New research* led by Professor Rosalind Searle at Coventry University’s Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations and funded by the Professional Standards Authority analysed thousands of fitness to practise decisions** and identifies three different types of perpetrator committing acts of professional misconduct:

- **Misconduct amongst health professionals**
  - the ‘bad apple’ – the self-serving individual out for personal gain
  - the corrupted barrel – individuals corrupted by the falling standards in their workplace
  - the depleted barrel – individuals struggling to cope with the pressures of working life

**Sexual misconduct**
- 6,714 cases involved crossing of professional boundaries
- 265 cases were sampled and coded

- **Regulators**
  - 29.8% = GMC
  - 45.7% = NMC
  - 24.5% = HCPC

- **Gender bias** was found in perpetrators with men dominating each profession
- **Location**
  - Most incidents occurred in the workplace
  - Workplace = 153
  - Outside work = 81
  - Both = 31

- **Target**
  - Patients were the target in most incidents
  - Patients = 151
  - Colleagues = 72
  - Both = 9
  - Other = 31

- Male = 230
- Female = 35

- A higher proportion of incidents were committed by men
- **Breakdown by profession**
  - **Doctors**
    - Total cases coded: 79
    - Male = 78
    - Female = 1
  - **Nurses**
    - Total cases coded: 121
    - Male = 96
    - Female = 25
  - **Allied professionals**
    - Total cases coded: 65
    - Male = 56
    - Female = 9

In nearly all incidents the target was the opposite sex

*Bad apples? Bad barrels? Or bad cellars? Antecedents and processes of professional misconduct in UK Health and Social Care: Insights into sexual misconduct and dishonesty

This research was conducted by Professor Rosalind Searle, Dr C Rice and Dr A A McConnell of the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University with additional input from Professor Jeremy Dawson, University of Sheffield.

The research was funded by the Professional Standards Authority.

These statistics quoted are headline/key statistics extracted from the research. For context/more information about research methodology, read the full report.

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