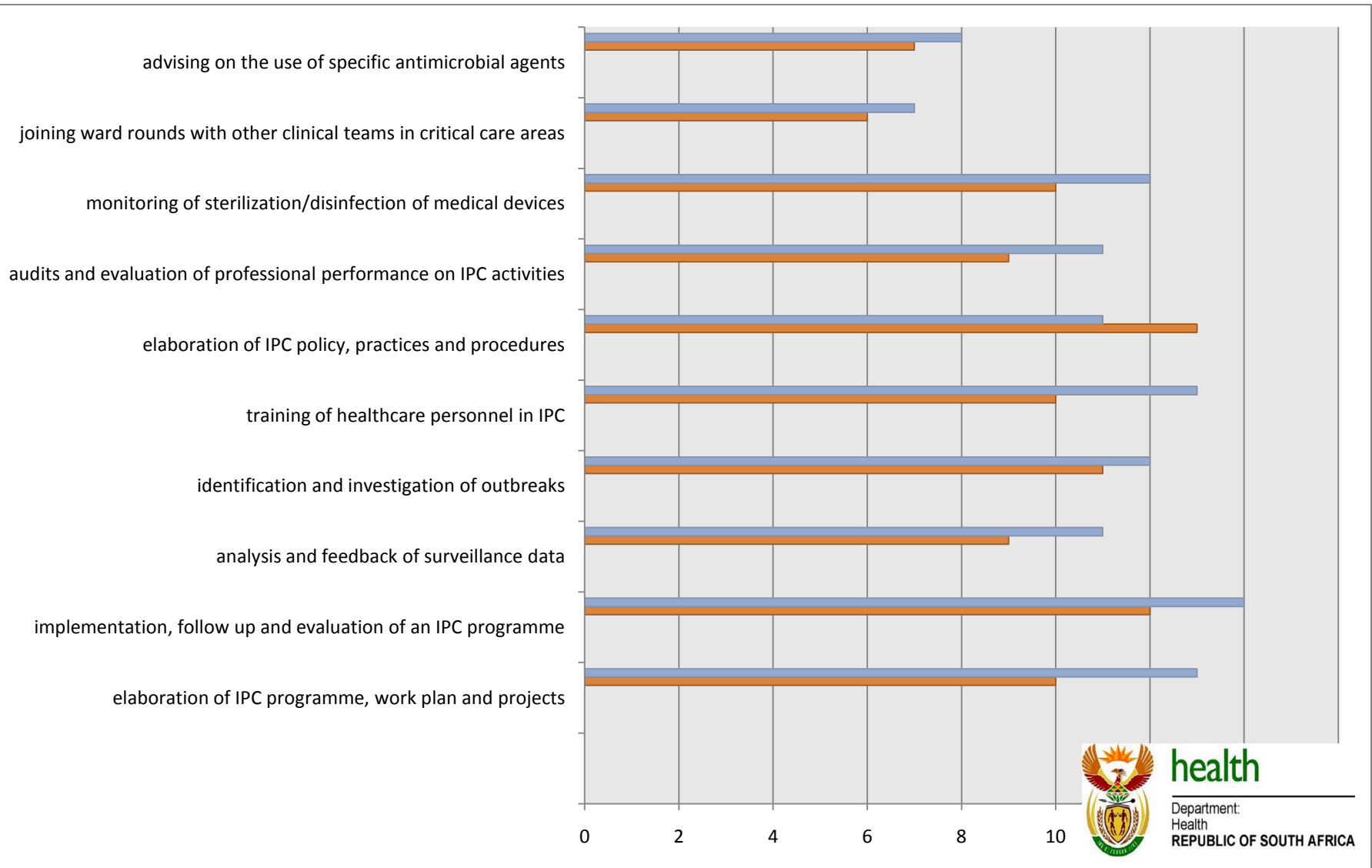
# IPC Module Gaps among IPC Officers



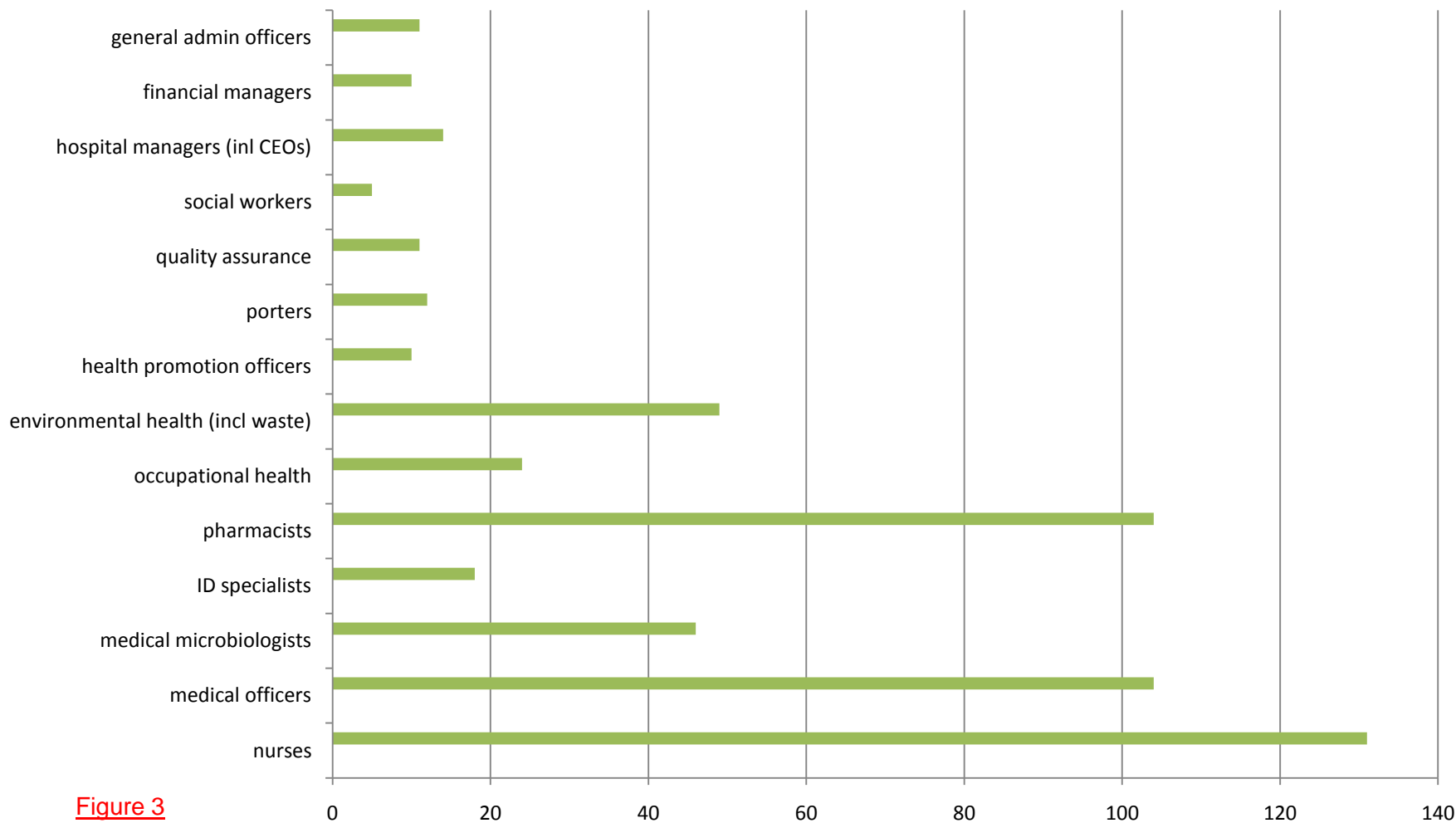
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# Task Analysis: Trained versus Untrained



# Composition of IPC Committees



**Figure 3**

**\*\*Decisions taken by IPC committees are unlikely to be implemented due to lack of strong support from senior managers who are not actively represented in IPC committees**



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# Summary (I)

- (3) academic centres offering postgraduate training in IPC
  - Wits University: certificate and diploma
  - Stellenbosch University: certificate and diploma
  - UKZN: BSc Hons degree
- Universities of Free State and Pretoria(?)
- Netcare, Life Healthcare & Medi Clinic private hospital groups: IPC certificate



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# Summary (II)

- All these courses are not recognised by the SA Nursing Council for career development purposes (efforts underway)
- Compounded by the fact that IPC officers are not covered by the occupational specific dispensation system, makes it difficult to recruit and retain skilled individuals to ensure safe and quality patient care
- Content of these courses is not standardised nationally (need to do so)

# Summary (III)

- Efforts underway: standardised IPC curriculum for “Advanced IPC Diploma”
- National IPC Manual (under editing)



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# Summary (IV)

- In many provinces formal training in IPC is not a prerequisite for appointment
- Although many IPC officers may have no formal training in the field, it is likely that many have accumulated a number of years of experience



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# Acknowledgments

- NDoH – provincial / district IPC coordinators
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