

# Chapter 7

## The Chiropractic Practitioner

This chapter examines the demographic data pertaining to the chiropractic practitioner/survey respondent. The survey questions began with personal data, then addressed education, specialization, work environment, and more.

### Preliminary Criteria

Following some preliminary questions, the survey sought to qualify each respondent. As discussed in Chapter 5, the only criteria for participation was that the individual be licensed and a full-time practitioner of chiropractic. The NBCE utilized only the responses of full-time licensed practitioners.

Question 4 on the first page of the survey asked if the respondent was “currently in active full-time chiropractic practice.”

If the individual answered “no” to this question, he/she was instructed to return the incomplete questionnaire to the NBCE. Approximately 82% of respondents reported their practice to be full-time (Figure 7.1)

Question No. 5 then asked the participants how many hours per week they devoted to their practices (Figure 7.2). The number of hours reported averaged 37.5.

### Personal Demographics

The full-time practitioners who participated in the study were then asked to provide demographic data about themselves.

The survey responses here revealed that 86.7% of the participants were male and 13.3% were female. These figures are consistent with information taken from *The Chi-*

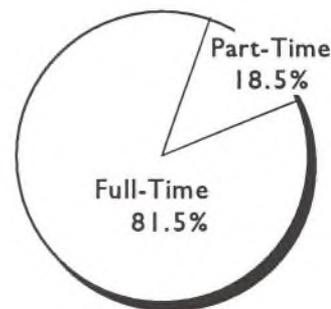


FIGURE 7.1  
Full-time Respondents\*

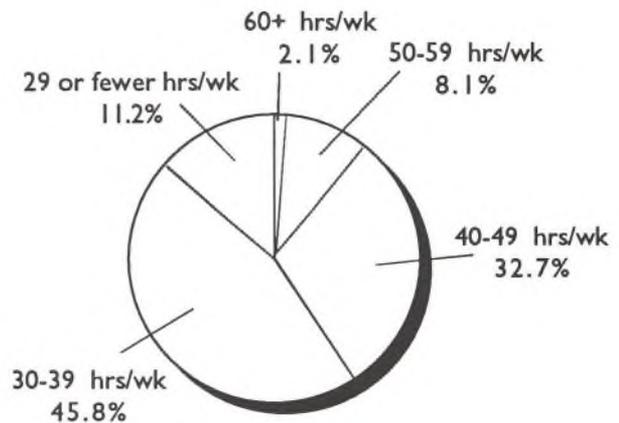


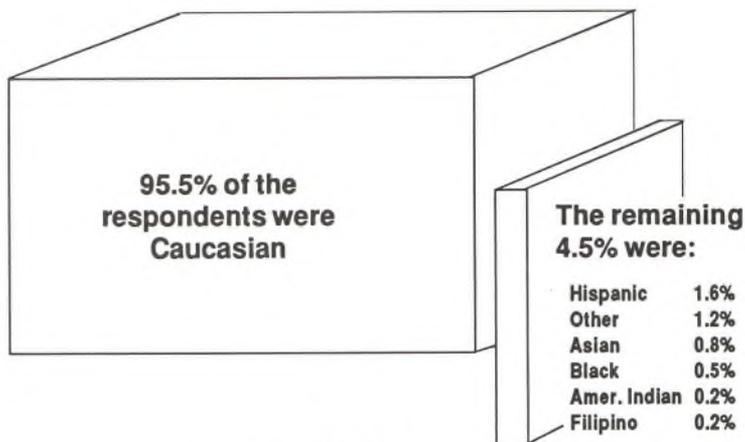
FIGURE 7.2  
Hours per Week\*

\*Data are not weighted

*ropractic College Directory: 1992-93*, and with the corresponding ACA Annual Statistical Survey that indicates 86.2% of practitioners are male and 13.8% of practitioners are female.

## Ethnic Origin

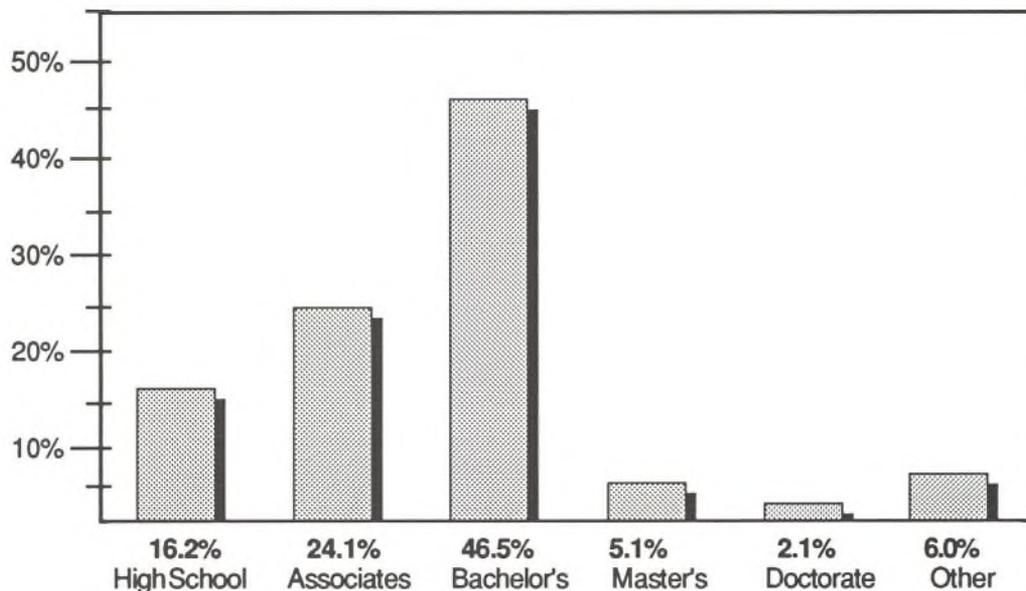
Overall, 95.5% of respondents were Caucasian while the remaining consisted of Hispanic, Asian, Black, American Indian, Filipino, and other nationalities (Figure 7.3).



**FIGURE 7.3**  
Ethnic Origin of Respondents

## Level of Education

Question 3 asked that participants mark the highest level of non-chiropractic education they had attained. Over half of the respondents had four-year degrees or beyond. Specifically,



**FIGURE 7.4**  
Non-chiropractic Education

46.5% had a baccalaureate degree, 5.1% had a master's degree, and 2.1% had a doctoral degree (Figure 7.4).

## Specialization

Concerning post-graduate specialty board eligibility or certification, 74.6% had none, and 9.9% indicated they had certification through the American Chiropractic Board of Orthopedists.

Further results indicated 9.5% had eligibility or certification other than those listed; 4.2% had eligibility certification through the American Board of Sports Physicians; and less than 2% had eligibility or certification through any other specialty board.

## Chiropractic Colleges Represented

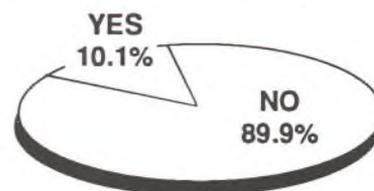
Respondents next indicated the college which conferred their Doctor of Chiropractic degree (Table 7.1). The percent of graduates from each chiropractic college was as follows:

<b>Palmer</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>Western States</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Logan</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>Palmer West</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>Life West</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Northwestern</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>Parker</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Cleveland-KC</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>So. California</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Cleveland-LA</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>Canadian Mem.</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>Foreign/Overseas</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**TABLE 7.1**  
Source of Chiropractic Degree

## Respondents' Work Environment

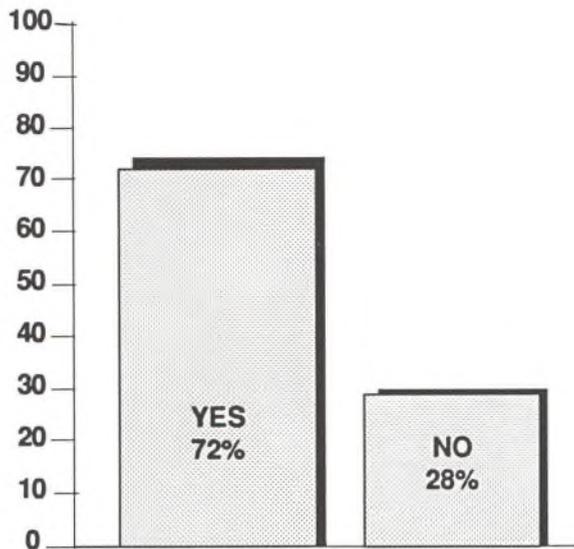
Relative to the respondents' work environment, approximately two-thirds of those participating in the survey indicated they currently practice in a setting where they are the only doctor in the office, while approximately one-third indicated there are two or more doctors in the office in which they practice.



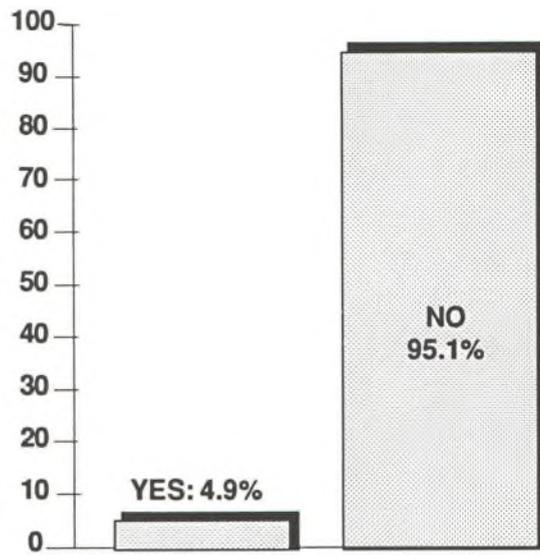
**FIGURE 7.5**  
Do you practice in more than one office location?

## Practice Locations

Concerning whether those completing the survey currently practice in one or more



**FIGURE 7.6**  
Do you ever deliver chiropractic care outside an office setting?



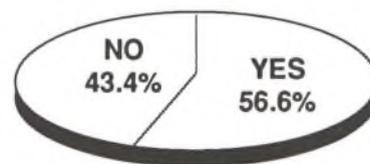
**FIGURE 7.7**  
Do you have staff privileges at a medical or osteopathic hospital?

office location approximately 90% indicated one location while 10% said they practiced in more than one location (Figure 7.5).

## Delivery of Care

In regard to whether the respondents EVER delegate certain patient care to a chiropractic assistant, 56.6% said “yes” while 43.4% indicated “no” (Figure 7.8).

Concerning the occasional delivery of chiropractic care outside the office setting, 72% indicated they do while 28% said they do not deliver care outside the office setting (Figure 7.6).

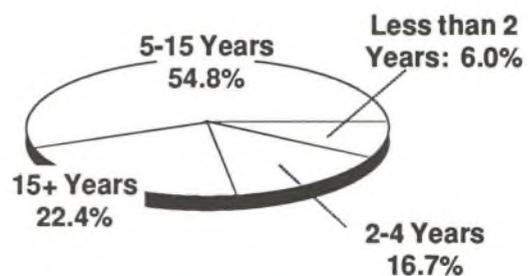


**FIGURE 7.8**  
Do you delegate some of your patient care to a chiropractic assistant?

## Hospital Staff Privileges

In regard to having staff privileges at a medical or osteopathic hospital, approximately 5% said they do while 95% indicated they do not (Figure 7.7).

Chiropractors referred to and received referrals from medical and osteopathic physicians. Of the survey respondents, 77.2% reported that they had received referrals from

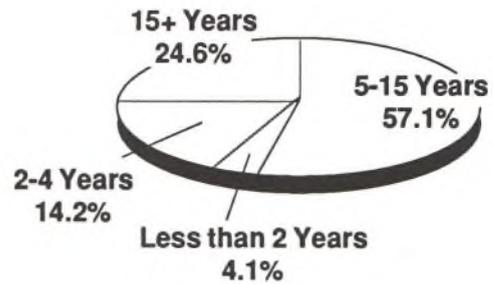


**FIGURE 7.9**  
How long have you been in practice in the state in which you are currently located?

medical and osteopathic physicians within the past two years, while 22.8% indicated they had not.

## Experience and Orientation

The initial survey questions established how long the practitioners had been practicing in the state in which they are currently located. In answer to these questions, 54.8% said they had been practicing for 5 to 15 years in their current state; another 22.4% had been practicing for more than 15 years while 22.7% indicated they had been practicing for less than 5 years (Figure 7.9).



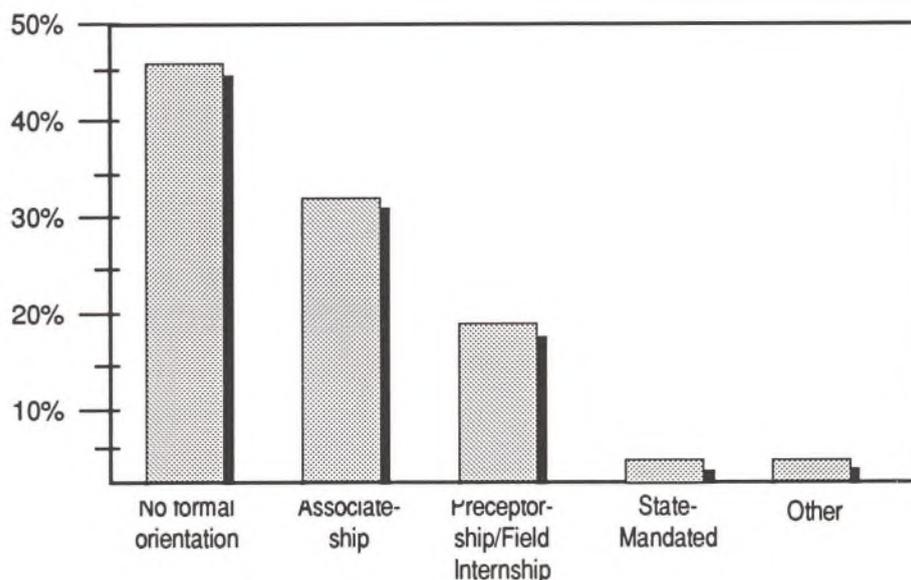
**FIGURE 7.10**  
How long have you been practicing altogether (including in current state)?

## Total Length of Practice

Responses as to how long they had been in practice altogether, including their current state and other states or countries, were very similar to the previous survey question regarding experience and orientation. A total of 57.1% had been practicing 5 to 15 years, 24.6% had been practicing more than fifteen years while 18.3% had been practicing less than five years (Figure 7.10).

## Clinical Orientation

When asked to indicate the type of clinical orientation the survey respondents had



**FIGURE 7.11**  
What kind of orientation did you receive in your first field practice setting?

received in their first practice setting, the following responses were given as indicated in Figure 7.11: 45.9% indicated they had received no formal orientation, 32.6% said they had an associateship while 18.4% indicated they had a preceptorship or field internship. Two other categories were designated by 3% or fewer of the respondents.

## Breakdown of Time/Types of Patients

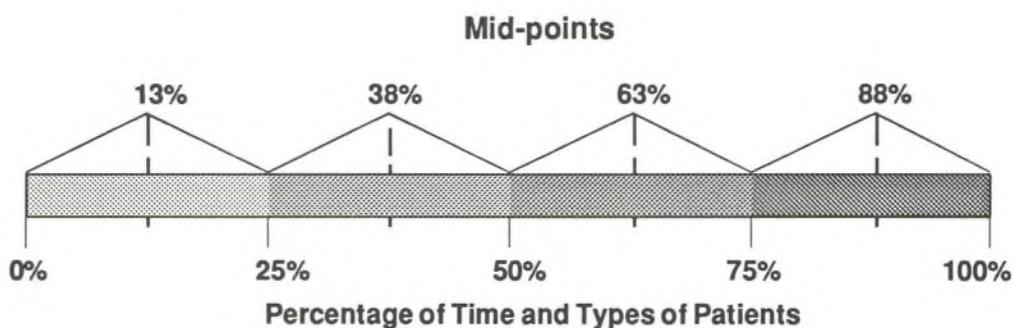


FIGURE 7.12

A mid-point of the percentage range was utilized to calculate an overall percentage for practitioner's use of time and patient demographics (pages 3-4 of the survey).

In exploring the percentage of time chiropractors typically spend on various aspects of their practices (**Business management, Direct patient care, Patient education, and Research**), information was gathered by way of a percentage scale with five answer choices. Additionally, respondents indicated patient **Sex, Age, Ethnic origin, and Occupation** on a similar 5-point scale.

The mid-point of the percentage range was utilized to calculate each overall percentage (Figure 7.12). For example, if the respondent indicated that 1-25% of his/her time was spent on research, this was converted to a mid-point of 13%. In like manner, the 26-50% answer choice was converted to a mid-point value of 38%; 51-75% to 63%; and 76-100% to 88%. (Data were scaled within each question so that the score totaled 100%.)

By scoring responses in this manner, an average percentage was calculated. (Standard errors for these questions were similar to other questions reported on a percentage scale.) Practitioners estimated they typically spend a majority of their time (61.6%) with direct patient care. Approximately equal amounts of the remaining time were typically spent on business management and patient education (17.0% and 17.2% respectively), and little or no time (4.2%) was spent on research. (Percentages for patient demographic data were obtained in the same manner and are reported on pages 48 and 58.)