

# East Midlands Information Analysts Development Programme

Building analytic skills to drive improvements in patient care and organisational decision making

Jim Hatton and Glen Howard, East Midlands Academic Health Science Network Next Level Informatics Workstream

## Introduction

The innovative Information Analysts Programme enables healthcare analysts to make a greater, more informed contribution to healthcare improvement. Historically, NHS Information Analysts have had very few training opportunities. This project identified the training needs of Analysts and recruited high quality training providers who could meet these needs. The programme ensures Analysts are able to contribute more meaningfully to the decisions which shape the NHS.

## Overview of the programme

The 11 day programme covers a range of essential skills from statistics to data science, including training on data presentation and measurement for improvement. The programme benefits from the best speakers from academia and practice; resulting in Analysts learning skills which are robust in evidence, but also practical in application. This is the foundation for both current practice and future development.

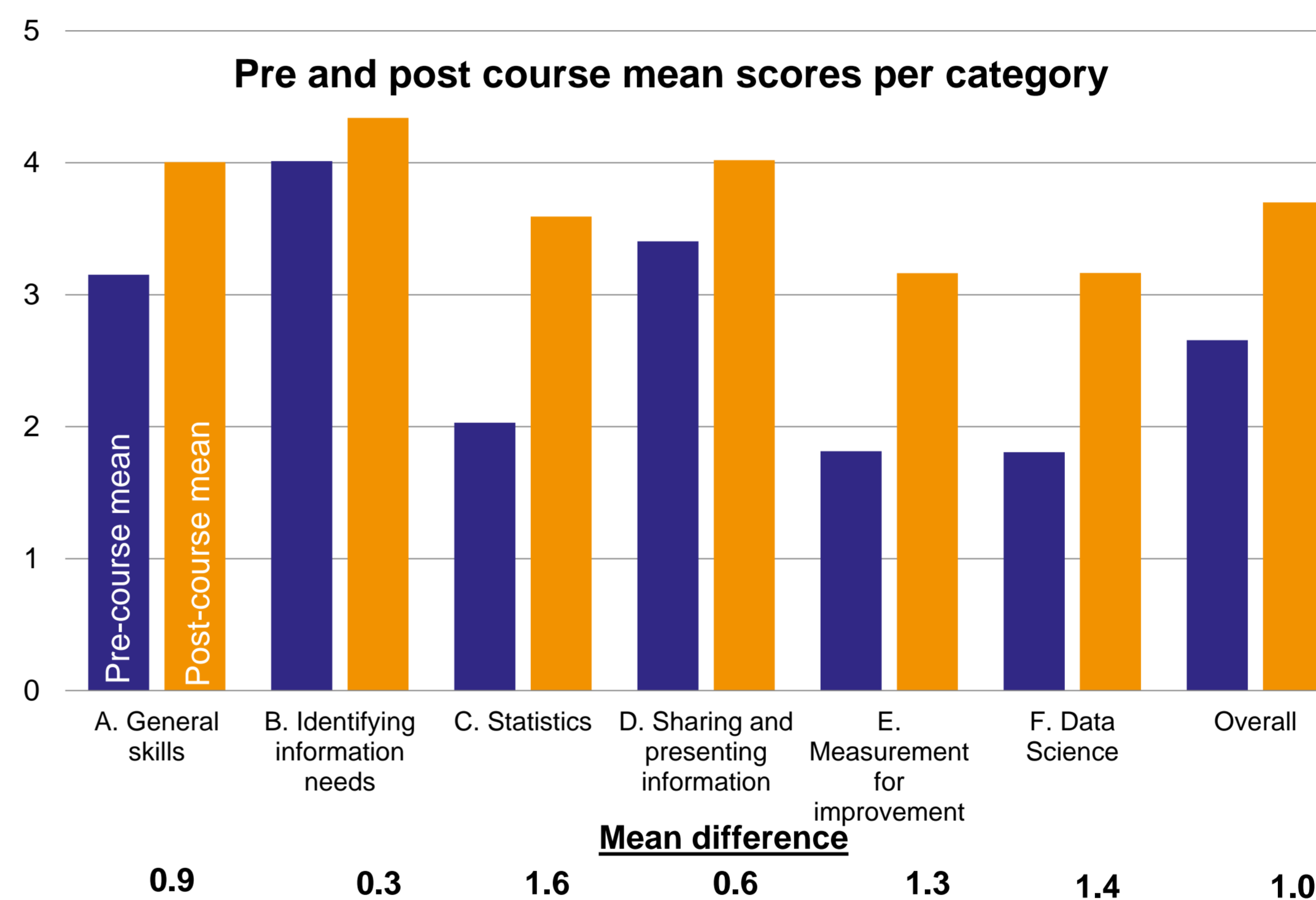
Alongside the 10 taught days and final presentation day, where Analysts share their experience of using these skills on real NHS issues, we are looking to develop best practice groups. The aim of the groups is to make sharing best practice routine and encouraging analysts to deliver the innovative analysis required to inform how services are developed.

By both maximising the value of new and existing information, and by improving the communication of this to managers and clinicians, alumni of the programme are making a proven difference to healthcare analysis and shaping services across our region.

## Results

71 Analysts commenced the programme in the first year. Each completed a pre-course assessment rating their knowledge, confidence and use of 40 topics covered in the programme. This was repeated when they finished the course and showed a statistically significant increase ( $P = <0.001-0.041$ ) in most topics (and an improvement in all skill areas).

Comments from attendees are very positive. The quality and experience of the speakers is described as high, as is the relevance to their roles, and the knowledge gained is reported as being of immediate, practical application to Analysts' work.



## Conclusions

Critical decisions on the development of healthcare are based on high quality analysis of often complex data. Improving the skills of NHS Analysts to analyse and present this data can contribute significantly to ensuring the evidence supports these critical and difficult decisions. This innovative programme is making a real difference to the Analysis being undertaken in the NHS.

## Acknowledgements

The programme is delivered by Kurtosis ([www.kurtosis.co.uk](http://www.kurtosis.co.uk)); Quality Healthcare Improvement Company ([www.qihc.co.uk](http://www.qihc.co.uk)); t3intelligence ([www.t3intelligence.co.uk/](http://www.t3intelligence.co.uk/)); Horizon Digital Economy Research Institute ([www.horizon.ac.uk](http://www.horizon.ac.uk)) and University of Nottingham Department of Epidemiology (<https://nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/about/eph/index>)

**Contacts:** [James.Hatton@nhs.net](mailto:James.Hatton@nhs.net); [Glen.Howard@nhs.net](mailto:Glen.Howard@nhs.net)