

Chapter 7

The Chiropractic Practitioner in Canada

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 a licensed, full-time practitioner of chiropractic.

Question number 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 uncompleted questionnaire. Approximately 87% of practicing respondents reported their practice to be full-time (Figure 7.1).

The next question asked the participants how many hours per week they devoted to their practices. The number of hours reported averaged 36.5 (Figure 7.2).

Personal Demographics

In addition, the full-time practitioners who participated in the study were asked to provide demographic data about themselves.

The survey responses here revealed that 87% of the participants were male and 13% were female. These figures are consistent with information taken from the *United States Job Analysis of Chiropractic*. Those statis-

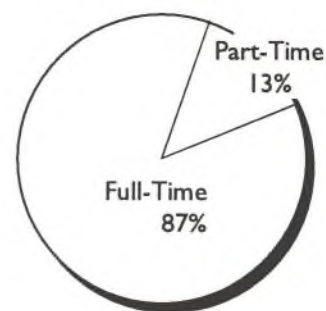


FIGURE 7.1
Full-time Respondents*

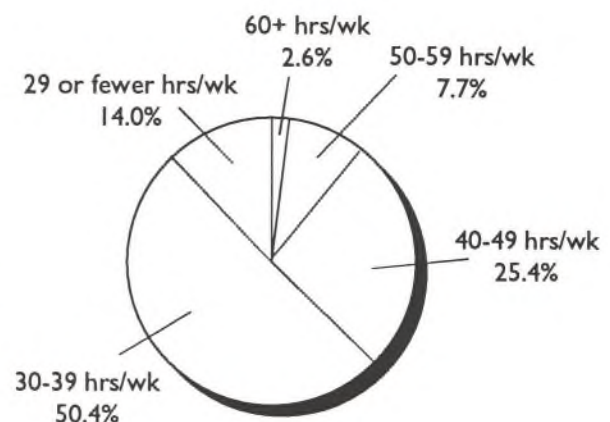


FIGURE 7.2
Hours per Week*

*Data are not weighted

tics indicate that 86.2% of American practitioners are male and 13.8% are female.

Place of Birth

Overall, 88.1% of the respondents were Canadian-born while the remaining were born in the U.S.A., Britain, Belgium, France, New Zealand, or another country (Figure 7.3).

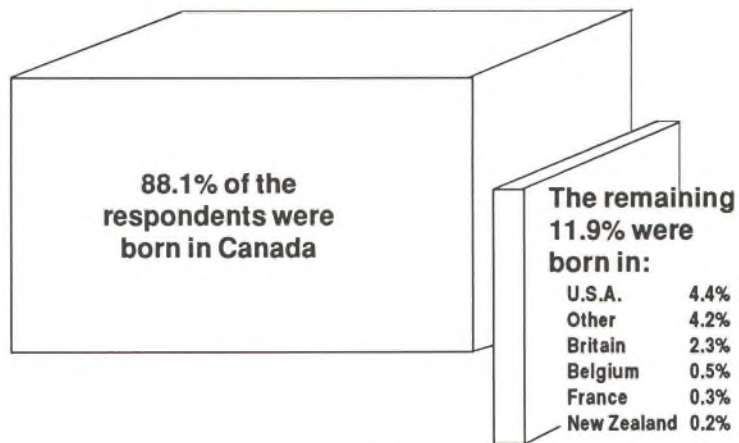


FIGURE 7.3
Respondent's Place of Birth

Level of Education

The participants were asked to mark the highest level of non-chiropractic education they had achieved. Half of the respondents had four-year degrees or beyond. Specifically, 45.7% had a baccalaureate degree, 4.0% had a master's degree, and 0.6% had a doctoral degree. The "other" category primarily contained practitioners who had two or more years of university study (Figure 7.4).

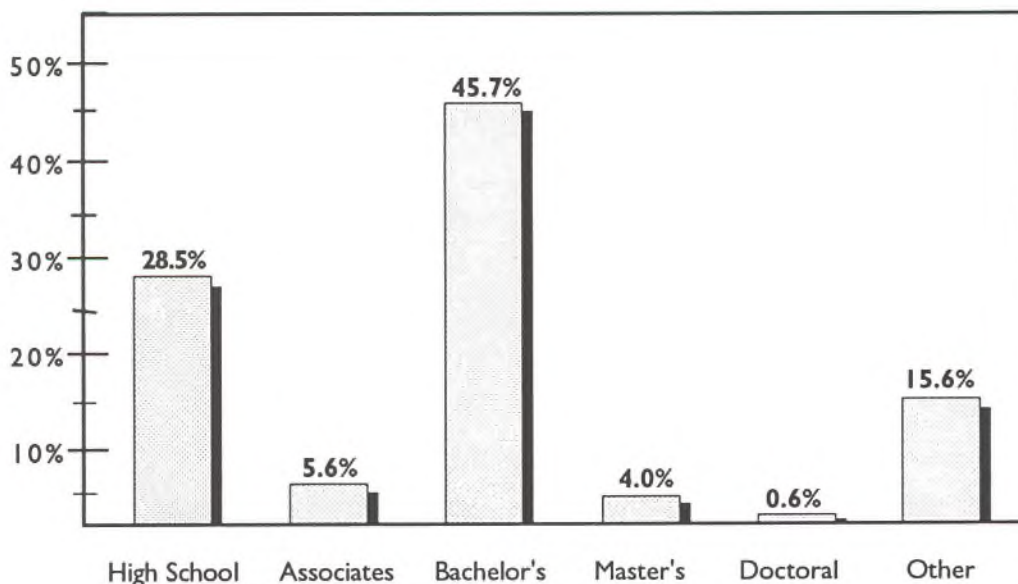


FIGURE 7.4
Non-chiropractic Education

Specialization

Concerning post-graduate specialty board eligibility or certification, 88.2% had none, and 4.0% indicated they had certification in areas other than those listed (Table 6.1). (This percentage was actually 6.9%; however, a study of the “other” category revealed that 2.9% had completed a Canadian specialty certification program, and the additional 4.0% had partially completed a program or had completed a specialty program that was not listed.)

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:

Canadian Memorial	75.1%	Other	0.8%
Palmer	14.4%	Northwestern	0.7%
Life	1.8%	Life West	0.5%
Logan	1.5%	Cleveland-LA	0.3%
Western States	1.3%	Parker	0.2%
Palmer West	1.1%	Texas	0.1%
Cleveland-KC	0.9%	Los Angeles	0.1%
National	0.8%	Anglo-European	0.1%

TABLE 7.1
Source of Chiropractic Degree*

Respondents' Work Environment

Relative to the respondents' work environment, 62.2% of those participating in the survey indicated they currently practice in a setting as the only doctor in the office, while 37.3% indicated there are two or more doctors in the office in which they practice. Less than 0.6% indicated that they are working either as a junior associate, examining doctor or in a capacity other than those previously reported.

Practice Locations

Concerning whether those completing the survey currently practice in one or more office location, approximately 83% indicated one location while 17% said they practiced in more than one location (Figure 7.5).

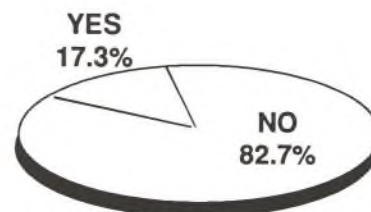


FIGURE 7.5
Do you practice in more than one office location?

* See Appendix for complete listing of colleges.

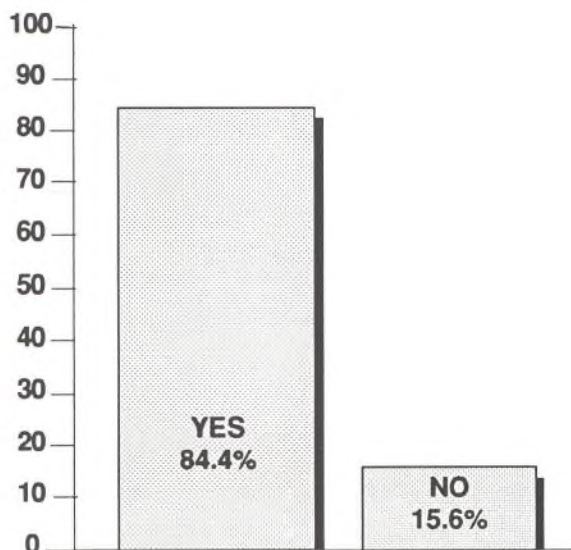


FIGURE 7.6
Do you ever deliver chiropractic care outside an office setting?

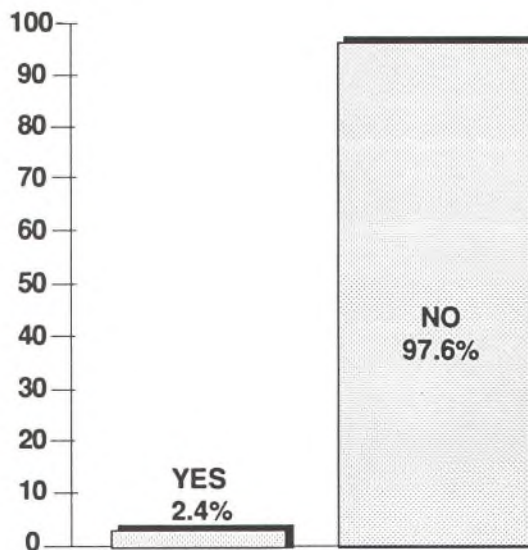


FIGURE 7.7
Do you have staff privileges at a medical or osteopathic hospital?

Delivery of Care

In regard to whether the respondents EVER delegate certain patient care to a chiropractic assistant, 34.7% said “yes” while 65.3% indicated “no” (Figure 7.8).

Concerning the occasional delivery of chiropractic care outside the office setting, 84.4% indicated they do while 15.6% 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, 2.4% said they do while 97.6% indicated they do not (Figure 7.7).

Chiropractors referred to and received referrals from medical and osteopathic physicians. Of the survey respondents, 94.2% reported that they had received referrals from medical and osteopathic physicians within the past two years, while 5.8% indicated they had not.

Experience and Orientation

The initial survey questions established how long the practitioners had been practicing in the province in which they are currently located. In answer to these questions, 42.9% said they had been practicing for 5 to 15 years in their current province, another 32.3% had been

practicing for more than 15 years while 24.8% indicated they had been practicing for less than 5 years (Figure 7.9).

Total Length of Practice

Responses as to how long they had been in practice altogether, including their current province and other provinces or countries, were very similar to the previous survey question regarding experience and orientation. A total of 45.3% had been practicing 5 to 15 years, 33.7% had been practicing more than fifteen years while 21% 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 received in their first practice setting, the following responses were given as indicated

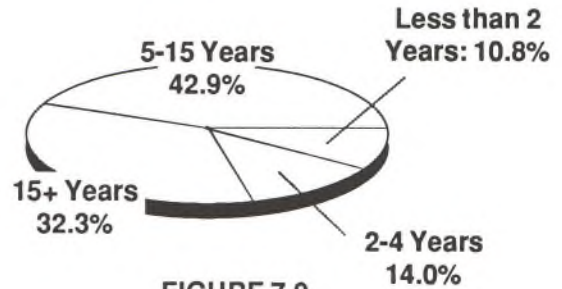


FIGURE 7.9

How long have you been in practice in the province in which you are currently located?

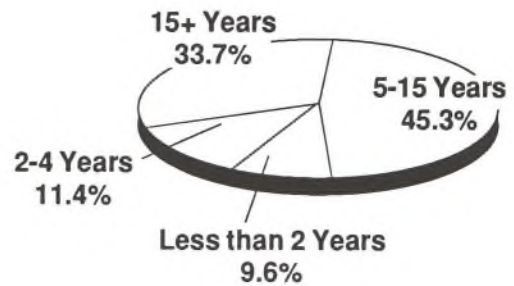


FIGURE 7.10

How long have you been practicing altogether?

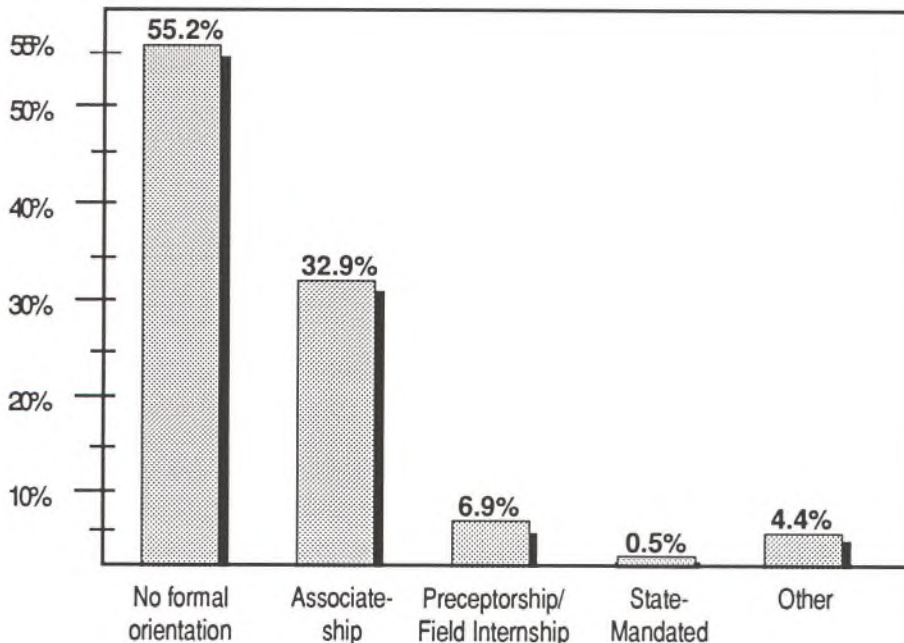


FIGURE 7.11

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

in Figure 7.11: 55.2% indicated they had received no formal orientation, 32.9% said they had an associateship while 6.9% indicated they had a preceptorship or field internship. Two other categories were designated by 5% or fewer of the respondents.

Breakdown of Time/Types of Patients

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, Place of birth, and Occupation on a similar 5-point scale.

The mid-point of the percentage range was utilized to calculate each overall percentage

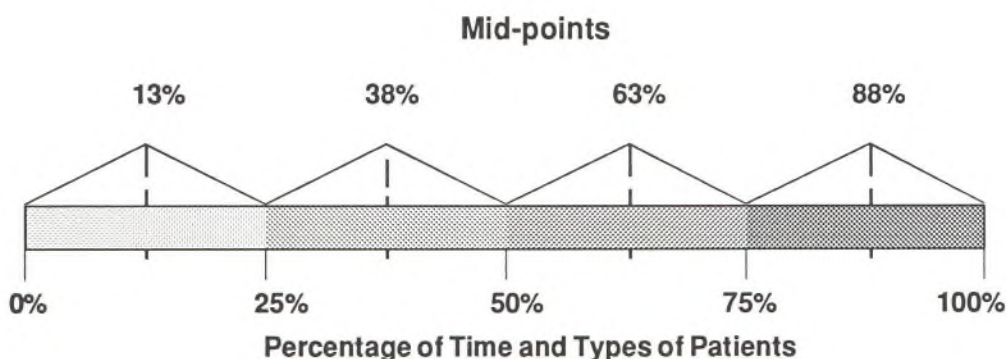


FIGURE 7.12

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).

(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.) The respondents indicated that 64.9% of their time is typically spent on direct patient care, while patient education involved 18.6% of their time, with approximately 11.9% spent on business management. Little or no time (4.6%) was spent on research. (Percentages for patient demographic data were obtained in the same manner and are reported on pages 52 and 64.)